

**Forest Area  
School District**



**PK-12 Student Handbook  
2024-2025**

**Board Approved: 08/21/2024**



FOREST AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**I: FOREST AREA INFORMATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. John Atkin  
Mrs. Donna Calla  
Mr. Tim Carll  
Mrs. Shirley Edmondson  
Mr. Troy Johnston, Vice President  
Mr. Tim Korchak, President  
Mr. Mike Oliver, Treasurer  
Mrs. Tammy Thompson  
Mrs. Tabitha VanDyke

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick, Superintendent  
Ms. Darla Kennedy, Secretary

**ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick, Superintendent  
Mrs. Elisha Pospisil, Director of Curriculum and Technology  
Mrs. Debra Arner, East Forest Principal ~~West Forest Assistant Principal~~  
Ms. Amy Beers, West Forest Principal  
Ms. Heather Stover, Special Education Supervisor

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

EAST FOREST SCHOOL  
120 WEST BIRCH STREET  
MARIENVILLE, PA 16239  
(814) 927-6688

WEST FOREST SCHOOL  
22318 Route 62  
TIONESTA, PA 16353  
(814) 755-3611

COLORS: BLACK & ORANGE  
MASCOT: BEARS

COLORS: BLUE & GOLD  
MASCOT: INDIANS

DISTRICT TEAMS: FOREST FIRES  
COLORS: BLACK & GOLD

**FOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

22318 Route 62  
TIONESTA, PA 16353  
(814) 755-4491

**EAST FOREST ALMA MATER**

As we look over your record  
We are proud of you,  
We'll defend your honor, East Forest,  
In whate'er we do.

Hail, oh hail, dear East Forest High  
School  
Hear our echoes ring,  
Hail to thee our Alma Mater;  
Hail, oh hail, we sing.

**WEST FOREST ALMA MATER**

West Forest Blue and Gold  
Hail, ever hail.  
Thy sons with voices bold  
Thee ever hail.

Our hearts will always be  
Loyal and true.  
West Forest hail to thee  
Our Gold and Blue.

## Forest Area School District

### MISSION

Forest Area School District empowers students to excel in a diverse world by creating a foundation for life-long learning.

- Focused
- Inspired
- Respectful
- Engaged
- Successful

### VISION

Through collaboration with the community, the Forest Area School District envisions a future for our students that:

- Embraces a diverse, rigorous and dynamic curriculum which empowers students to explore, undertake learning risks, and utilizes technological advancements;
- Develops creative effective thinkers, problem solvers and communicators who are prepared for global success and able to adapt to life's challenges as they come;
- Recognizes and respects the unique nature and individual abilities of each child and fosters a learning culture that boosts confidence within each child; and
- Empowers students in becoming community oriented, environmentally aware, and civically productive members of society.
- The District will devote itself to bringing this vision to life and engaging all stakeholders in a collaborative life-long learning environment.

### EDUCATIONAL VALUES

Students will:

- All students will use their potential to be contributing citizens through their action and achievements
- All students will demonstrate positive behaviors which encourage respect for self and others.

Staff:

- All actions will foster a collaborative and inclusive attitude among students, faculty, and staff focused on engaging family and the community in reaching the highest levels of success for students.
- Our schools will be a safe, welcoming and productive environment.
- In order to maximize learning potential, individual, diverse, and culturally aware learning approaches will be utilized.

Administration:

- All actions will foster a collaborative and inclusive attitude among students, faculty, and staff focused on engaging family and the community in reaching the highest levels of success for students.
- Our schools will be a safe, welcoming and productive environment.
- In order to maximize learning potential, individual, diverse, and culturally aware learning approaches will be utilized.

Parents:

- All actions will foster a collaborative and inclusive attitude among students, faculty, and staff focused on engaging family and the community in reaching the highest levels of success for students.
- Our schools will be a safe, welcoming and productive environment.

