



**Elkhart
Community Schools**

inspiring. excellence.

2011-2012 STUDENT- PARENT GUIDE

Elkhart Community Schools
Educational Service Center
2720 California Road
Elkhart, IN 46514
Phone: 574-262-5500

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To: Students and Parents

The Elkhart Community Schools must have rules, regulations, and guidelines so that it can effectively meet the needs of students, parents and the community. This Student-Parent Guide represents an effort on the part of the Elkhart Community Schools to put into one package a summary of those things we must tell you as well as things we want to share to help your student get an excellent educational value.

It is our hope that, as school staff members and parents work together for each student, information and concerns will be shared freely and constructively.

We welcome your personal questions and comments. We respectfully suggest that the best place to begin is in your school with your child's teacher and principal.

Mark T. Mow, Superintendent

Objection to Release of Directory Information to the Public

Regarding: _____
Student's Name (Please Print)

Do not release any directory information about my child. I understand this means exclusion from school documents that typically are made public, such as yearbooks, graduation programs, honor roll, and other recognition lists, sports activities, and theatrical programs. It also means exclusion of my student's name, address, and phone number from the school or PTA directory. It means that directory information about my child will not be released to school-related organizations, such as PTAs or to county agencies unless specifically permitted by federal or state law. In addition, my child will not be featured in any videotape, television, motion picture, audio recording, broadcast, or still photograph production produced by and available to the public from Elkhart Community Schools, or (to the extent that access is within Elkhart Community Schools' control during school hours) the media.



Denial of Access to Military Recruiters

I object to the release of the name, address, or telephone number of _____ to military recruiters during this school year. I understand that once either the student or a parent has signed this form, only a parent may change it. I also understand that if I want to change it, the parent must notify the principal in writing that the form is no longer in effect and that the student information may be released.

Signature of student or parent: _____

Name of signing student or parent:

(Please Print) _____

Date: _____

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT/
MISTREATMENT COMPLAINT REPORT FORM

A. Name _____

B. Student, Employee, School Corporation Officer, or Patron? _____

C. Building _____

D. Specify type of discrimination alleged.

1. Title 9 - (sex)
2. Title 6 and 7 (race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, or sex within the context of employment)
3. Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act - (handicap/disability)

E. Specific Facts of Complaint. (Who? What? Where? When?)

F. Specific Relief Desired. (What do you want done or corrected?)

(Date)

(Signature of Student/Employee)

Send by school mail or regular U.S. Mail to: J. C. Rice Educational Services Center
2720 California Rd., Elkhart, IN 46514

- D.1. Director of Employee and Student Relations
- D.2. Director of Personnel
- D.3. Assistant Director Pupil Services/Special Education

April 25, 2006

School Calendar for 2011-2012

School begins for students August 16, 2011
 School ends for students May 31, 2012

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:

Labor Day	September 5
Parent Teacher Conferences	September 22
Fall Recess	October 21
Thanksgiving Recess	November 24-25
Winter Recess	December 23—January 6
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 16
Parent Teacher Conferences	February 2
Presidents Recess	February 17-20
Spring Recess	April 2-6
Memorial Day	May 28



School Admissions

A record of immunizations and a legal birth document are required of all students for entry and must be provided by the parent or legal guardian within 20 days of entry. Failure to provide a record of immunizations will be cause for removal from school. Failure to provide a legal birth document will result in notification to the Indiana clearinghouse for information on missing children. All students must have documentation of required immunizations. A list of required immunizations is available from your school nurse, Student Services, or the Elkhart Community Schools website. Only when a doctor certifies that a required immunization may be detrimental to the child's health, or when the parent indicates in writing a religious objection to such immunization, will the requirement be waived. If a parent is unable to secure immunizations, local service providers are available to provide the immunizations. For this service, the parent needs to contact the school nurse.

A child must be five years old on or before August 1 to enroll in kindergarten. See Board Policy JEA for additional information.

All children are required to attend the school in the attendance area of their legal residence unless they have been approved for a transfer by the Student Services Department or are otherwise entitled to transfer.

School Attendance Areas

The boundaries for each school district are detailed in Administrative Regulation JC and may be seen in any administrative office in the school district.

Although realtors may know the school district in which a piece of property is located, it is best to telephone the Educational Services Center to confirm the information. Information regarding the school attendance area of a specific rural or city address may be obtained by telephoning 262-5569.