Community:

- All actions will foster a collaborative and inclusive attitude among students, faculty, and staff focused on engaging family and the community in reaching the highest levels of success for students.
- Our schools will be a safe, welcoming and productive environment.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR

BA 02/21/2024

## 2024-2025 School Calendar

### FOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

22318 Route 62, Box 16  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
814-755-4491 (Fax) 814-755-2426

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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		

**August**  
 Aug 21-22 Professional Development Days  
 Aug 23-26 Vacation Days  
 Aug 27 First Day of School for Students

**September**  
 Sept 2 Labor Day

**October**  
 Oct 4 Vacation Day  
 Oct 7 Act 80 Day

**November**  
 Nov 8 Act 80 Day  
 Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving Vacation

**December**  
 Dec 2 Thanksgiving Vacation  
 Dec 23-27,30-31 Christmas Vacation

**January**  
 Jan 1 New Years Day  
 Jan 20 Professional Development Day

**February**  
 Feb 14, 17 Presidents' Day Break

**March**  
 Mar 14 Spring Break

**April**  
 Apr 16-18, 21 Easter Break

**May**  
 May 2 - East / West 1/2 Act 80 Day  
 Dismissal 11:04 AM  
 May 26 Memorial Day

**June**  
 Jun 5 Last Day of School for Students  
 Dismissal 11:04 AM  
 Jun 6 Professional Development Day






Jun 4 Commencement Exercise - West  
 Jun 5 Commencement Exercise - East

#### Snow Make-up Dates

Snow Day #1	Feb 14
Snow Day #2	Mar 14
Snow Day #3	Apr 16
Snow Day #4	Apr 17
Snow Day #5	Apr 21

#### PSSA and Keystone Exams Dates

Apr 21-25 ELA	PSSA Testing Window
Apr 28-May 2 Math	PSSA Testing Window
Apr 28-May 2 Sci	PSSA Testing Window
May 05-09 Make up	PSSA Testing Window
Dec 04-18	Keystone Exams
May 12-23	Keystone Exams

	School Vacation Days
	Early Dismissal
	Act 80 Days
	Professional Development Days
	First and Last Day of School

Forest Area School District

**BELL SCHEDULE**

7:45 - 8:03	Student Arrival and Breakfast
8:06 – 8:50	Period 1
8:53-9:33	Period 2
9:36-10:16	Period 3
10:19-10:59	Period 4
11:02-11:42	Period 5
11:45-12:25	Period 6 A
12:15-12:55	Period 6 B
12:58-1:38	Period 7
1:41-2:21	Period 8
2:24-3:04	Period 9
3:04	Student Dismissal

**TERM DATES**

**Q1 start – 8/27 End of Q1 – 10/30**

Mid-term: 9/26

**Q2 start – 10/31 End of Q2 – 1/17**

Mid-term: 12/5

**Q3 start – 1/21 End of Q3 – 3/27**

Mid-term: 2/21

**Q4 start – 3/28 End Q4 – 6/5**

Mid-term: 5/2

**SCHOOL CLOSING:**

If there is a need to cancel classes for the day or to call for a delay in the school starting time, we will use the District’s phone calling system and request the radio and television stations listed below to make the emergency announcements. Radio and television stations generally begin making announcements no later than 6:00 A.M.

**RADIO STATIONS**

Brookville	WMKX 105.5 FM/WJNG 100.5 FM
Bradford	WPIG 95.7 / BIG OLY 107.1
Clarion	WWCH 1300 AM / WCCR 92.7 FM
DuBois	WOWQ 102 FM/WZDB 95.9 FM WQYX 93.1 FM/ WCPA 900 AM WCPA 101.7 FM / WITF 101.3 FM
Franklin	WGYI 98.5 FM/FROGGY 100.3 FM WFRA 1450 AM/MAJIC 99.3 FM
Johnstown	WKYE 96.5 FM/ WFGI 95.5 FM WJHT 92.1 FM /WRKW 99.1 FM WNTJ 1490 AM / WNTW 990 AM
Oil City	WKQW 96.3 FM/WUUZ 107.7 WHMJ 99.3
Titusville	WTIV 1230 AM
Warren	WNAE 1310 AM & 96.7 FM WRRN 92.3 FM / WKNB 104.3 FM

**TELEVISION STATIONS**

Erie	WJET Channel 24
Erie	FOX Channel 66
Erie	WICU Channel 12
Erie	WSEE Channel 35
Altoona	WTAJ Channel 10
Johnstown	WJAC Channel 6
Pittsburgh	KDKA Channel 2
Pittsburgh	WPXI Channel 11
Pittsburgh	WTAE Channel 4

**WEBSITE**

[WWW.FORESTAREASCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.FORESTAREASCHOOLS.ORG)

**Delayed Starting Time:** A delay of one or two hours in the school's starting time may be called to permit highway crews more time to clear and salt the roadways or for other emergency conditions. These announcements will be made over the radio and television stations listed above. An announcement calling for a delay in the starting time for school may be followed by a later announcement canceling classes for the day.

**Early Dismissal from School:** If an early dismissal is required due to a forecast of extremely heavy snowfall or other unsafe condition, this information will be broadcast as soon as possible over the phone calling system and the radio and television stations listed above. When possible, the school district will post delays and cancellations on the district’s website. **WWW.FORESTAREASCHOOLS.ORG.**

In case of an early dismissal, parents who may be away from home during the day should instruct their children on what the children are to do if they arrive home early from school. Arrangements should be made with an adult relative, friend, or neighbor to look after the children until the parents return home.

During the winter season, parents are requested to be alert for the changing weather conditions that could cause a cancellation of classes, a delay in the start of school, or an early dismissal. Parents are advised to stay tuned to one of the stations listed above for any such announcement.

On any day that you feel uncertain whether or not school will be in session and no announcements have been made, we ask that you send the children to their bus stops at the usual time. On such a day, children should be instructed to wait for a reasonable period of time (15 - 20 minutes) before returning home should the bus not arrive. It is also important to remind children to wait for the bus at a safe distance from the roadway since it is often difficult for drivers to see the road during bad weather. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

### EMERGENCY WEATHER SITUATIONS

Listed below are the steps that Forest Area School District takes during potential emergency weather situations while the children are in the buildings.

- Listen to NOAA or Emergency Alert System broadcasts during severe weather watches or warnings.
- Direct all staff and students to come indoors if the hazard is a lightning storm or another weather situation that poses an immediate threat.
- Implement shelter-in-place or evacuation based on National Weather Service forecasts and Emergency Management Agency advice.
- Contact the Superintendent to communicate the status of the situation. The Central Office will handle necessary parent/community communications.
- Notify the transportation director of evacuation or shelter-in-place.
- Warn staff and students to stay away from glass doors and windows, telephones, and all electrical appliances, including computers.
- Move staff and students to interior rooms with no windows if a Tornado Warning is issued (Shelter in Place).
- Issue an all clear when the weather emergency is over.

If students are in the process of being transported when an emergency occurs, the bus drivers are instructed regarding emergencies as part of their training and reminded by the district at the annual bus driver in-service training. In the case of severe weather, drivers are to proceed to the nearest location where students and the driver can shelter in place. The drivers do have cell phones and will communicate with the transportation office regarding their location and any information regarding students. The Central Office will disseminate information to parents as it is needed and as it becomes available.

## II: POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

[\(Policy 204\)](#)

#### 1. AGE AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

##### **School Age:**

School age refers to the age interval within which a child is entitled to attend the public schools. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this interval includes every child who has attained the age of six (6) years, but who has not attained the age of twenty-one (21) years. A student who attains the age of twenty-one (21) years during the regular term of a school year in which he/she is enrolled in the Forest Area School District, however, shall be permitted to complete the school year. A student who has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years, and who is not enrolled in the Forest Area School District, shall not be permitted to enroll.

A child is eligible for admission to preschool if he/she has attained the age of four on or before the first day of the school year. A child is eligible for admission to kindergarten if he/she has attained the age of five before the first day of the school year. New residents of a younger age will be eligible if the student has attended kindergarten in the previous district.

##### **Compulsory School Age:**

“Compulsory school age” shall mean the period of a child’s life from the time the child’s parents elect to have the child enter school and which shall be no later than six (6) years of age until the child reaches eighteen (18) years of age. The term does not include a child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school.

##### **Compulsory School Attendance:**

In accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Public School Code of 1949, every child of compulsory school age (as defined above), who has a legal residence in this Commonwealth, and every migratory child of compulsory school age, living within the school district, is required to attend a school in which the subjects and activities prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education are taught.