Any student interested in a transfer from one school to another within the Elkhart Community Schools must file a transfer request with the Student Services Department.

Rights

The right to attend any public meeting of the school district

Parents are invited to attend any public meeting of the school district or the school in which their child is enrolled. School Board meetings are held regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the J.C. Rice Educational Services Center or in designated school buildings.

The right to make suggestions or to ask questions about the school's curriculum

Parents may make suggestions and inquiries concerning curriculum. They may see any instructional materials being used by their children by merely setting up an appointment with the building principal or the child's teacher. In addition, citizens who find materials being used which are objectionable may use the process provided in Administrative Regulation INB to question the use of certain materials.

The right to request assistance in payment of the book rental fee

Parents needing assistance in payment of Book Rental (as determined by household income level) should request payment of the fee by completing and returning to the school the "Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals and/or Textbook Assistance."

The right to request consideration for special services

Parents suspecting that their child may have a disability which would qualify him/her for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Indiana's Article Seven should contact the building principal regarding their concern. If special education is to be considered, parents must provide written consent for individual evaluation. Decisions regarding identification of a student as a child with a disability and eligibility for special

of receipt.

- b. Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the appeal of the responsible official's determination to the student/employee, the Board shall give its decision in writing to the student/employee. Such decision shall be final and binding.

Section 3. Failure to Observe Time Limits

In the event the student/employee fails to exhaust the remedies under the complaint procedure provided above, or to abide by the time limits with respect to each step, the complaint shall be presumed to be abandoned and the matter shall be settled in accordance with the Corporation's last response thereto. In the event the Corporation fails to give its response at any step within the time limits prescribed, the student/employee shall have the right to proceed immediately to the next step and must do so within the prescribed time limits. Any time limit may be extended by written mutual agreement of the student/employee and the responsible official.

Section 4. Effect of Settlement

Any settlement of a complaint shall be applicable to that complaint only and shall not be binding authority for the disposition of any other complaint.

Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

Throughout this guide, reference is made to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. These can be reviewed at any of the following locations:

- J. C. Rice Educational Services Center
- Elkhart Public Library
- Administrative offices of all Elkhart Community School buildings

- h. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of schools or designee.
- i. "School Corporation Officer" means a member of the Board of School Trustees.
- j. "Patron" means a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in Elkhart Community Schools.

Section 2. Procedure

All complaints brought by students, employees, patrons, or school corporation officers shall be handled in the following manner:

Step One – Informal

- a. Students. Within fifteen (15) days of the time that the student knew, or reasonably should have known of the complaint, the student shall present a completed written complaint report form to the responsible official, who shall expeditiously appoint three (3) persons to meet and discuss the complaint with the student, and send a copy of the complaint to the building principal. Within five (5) days of the completion of such discussion, the student may submit the written complaint to the building principal. If the building principal desires a conference with the student, the student may request that one of the above three appointees be present for such discussion. Within ten (10) days after presentation of the complaint, the building principal shall respond in writing. This section shall not prohibit an informal oral discussion of a concern or problem between the student and the building principal.
- b. Employees. Within ten (10) days of the time that the employee knew, or reasonably should have known of the complaint, the employee shall present the complaint orally to the employee's immediate supervisor. Within ten (10) days after presentation of the complaint, the immediate supervisor shall orally answer the complaint.
- c. Patrons/School Corporation Officers. Within ten (10) days of the time that the individual knew, or reasonable should have known of the complaint, the individual should present the complaint in writing to the Director of Employee and Student Relations at Step 2.

Step Two – The Responsible Official

- a. Within five (5) days of the oral or written response, if the complaint is not resolved, it shall be stated in writing, signed by the student/employee and submitted to the responsible official on the form provided by the Administrative Regulation issued by the Superintendent.
- b. The complaint report shall 1) name the employee or student involved, 2) state the facts giving rise to the complaint, 3) identify the specific provisions of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or Americans with Disabilities Act, or the implementing regulations alleged to be violated, and 4) indicate the specific relief requested.
- c. Within five (5) days after receiving the written complaint, the responsible official shall make a determination in writing to the student/employee.

Step Three – The Board

- a. If the complaint is not resolved in step two, the student/employee may, within five (5) days of receipt of the responsible official's determination, appeal to the Board by filing the complaint and the responsible official's response, along with any written response of his/her own to the determination of the responsible official, with the office of the superintendent, which shall thereupon give notice

education services are made by a case conference committee, which includes the parents.