As of the 2020-2021 school year, the compulsory school age ~~will be~~ is between the ages of 6 and 18 unless the student has a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited high school. Compulsory attendance will begin from the age of enrollment in school including Pre-Kindergarten.

#### 2. EXCEPTIONS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

##### **Home Schooling:**

Students of compulsory school age who are instructed at home by their parents or by a Pennsylvania certificated tutor, retained by their parents, are excused from compulsory attendance in the public schools as long as state requirements for Homeschooling under Act 169 have been and continue to be met.

##### **Private or Non-Public Attendance:**

Students of compulsory school age who are enrolled in state-approved private or non-public elementary or secondary schools are excused from compulsory attendance in the public schools.

**Homebound Instruction:**

Students of compulsory school age who have a physical or mental illness, as verified by a licensed physician or psychiatrist, and approved by the school district, are excused from compulsory attendance in the public schools as per law. Students receiving homebound education must be periodically reviewed by the physician and principal or his/her designee to verify ongoing physical or mental health problems which preclude public school attendance. Questionable cases will be subject to review and recommendation by the school physician.

**Alternative Education:**

Students of compulsory school age who are enrolled in an alternative education program in the school district must comply with the provisions of compulsory public school attendance.

**ABSENCES/EXCUSES****Excused Absence:**

An excused absence is an absence from school of any enrolled student between the ages of six (6) and twenty-one (21) which is supported by an appropriate written excuse from the parent/guardian of the student or from the student if he/she is at least eighteen (18) years of age. The written excuse must be received on or before the third day after the last day of school missed, or the absence is to be designated as illegal. The principal may exercise discretion in determining unusual circumstances which may preclude submission of the written absence within three (3) days; however, exceptions must be noted in the student's file.

Students missing school are not permitted to attend same day after-school activities or events without a doctor's excuse and prior approval by the school principal.

**ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES****Communicable or Infectious Diseases:**

Communicable or infectious disease, as certified by a licensed physician, is an excused absence.

**Emergency or Hardship Release:**

An emergency or hardship release from compulsory attendance is an excused absence; however, the request must be based on difficult personal circumstances which prevent a child from attending school. This type of release must be individually approved in advance by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education or his/her designee.

**Farm or Domestic Work:**

A student who is fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age may be released from compulsory school attendance to engage in farm or domestic work, provided the student has completed at least the sixth grade, and has obtained a legal and approved farm or domestic work permit. The farm or domestic permit is not valid for service in the child's own residence. The hours of employment must occur during school hours.

**Educational Field Trips**

An educational field trip is considered an excused absence only with permission. To obtain permission, the parents will fill out the "Request for Educational Field Trip" form provided by the office, stating the date of the trip, the destination, the reason for the trip, and the educational objective of the trip. Educational field trips are limited to 5 days in a school year unless special permission is granted. Educational field trips will not be approved during standardized testing windows or final exams.

**Employment:**

A sixteen (16) year-old child who has obtained a legal and approved employment certificate may be excused from compulsory attendance for the duration of the employment, or until the child attains the age of seventeen (17). The 35 required hours of employment must occur during school hours. At the age of seventeen (17), the child is no longer of compulsory school age. The employer, as a condition of the employment release, is requested to return a notice to the principal if the child's employment is terminated and the child is required to return to school until she/he reaches the age of seventeen (17).

**Temporary Absence Due to Urgent Reasons:**

An excused absence from school attendance for a temporary urgent reason is subject to the discretion of the principal. Examples of urgent reasons include roads that are impassable, fire, quarantine, and other similar reasons. A written entry must be placed in the student's file by the principal granting the excused absence.

**ENFORCEMENT OF ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE**

Penalties for illegal absences by children of compulsory school age are provided by law: "Every parent, guardian, or person in parental relationship, having control over a child of compulsory school age, who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance, shall, upon summary conviction, be required to pay a fine for the benefit of the school district."

The principal in each building, as the agent of the school district, has the duty and responsibility to notify the parent/guardian of a child of compulsory school age, in writing, by certified mail, when the first three illegal days of absence, or their equivalent, have been recorded. The parent/guardian must be given three (3) days to respond to the initial notice, with reasonable time for the delivery of the notice taken into consideration, and not counted as part of the three (3) days. The principal shall review the parent's response and make a determination regarding the legal/illegal status of the days in question. In the event that one or more of the three recorded illegal days are converted to "excused" absences, a written adjustment to the child's attendance record shall be made.

Subsequent illegal absences, beyond the first three days, are recorded as illegal days, and are subject to referral to a magistrate for action against the parent for violation of the compulsory attendance law.

**There is no requirement to inform the parent beyond the first required written notification.** The school district shall maintain an appropriate schedule and procedure for making referrals to the magistrate.

**Excessive Excused Absences by Children of Compulsory School Age**

When a total of ten (10) days of absences per school year have been recorded for a student of compulsory school age, the principal shall notify the parent, in writing, that a doctor's excuse will be required for all subsequent absences or the absences will be declared illegal. **If a child has a chronic or ongoing health problem, documented in writing by a licensed physician, the parent's written excuses will be accepted by the principal for absences beyond ten (10) days of excused absence.** Absences beyond ten (10) days that are not due to a chronic or ongoing medical condition must be supported individually by a physician's written statement. Principals have the right to place a student on a medical excuse at any point based upon past attendance history.

**Withholding Credit:**

Credit may not be withheld solely on the basis of days missed. The justification for withholding credit must be based upon incomplete work or assignments. Assignments will not be accepted for days that are marked as illegal or unexcused.

### **LATE ARRIVALS**

Any student arriving between 7:50 AM and 9:30 AM will be late and marked as tardy. The student will be excused or unexcused, depending on the reason for the late arrival.

**9:31 AM - 1:00 PM** – Any student arriving during this period is marked absent 1/2 day AM.

**1:00 PM** – Any student arriving after 1:00 PM is marked absent for the entire day.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY**

Any student leaving prior to 9:30 AM will be marked absent for the entire day.

**9:31 AM – 1:40 PM** – Any student leaving during this time period is marked absent for 1/2 day PM.

**1:41 PM** – Any student leaving after 1:41 PM is not marked absent.

In order to participate in same day after-school activities or events students may not leave school early without prior approval by the school principal.

Students leaving during the school day may only do so with a parent/guardian or immediate family member. (Students may sign out during the school day only with a verified doctor's appointment)

### **ILLEGAL ABSENCES**

The Forest Area School District takes school attendance very seriously. The protocol for student absences is as follows:

8 total absences (excused + unexcused + illegal)	First Class Letter to Parent
10 total absences (excused + unexcused + illegal)	First Class and Certified Letter to parent noting that dr excuse required for additional absences. SAP Referral. CYS attachment.
11 + total absence w/o Dr excuse	Mark all additional absences w/o dr excuse as illegal if under 17 and unexcused if 17 or older.
1 illegal absence	First Class Letter to Parent/CYS attachment
2 illegal absences	First Class Letter to Parent/CYS attachment
3 illegal absences (Truant)	Notify parents within 10 school days by First Class and Certified Letter  Offer SAIP, Referral to CYS, SAP referral
4 illegal absences	First Class and Certified Letter to parent. Re-offer or review SAIP. SAIP required.
5 illegal absences	Phone call to parent/Certified and First Class to Parent
6 + illegal absences (Habitually Truant)	First Class and Certified Letter to parent. File with the magistrate.

Forest County CYS is committed to assisting families, the school district, and the Courts to prevent/eliminate school attendance problems. This may be achieved by effectively identifying, addressing, and resolving all

contributing risk factors. FASD may contact CYS prior to referral to the Magistrate District Judge for Court action and sentencing. For all compulsory school age children, regular school attendance is mandated within Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act. In accordance with this Act, parents, guardians, and truant children themselves may face several consequences upon conviction. Potential Consequences include:—*Sentence of a fine up to \$750 plus Court costs imposed on parent or child, Sentence to complete a parenting education program plus costs, Child, age 13 or older, may be placed in the Adjudication Alternative Program, Child referred to the Court for consideration of dependency/removal from home, Suspension of child's driving privileges.*

## **ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS AND NETWORK RESOURCES**

### **(Policy 815)**

The availability of access to electronic information does not imply endorsement by the district of the content, nor does the district guarantee the accuracy of information received. The district shall not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the network or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet.