A student who does not qualify as a student with a disability under IDEA/ Article Seven may be eligible for services under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if he/she has a disability which substantially limits one or more of life's major activities. Parents suspecting that their child may have a disability which would qualify him/her for services under Section 504 should contact the building principal or the coordinator of Section 504 services (262-5542) regarding their concern. Elkhart Community Schools does not discriminate in admission or access to its programs and activities on the basis of disability in violation of Section 504.

The right to request exemption from immunizations or attendance in health classes

When the parent indicates a religious objection, a school child shall not be required to be immunized or to receive medical instruction or instruction in hygiene or sanitary science. Such request for exemption must be in writing and filed with the building principal.

The right to review their child's record

Parents have a right to review the school record of their child. A request needs to be made to the building principal who will schedule an appropriate time and place to meet.

The right to approve their child's participation in field trips

Parents will be asked to provide written consent for their child's participation in educational field trips which may be scheduled away from the school or its nearby surroundings.

The right to contest an expulsion

Parents will be notified by mail of a student's pending expulsion. The parent and student have a right to an expulsion conference, if requested, and to appeal in accordance with Student Due Process procedures. Those procedures are thoroughly outlined in the Guidelines for Good School Order, copies of which are provided to all students.

Responsibilities

Parental responsibilities

It is critical that you require your child to attend school each day. It is very important that parents attend parent-teacher conferences and discuss concerns and, at any time, talk with teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel about their child's progress in school. The parent is to report to the school office upon entering the school.

Indiana Code 20-33-8-26 indicates that a person having care of a dependent student may be required to participate in any action taken in connection with

that student's behavior.

It is very important that parents, at all times, keep the school informed as to how they can be reached in case of an emergency. Please promptly notify the school office of any change in address, phone number, emergency phone number, child custody, or legal residence.

Parents should talk with their children about school and homework everyday. Providing a quiet space for children to study (limit distractions like television, computers, phones, videogames, etc.), reading with children, and encouraging children to do their best helps to promote educational success.

A child's welfare and custodial care are the parent's responsibility. In addition to school services provided for a youngster's academic and emotional needs, there are agencies in the community prepared to assist families who are having financial difficulties or problems with the emotional well-being of their child. For information and help, contact the Student Services Division, phone 262-5540.

Financial responsibility

Parents are legally and financially responsible for their children's deliberate destruction or damage of school property and property of others. This includes, but is not limited to, all books and materials which are used by their child.

Compulsory attendance

Indiana's compulsory attendance law requires that children from the age of 7 to 18 must attend school. If a parent chooses to enroll their child in school when he or she is younger than 7 years of age, the student is then included in the compulsory attendance requirement.

Certain absences may be excused in accordance with Board Policy JE. Parents or guardians are responsible for reporting absences within 48 hours of the onset of the student's absence. Family vacations need to be scheduled when school is not in session.

Elkhart Community Schools participates in the Countywide Attendance Program which includes five levels of sanctions which may end in reporting the student to the Department of Child Services and Juvenile Probation, and the prosecution of either the parent(s)/guardians(s) or student by the Elkhart County Prosecutor's office. It is the intent of the school corporation to allow students to improve their attendance at the initial levels so that more serious sanctions are unnecessary. "Absences of Concern" include all trancies, non-verified absences, unexcused absences, and absences which continue to concern the principal/designee.

Director of Personnel
2720 California Rd.
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 262-5510

Title VII—Civil Rights Act

Director of Employee and Student Relations
2720 California Rd.
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 262-5517

Or

Director of Personnel
2720 California Rd.
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 262-5510

Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act—Handicap/Disability

Assistant Director of Student Services/Director of Special Education
2720 California Rd.
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 262-5542

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

It is the policy of the Elkhart Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which it operates, and the Elkhart Community Schools is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. The Director of Employee and Student Relations has been designated as the official responsible for Title IX compliance. Inquiries concerning the application of said Title IX and the implementing of regulations may be made by contacting the Director of Employee and Student Relations, whose office address is Elkhart Community Schools, 2720 California Road, Elkhart, Indiana, 46514, and whose telephone number is 262-5517.

Complaint Procedure for: Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and A.D.A.