The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet or other network resources.

The Board declares that district Internet, computer and network use is a privilege, not a right. The district's computer and network resources are the property of the district. Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, access, receive or display on or over the district's Internet, computers or network resources, including personal files. The district reserves the right to monitor, track and log network access and use on district computers and network resources; monitor filespace and file storage utilization by district users; or deny access to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity and may revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action. The district shall cooperate to the extent legally required with the Internet Service Provider (ISP), local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the district's Internet, computers and network resources.[6][7][8]

The Board requires all users to fully comply with this policy and to immediately report any violations or suspicious activities to the building principal or designee.

The Board establishes the following list of subject areas as inappropriate matter, in addition to those stated in law and defined in this policy, which shall not be accessed by minors:[4]

1. Hate speech.[9][10]
2. Lewd, vulgar or profane.
3. Threatening.[11][12]

4. Harassing or discriminatory.[9][10][13]
5. Bullying.[14]
6. (Consisting of/Relating to) Weapons.[15]
7. Terroristic.[16]

The district reserves the right to restrict access to any Internet sites or network functions it deems inappropriate through established Board policy, or the use of software and/or online server blocking/filtering. Specifically, the district operates and enforces a technology protection measure(s) that blocks or filters access to inappropriate matter by minors on its computers and network resources used and accessible to adults and students. The technology protection measure shall be enforced during use of computers and network resources with Internet access.[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

Any infractions regarding this policy or any other deliberate and/or negligent, abuse of the district's networks or computer resources will result in disciplinary action. In addition to actions by the district, serious violations may also be subject to criminal prosecution under Pennsylvania law (18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 3933, Unlawful use of computer). The complete computer use policy is available online and at each building library or office.

## **BYOD**

Students in grades 10-12 are eligible to participate in Forest Area School District's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. The following are the guidelines associated with this program:

### **Student Guidelines**

#### **Forest Area School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

1. The student and his/her parent/guardian must sign and return this form before the student may participate in BYOD.
2. Students may bring mobile devices including laptops, netbooks, tablets, smartphones, and eReaders. Handheld gaming devices and gaming consoles are not allowed. A mobile device may only be used if the particular type of device has been approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
3. Students who bring personal mobile devices should fully-charge the battery before bringing it to school each day. The student must take the personal mobile device home at the end of each day to recharge its battery and to keep the device safe.
4. Students are expected to know how to operate their personal mobile devices on their own.
5. Students must use the FASD guest wireless network (WiFi) connection when accessing the Internet or online resources from a FASD campus. Students are not allowed to create or join unauthorized wireless or wired networks to bypass FASD's filtered student wireless network. Students may connect one personal device to the FASD guest wireless network at a time.
6. Students may use personal mobile devices in class for educational purposes only when permission is granted by their classroom teacher. Each campus will designate whether personal mobile devices may be used at other times/locations (e.g. before school, after school, and during lunch). Students may not use personal mobile devices when the classroom has a short-term substitute.

7. When not in use, students' personal mobile devices should be silenced or turned off and be put away in a location designated by the classroom teacher.
8. If a student uses a device in violation of the law, a school rule, the Student Handbook, these Guidelines, District [Policy 815](#) (Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers, and Network Resources) or other District policy or procedure, the student may, depending on the severity of the infraction, be subject to discipline (including the possibility of suspension or expulsion) pursuant to the Discipline Code ([Policy 218](#)); the loss of technology and/or BYOD privileges; temporary confiscation of the device; and/or Referral to law enforcement authorities. A personal electronic device that is used to violate either the law or a school rule shall be subject to search when permitted by law.
9. Students may not use their personal mobile device inside or outside the classroom in a way that disrupts the educational environment, violates the rights of others, or invades the privacy of others, including but not limited to using the device to cheat, to violate school conduct rules, to harass or bully students or staff, for unlawful purposes, or any other violation of the FASD discipline policy.
10. No pictures or video can be taken unless specifically authorized by staff.
11. Students may not take, publish, post, disseminate, share or transfer audio, video, photographs, or images that reveal private parts of the body that are ordinarily covered by clothing. Students may not possess pornographic images or video on any electronic device.
12. Forest Area School District is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage to a student's personal mobile device or to content on the device while at FASD or connected to the guest network. Forest Area School District is not liable for content already on the student's personal mobile device. Forest Area School District is not responsible for any monetary charges that may occur while the student is using the device.