Section I. Definitions

- a "Board" means the Board of School Trustees of the Elkhart Community Schools.
- b "Corporation" means the Elkhart Community Schools
- c A "complaint" is an allegation of action or inaction by the Corporation in violation of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or Americans with Disabilities Act, or the implementing regulations.
- d "Days" means calendar days.
- e "Employee" means a person who is a full or part-time employee, not engaged as temporary or casual labor, and who is on the payroll of the Corporation.
- f The "responsible official" means the employee designated by the Corporation to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities Act, and the implementing regulations.
- g "Student" means a person enrolled in one of the schools operated by the Corpora-

school student and/or the student's parent must submit a signed, written request to their high school no later than the end of the student's sophomore year requesting that the student's directory information not be provided to military recruiters. (See Form)

How long will a record be kept?

Student Permanent Records are a lasting collection of key school performance measures. All other records will be destroyed not more than five years after a pupil leaves a school.

The foregoing is a brief summary of the significant details on education records adopted by the Board of School Trustees. The Indiana Legislature adopted a law, Access to Public Records, which went into effect on January 1, 1984. A Board resolution to effect the law was adopted in December of 1983. Copies of the complete policy and regulation (JO) and the resolution are available in each school and the J.C. Rice Educational Services Center.

Can you have copies?

Graduates or students may have copies of their transcript or education records. There is a charge for these copies, except for the first two transcripts requested at the high school.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Elkhart Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Elkhart Community Schools is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age. Inquiries regarding handicapped students (related to Section 504 and ADA) may be made by contacting the Assistant Director/Student Services, whose office address is Elkhart Community Schools, 2720 California Road, Elkhart, Indiana, 46514, and whose telephone number is 262-5542. The best qualified persons who are available at the salary levels established for school employment are employed. Academic and athletic programs are available to all students without discrimination. A Diversity in Employment Policy has been adopted by the School Board which is designed to achieve the goal of equal employment opportunity for all individuals. Inquiries regarding equal opportunity or diversity may be directed to the Equal Opportunity Officer by calling 262-5510.

The following person(s) have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title IX—Sex

Director of Employee and Student Relations
2720 California Rd.
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 262-5517

Title VI—Race, Color, National Origin and Limited English Proficiency

Driver's License and Learner's Permit Ineligibility

A STUDENT WHO ACCUMULATES MORE THAN TEN UNEXCUSSED ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR SHALL BE CONSIDERED A HABITUAL TRUANT. THE ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IS REQUIRED TO REPORT THE NAMES OF HABITUAL TRUANTS TO THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES. THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES MAY NOT ISSUE A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR LEARNER'S PERMIT TO A HABITUAL TRUANT, AND MAY INVALIDATE A STUDENT'S DRIVING PRIVILEGES.

Use of district computers and networks

Your child's use of school computers, networks, and the Internet is governed by Board Policy IGBC. You will be asked to provide a written consent form for this use each time your child enters a new school. The school will continue to honor that consent while your child attends that school, unless you choose to withdraw it or it is revoked by the school.

Problem Solving

We want your experiences with your school to be positive; however, teachers and administrators recognize the fact that sometimes things go wrong. Should you have a concern or problem, please contact your child's teacher or principal at the earliest possible moment.

The free flow of information between the school and home, teacher and parent, is vitally important to a cooperative relationship which can aid in providing the best possible school experience for students.

Steps toward the solution of school problems

The Board of School Trustees has established various due process procedures to deal with problems, concerns related to textbooks and instructional materials, student discipline, and any concern over some classroom or school incident. School personnel attempt to solve a problem within the school. Provisions are made for the parent or student to carry the concern all the way to the Board of School Trustees, if no satisfactory resolution is reached with the teacher, principal, director, or superintendent.

You are encouraged to solve problems as they arise and keep working to resolve them until you are satisfied everything possible has been done. Be sure of your facts. Although it may be difficult for you not to take sides, try to see the whole picture. You are also encouraged to contact the Director of Employee and Student Relations (262-5517), who will assist you in bringing your concern to the attention of the right person.

Encourage your child to solve his/her problems

Talk with your son or daughter. Make suggestions, but let him or her work out a solution if possible. Suggest alternatives which your child can do without your

assistance in an effort to resolve the problem. Any action your child takes needs to be in compliance with the Guidelines for Good School Order. Encourage your child to talk with his or her teacher when other children are not present. This removes the pressure on both of them to be right.

Drug Free/Smoke Free Schools

In accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illicit drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances, or any substance that is represented to be an illicit substance, in the workplace, on school premises, or as part of any school sponsored activities is strictly prohibited. **Smoking is prohibited in any Elkhart Community Schools building, vehicle, or on school property.**

Cellular Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. Student phones are to be turned off when students enter the building at the beginning of the school day. Cell phones can be turned on at dismissal; however, any cell phone use during the school day, including but not limited to phone calls, texting, email, picture taking, etc., is prohibited.

Important Notice to Students and Parents Regarding Cell Phone Content and Display

- The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with “child exploitation” or “child pornography” as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.
- It is “child exploitation,” a Class C felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(b), for any person/student (1) to exhibit, photograph or create a digitalized image of any incident that includes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18; or (2) to disseminate, exhibit to another person, or offer to so disseminate or exhibit, matter that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18.
- It is “child pornography,” a Class D felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(c), for any person/student to possess a photograph, motion picture, digitalized image, or any pictorial representation that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child who the person knows is less than 16 years of age or who appears less than age 16.
- “Sexual conduct” is defined by I.C. 35-42-4-4(a) to include sexual intercourse, exhibition of the uncovered genitals intended to satisfy or arouse the sexual desires of any person, or any fondling or touching of a child by another person or of another person by a child intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or other person.
- The Indiana Sex Offender Registration Statute at I.C. 11-8-8-7 and the Sex Offender Registry Offense Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-11, as of May 2009, require persons convicted of or adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent for violating the Child Exploitation Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-4(b) to register as a sex offender.

tion may be made in writing. Forms for such a request will be provided. A ruling will be made and returned in writing with instruction on how to further appeal for correction, if desired.

Directory information

“Directory Information” means a student’s name, address, telephone listing, if published, date and place of birth, gender, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, photographs and images obtained by the district for other than safety and security purposes, team photographs, video of student activities or programs, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Release of student records

Directory Information may be released without prior consent of the parents. A parent or eligible student who does not want directory information to be released may restrict the release of such information by providing the principal a written statement requesting such restriction. A parent or eligible student must make this request, in writing, within two (2) weeks of the student’s first day of school attendance during each school year. (See Form)

From time to time schools in the district may release to news media the names of students involved in current school activities. Cast members in plays, team members in sports, and other teams and students achieving academic and other honors, are examples of the information that could be release.

A student’s official record will be transferred from one school to another within the Elkhart Community Schools. The parent, guardian, and/or student may review the record transferred at that time or at any time, for that matter.

A student’s record will be transferred to a school outside the Elkhart Community Schools, to a college, a prospective employer, or anyone only upon the written request of the parent, guardian, or pupil, if age 18 or older. That written request needs to specify which records are to be sent and whether the requesting party desires to review the record before it is sent. These records will be forwarded following receipt of the request without further notice to the requesting party.

If a student’s record is subpoenaed by a court, the parent, guardian or pupil, if age 18 or older, will be informed of the subpoena before the record is provided in compliance with the order.

Military recruiters

Federal law authorizes military recruiters to access student directory information unless the student or the parent requests that such information not be released. In order to comply with the requirements of this Indiana statute, a high

If You Have a Question

Where a citizen or school patron has a question including the operation or programs of the schools, he or she should contact the office or person most directly responsible for the area in which the problem exists. Where the question involves an individual student or class, the classroom teacher and/or the principal are the proper persons to contact.

In instances where the person feels that after contacting the proper and responsible office or individual, his or her question has not been fully answered or given proper consideration, the problem may be directed to the Office of Superintendent of Schools, phone 262-5516.

Summary of Policies on Education Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended provides certain safeguards to the privacy of parents and students. During a student's school career, the school system collects and records data concerning each student. The school system recognizes that the collection, maintenance, and limited dissemination of such data is essential in school operations, but also that preserving the rights of privacy of the student and parents, providing access to the data by the student and parents, and the student's or parent's right to correct data is equally essential.

Who may see a student's record?

The parent, guardian, or pupil of age 18 or older, has the right to examine the pupil's record and to have it explained. An appointment must be made to see the pupil's record.

The administrators, secretaries, counselors, teachers, and other school officials who have responsibility for supervising, instructing, or helping a student shall have access to that student's permanent and personal records.

A school official is a person employed by the district 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; or a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist).

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. Any record which is the property of the individual teacher, administrator, or counselor is an unofficial record and is open to anyone only as that individual permits.

Recourse in case of error

If a parent, guardian, or pupil age 18 or older has reason to believe that some portion of the record is in error or violates the pupil's rights in any way, he or she should discuss the matter with the principal of the school in which the record resides. If the matter is not resolved, a request for modification or dele-

- Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of "sexual conduct" as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.

Student Insurance

There are no provisions for the Elkhart Community Schools to carry general medical insurance on its students at taxpayers' expense.

Student accident insurance may be purchased by parents through a private company approved by the Board of School Trustees. Information about specific coverage and benefits is available in every school office.

All students participating in any high school athletic program, including cheerleaders, are required to purchase the appropriate student athletic insurance. Details are provided through each school at the opening of each season for each sport.

Health-related Information

Doctor or dentist visits

Parents are encouraged to schedule doctor and dentist appointments which do not conflict with school hours. However, if it is absolutely necessary to schedule such a visit during school hours, students will be excused. Parents should follow school procedures to make arrangements.

Medication in school

Administration of medication prescribed by a licensed physician and supplied by a parent must be arranged with the school by filling out the required form. Nonprescription medication will be administered only if there is written permission of the pupil's parent or legal guardian and if it is sent in the original container. Additional information regarding medication can be found in Board Policy JHCD.

Emergency medical care

Nurses are on duty in all schools on a regularly scheduled basis. Parents need to be sure that phone numbers where they can be reached in case of emergency are on file in the school office.

Health Screening

Public Schools in Indiana are required to conduct health screenings (e.g. vision, hearing, etc.). Parents who have questions or objections regarding this should contact the school nurse.

School Food and Beverage Guidelines

The Board of School Trustees of Elkhart Community Schools has adopted guidelines regarding food and beverages at school as developed by the Elkhart County Childhood Obesity Initiative. The guidelines do not apply to school breakfasts and school lunches, but do apply to all other food and beverages at school. Copies of the guidelines are available at the J. C. Rice Educational Services Center, in

school offices, and on the district's website (www.elkhart.k12.in.us).

Fees

Book rental

Book rental fees, which are charged each student for textbooks and materials, shall be paid at the school. Checks should be payable to Book Rental Fund. If for any reason you are unable to make payment at the beginning of the year, special arrangements must be made with the principal or designee. If you feel that you will be unable to pay the book rental fee during the school year, you may apply for assistance. The "Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals and/or Textbook Assistance" is available in every school office. Legal action may be pursued to collect all delinquent book rental accounts.

Class and project

Fees may be assessed to cover individual projects and may be required in such courses as art, industrial arts, music, vocational education, and home economics. These fees must be approved by the individual building principal. Teachers will inform students of such fees prior to the beginning of a project. In cases where the student cannot afford such a project and if the circumstances warrant special consideration, the teacher will contact the principal or designee who may seek assistance for the student.

Fees for summer school and driver's education are established annually by the School Board.

Instrument rental

Various musical instruments are available for the use of students of Elkhart Community Schools. These instruments, when available, may be rented by students on a per-semester basis.

Testing

Elkhart Community Schools participate in the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) testing program. This test assesses English/language arts and mathematics standards in Grades 3-8, science in Grades 4 and 6, and social studies in Grades 5 and 7. The test is given in two parts in the spring of each school year: In late February/early March students respond to constructed response questions in all subjects tested, and in late April/early May students are presented with multiple choice questions in the same areas. Scores from the two sessions are combined, and are returned to schools in late May.

Students graduating after 2011 are required to pass the ISTEP+: Algebra I and English 10 End of Course Assessments (ECA's) to qualify for graduation. The tests are given to students when they complete the courses (generally in May), and retest opportunities will be provided at other times during subsequent school years for students who don't pass on their initial attempts. We are also required to give ECA's to students completing Biology I, but the results of that test do not impact a student's graduation status.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

The purpose of the council shall be: 1) to provide young citizens an opportunity to experience first hand the governmental operation of the community educational process, 2) to afford the Board of School Trustees the opportunity to gain first-hand reactions from students regarding the decisions that affect students in their educational development, and 3) to keep the Superintendent in closer contact with the students, to communicate what the school system is doing to meet the educational needs of the students, and to seek student concerns about the educational process of the Elkhart Community Schools.

Volunteers

Parents and citizens with expertise or skills in any area may offer to help the schools as resource people. They are very much needed to supplement the classroom activities offered by each school. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact his or her child's school or the CARES Coordinator at the J.C. Rice Educational Services Center (262-5944).

Other committees

Other committees which involve patrons include: Cooper Science Laboratory Committee, Music Parents Associations, Career Center Advisory Councils, P.E.P. Advisory Committee, Title I Parent Advisory Councils, and Principals Parent Advisory Councils.

Parent, student, patron opinion

Any parent, student or other member of the community may call or write to any principal, teacher or administrator to express an opinion about any school program or problem.

Parent-teacher conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled at all schools during the fall and spring terms so parents can discuss the progress of their child with their child's classroom teacher(s). The times of the parent conferences are announced by the individual schools. Throughout the school year, parents are encouraged to call their child's school to arrange for a meeting with their child's teacher to review their child's school work. Continuous communication between the teacher and parents is vital.

Emergency School Closings

All schools in the Elkhart Community Schools will be open on all regularly scheduled days unless closed by the Superintendent of Schools. The safety of students and employees is the primary factor to be considered in making a decision to close, delay, or dismiss a school or schools. When the schools are confronted with an emergency—such as extreme conditions of snow, ice, or mechanical failures—which necessitates the closing of all schools or an individual school for an entire day, or a delay in the opening of any school(s), an announcement will be given to radio and television stations prior to 6:30 a.m. Emergency closings or early dismissals during the day will be announced on radio, television, and the district's website (www.elkhart.k12.in.us) as soon as possible. Parents are encouraged to make arrangements in advance for child care in case any of the above closings take place.

Student-operated vehicles

Students operating automobiles, motorcycles, or other vehicles on school property are expected to obey posted speed limits and other school regulations and Indiana laws that may apply. Student-operated vehicles are to be kept free of drugs and alcohol, weapons, and other items prohibited by law and school rules. Students who fail to comply with these rules may be subjected to school discipline. Students' privilege to park or otherwise operate a motor vehicle on school grounds is contingent upon consent by the student to random searches of that vehicle by authorized school officials, and compliance with other board policies, including random drug and alcohol testing for student drivers.

Patron Involvement

There are many ways that parents and students may become involved in the Elkhart Community Schools.

School Board

Public control of education is one of the cornerstones of American free society; the people exercise their control through the Board of School Trustees. The Elkhart Community Schools school board is composed of seven members with overlapping terms of four years each.

The Board encourages and welcomes citizen involvement and participation in the governance of the school system. Patrons may speak to the Board at any public meeting. Public participation will take place following the initial announcement of any agenda item by the Board. Such public discussion will occur prior to the making of a motion on such item and before the Board votes on the agenda item.

Following the conclusion of all scheduled agenda items, any member of the public may bring up a concern or discuss any other topic not on the formal Board agenda.

Textbook adoption

One standing committee organized each school year is the Textbook Adoption Committee. This group reviews textbooks to be adopted for the next school year by the Board of School Trustees. The committee is composed of school administrators, teachers, and parents. Any parent interested in serving on a textbook adoption committee should contact the Curriculum and Instruction Department. By Indiana law, forty percent of the Textbook Adoption Committee must be parents. Parents are appointed to the Committee by a variety of methods.

Superintendent's Advisory Council

The purpose of the Superintendent's Advisory Council shall be to keep the school administration in close contact with members of the community to seek their counsel, to determine the needs as they see them, and to communicate what the school system is doing to meet the community needs. This also implies that the Council will be in touch with and responsible to the total community.

Another state testing requirement is the February administration of the Language Assessment System (LAS Links) test. Elkhart Community Schools is required to administer the test to all students (K-12) for whom English is not their native language—regardless of whether parents have declined services.

In addition to tests required by the state, Elkhart Community Schools also administers diagnostic assessments to students in order to better inform teachers about student academic needs. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 2 are assessed individually by their teachers using a nationally standardized assessment for reading and math skills. Students in Grades 3-8 take similar diagnostic tests.

Transportation

Free bus transportation is provided to 1) elementary students (grades K-6) who reside outside a one-mile radius from the school to which they are assigned, 2) middle school and high school students who reside outside a two mile radius from the school to which they are assigned, and 3) students assigned to special programs not available in their attendance area of legal residence. When rivers or other natural barriers cause students to travel well beyond the normal radius distance, or when extremely hazardous conditions exist, transportation may be provided.

Riding a bus is a privilege and must be regarded as such. Rules of school bus conduct and safety have been established for the protection of the student, other students, and the school system.

Copies of school bus rules are provided to students who ride school buses. Parents and students should familiarize themselves with these rules. Students who do not follow these rules, or who refuse to follow the directions of the bus driver, may lose their riding privileges.

The bus driver is in charge of the school bus at all times. In cases requiring serious disciplinary action (removal from the bus for an extended period of time), a review is held which includes the student and/or parent(s), the bus driver, the building administrator, and/or a supervisor from the transportation department. When a student loses his or her riding privileges, a letter indicating such is given to the student to be given to the parents.

Students are still required to attend school. It is then the responsibility of the student and/or parent to assure that the student gets to school.

Student Meals/Textbooks/Application for Assistance

The Elkhart Community Schools serves nutritious meals throughout the school year. This includes breakfast and lunch in all schools.

Children from households whose income is at or below levels established by the federal government are eligible for free/reduced price meals and/or textbook assistance.

To apply for free or reduced price meals and/or textbook rental assistance for your child, complete an application and list each child for whom you are requesting benefits and return it to the school. Applications are available at the J.C. Rice Educational Services Center or, during the school year, in the office of each school. Within ten days of receiving your application, you will be notified in writing whether or not your children are eligible. If you do not agree with the decision and wish to review the decision further, you have a right to a fair hearing. This can be done by writing to the Director of Business Operations, 2720 California Road, Elkhart, IN 46514.

We WILL use your information to see if your children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, to run the program, and to enforce the rules of the program. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into misuse of program rules.

All children are treated the same regardless of ability to pay. No child will be discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, age, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

If there is a question or concern regarding the Food Service Program, call 262-5551 for assistance.

Student Searches

Lockers Searches

Board Policy JFG—A student using a locker that is the property of the Elkhart Community Schools is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or its contents.

A principal or designee, in accordance with the rules of the Elkhart Community Schools, may search a locker and its contents at any time. Assistance may be provided by law enforcement personnel.

Administrative Regulation JFG— Lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. These lockers are the property of Elkhart Community Schools, and a student using a school locker is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or its contents.

Lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules. The contents of a student's locker is deemed to belong to the student(s) to whom the locker is assigned.

Any staff member who has been so authorized by the building principal may search a locker and its contents. No prior notice (other than the notice provided for herein) to the student to whom the locker is assigned is required before such

a search is conducted.

Law enforcement personnel, including trained canines and their handlers, may be requested to assist school personnel in searching a locker and its contents.

General searches of lockers of students, or searches of individually designated lockers, may be conducted whenever, in the sole discretion of a school principal or other designated certified staff member with supervisory authority, there exists a reasonable suspicion that any weapons, controlled and/or illegal substances, or other prohibited items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function or which are forbidden by state law or school rules, are being stored in student lockers.

General searches of groups of lockers also may be conducted by school officials periodically, with or without police assistance, in order to deter students from bringing illegal or prohibited items on to school property. Any illegal objects or substances or other prohibited items found during any search of a school locker are subject to seizure by school officials and/or law enforcement personnel, and students found in violation of state law or school rules as a result of a locker search are subject to discipline by school authorities and/or law enforcement personnel.

Each student and each student's custodial parent or legal guardian shall, at the beginning of each school year or when that student first begins attending Elkhart Community Schools, be provided a written copy of these rules.

Personal search

Board Policy JFG-2—The principal, or another member of the school staff designated by the principal and acting at the direction of the principal, may search the person of a student who is on school grounds, or attending a school activity, if the staff member has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or school rules. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to:

1. Searches of the pockets of a student's clothing;
2. Searches of any object in the possession of the student, such as a purse, brief case, bookbag, or similar object;
3. A "pat down" (see below) of the exterior of a student's clothing; and/or
4. Searches of outer garments, such as a hat, coat or jacket or footwear.

Searches of the person of a student which require removal of clothing other than outerwear such as a hat, coat, jacket, or footwear shall not be conducted by school personnel.

Searches of the person of a student which require a "pat down" of the exterior of a student's clothing other than outer garments shall be conducted and witnessed by staff members who are of the same sex as the student.