### **CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)**

The Forest Area School District complies with CIPA through filtering of Internet content, tracking of student Internet use, and instruction in Internet safety. More information about CIPA and the FCC can be found here: [https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/childrens\\_internet\\_protection\\_act\\_cipa.pdf](https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/childrens_internet_protection_act_cipa.pdf)

### **COPPA**

In order for schools within the Forest Area School District to continue to be able to provide your student with the most effective web-based tools and applications for learning they need to abide by federal regulations that require parental signature as outlined below.

Our district utilizes several computer software applications and web-based services, operated not by this school, but by third parties. These include contracted content providers (Study Island, Google for education), and websites and apps that support educational programs. A complete list of the programs with the privacy policy and terms of service for each can be found [on our district website](#)

([https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3s8CZfVaALPfCb5dHzMHvdRD\\_M13EAIQqr13deRg5E/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3s8CZfVaALPfCb5dHzMHvdRD_M13EAIQqr13deRg5E/edit#gid=0))

In order for our students to use these programs and services, certain personal identifying information might be requested by the service provider, such as the student's name, a username, password and occasionally a school email address. Under federal law entitled the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), these websites must provide parental notification and obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13. (For more information on COPPA, please visit

<https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/privacy-security/childrens-privacy>.

With your permission, the law allows schools to create and manage student accounts. Additional web-based educational programs and services that our schools may use during the academic year will be accompanied by a separate request for parent/guardian permission. To provide permission, please sign the COPPA section on the signature form provided as part of the Back to School packet.

Questions may be directed to Elisha Pospisil, Director of Curriculum and Technology, at [epospisil@forestareaschools.org](mailto:epospisil@forestareaschools.org)

### **STUDENT PRIVACY AND PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS**

The U.S. Department of Education is committed to protecting student privacy. We administer and enforce student privacy laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). You will receive a FERPA notification outline student rights and directory information each year. If you have questions about our procedures, please contact your building principal. Additional information about student privacy can be found on the US Department of Education website: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES**

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[9\]\[10\]\[11\]\[12\]\[13\]\[14\]\[15\]\[16\]\[17\]](#)

The Board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at or, in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Board policy and procedures. [\[18\]\[19\]\[20\]\[21\]](#) ([Policy 103](#))

### **III: SCHOOL INFORMATION**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Student announcements for the day will be made over the public address system in the morning. Any other announcements during the day must be approved by the administration unless there is an emergency situation.

#### **AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

Every adult in the public school shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his/her school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians, or persons in parental relations to such pupils may exercise over them. Teachers and principals are considered en loco parentis.

#### **CAFETERIA INFORMATION**

Forest Area Schools participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) This program is available to schools/districts who are participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

All enrolled students of East Forest and West Forest Schools are eligible to receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch every day at the school at no charge to your household. No further action is required of you. Your elementary child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without paying a fee or submitting an application.

Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides nutritious meals for students. All students are eligible to participate after dismissal.

For more information about the Child Nutrition Program contact the Business Manager.

#### **LUNCH ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

All students are responsible for paying for any a la carte items. Student cafeteria accounts can be managed and monitored online. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#). Please continue to monitor student lunch accounts through the School Cafe system portal.

#### **ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM PARTIES**

Parents may request that their child not participate in a party if it conflicts with home beliefs. A request should be sent to the child's teacher. The teacher will make other arrangements for the child by consulting with the principal.

Parents may want to send in **pre-packaged** snacks for their child's birthday. No homemade snacks will be permitted. Parents should coordinate these recognitions with the child's teacher and follow the District's [School Wellness Policy](#).

#### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

[\(Policy 906\)](#)

The Board encourages parents/guardians, district residents or community groups who have general complaints about Board policy and district procedures, district programs, personnel, operations and facilities to follow the general complaint procedure established in this policy.

The Board directs parents/guardians, other individuals and organizations alleging violations of law in the district's administration of federally-funded programs to submit complaints in accordance with the separate federal program complaint procedure established in this policy.[\[1\]](#)

General complaints about Board policy and district procedures, programs, personnel, operations and facilities shall begin with an informal, direct discussion between the complainant and district employee who is most directly involved.

The employee shall attempt to provide a reasonable explanation or take appropriate action within the employee's authority. The employee shall report the matter and the resolution to the building principal or immediate supervisor.

When an informal discussion fails to resolve the complaint, the following procedure shall be used.

**First Level** - If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved by discussion with the employee, the complainant shall submit a written complaint to the building principal or designee and a conference shall be scheduled with the complainant. The written complaint shall include the contact information of the person or group filing the complaint, the specific nature of the complaint, a brief statement of relevant facts, how the complainant has been affected adversely, and the action requested. The building principal or designee shall provide a written response to the complainant.

**Second Level** - If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved through a conference with the building principal or designee, the complaint shall be referred to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall review the complaint and may schedule a conference with the complainant. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written response to the complainant.

**Third Level** - If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved through referral to the Superintendent or designee or if resolution of the complaint is beyond his/her authority and requires Board action, the Superintendent or designee shall refer the complaint to the Board.

The Board, after reviewing all information relative to the complaint, shall provide the complainant with its written response. The Board may, at its discretion, grant a hearing before the Board or a committee of the Board. If a hearing is granted, the complainant shall be advised of the Board's response, in writing, no more than thirty (30) days following the hearing.

## **CYBER SCHOOL**

Forest Area School District has selected a quality program vendor to provide online instruction for students in lieu of a traditional classroom setting. Cyber Services can enhance and expand curriculum and be customized to meet school and student needs. All Forest Area distance/cyber education students will receive a Forest Area School District diploma while taking courses through an Internet-based curriculum provider. See District website for Cyber School Handbook.

## **DECLARATION OF EMANCIPATION**

“Minor children may be released from legal subjection to their parents by Emancipation at age 17. Emancipation results not from any conduct of the child but from some juristic act, or other conduct of the parent from which the extinguishment of parent’s rights and filial duties may be inferred.”

In compliance with the above opinion, emancipation of eligible students attending Forest Area Schools shall be determined or denied based upon the following information:

1. A written statement from the parent(s) notarized or signed in the presence of a school official, asserting that the minor is emancipated. In the absence of the parent(s), an affidavit, declared and signed by the minor before a licensed official of the courts, may be accepted.
2. Verification of date of birth of the minor. (Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, etc.)
3. Evidence of financial independence.
4. Written statement of some proof to show that there has been a “total severance of the filial tie.”
5. Student’s residence
6. Parent(s) residence
7. Marital status and/or responsibility as a parent, if appropriate.

A minor who is determined to be emancipated, on the basis of the above procedure, shall be deemed responsible for his/her own affairs and does not have a guardian for school purposes.

### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

As part of our school safety planning process, we are teaching our students to be prepared for all kinds of emergencies. Throughout the year, we will be conducting evacuation and stay in place drills. Sometimes these will just be practicing the action and other times, teachers and students may be asked to make the best decision based upon a scenario which is presented to them such as a tornado or earthquake approaching, a fire evacuation with one or more exit pathways changed or an unidentified person on the property.

When an emergency drill is sounded, students will follow the directions of the teacher in accordance with safety procedures. Teachers will stay with their groups both inside and outside the building. Movement in the halls will be limited to orderly lines. Students will assemble in an orderly fashion in designated areas while the teacher takes attendance.

In addition, we will participate in routine security checks with the PA State Police and the Forest County Sheriff’s Office. These checks may involve building walkthroughs by the officers, visits from K-9 units, review and practice of our ALICE procedures, and classroom presentations to remind students about safety plans and other precautionary measures.

When we are practicing anything beyond a fire, weather, or basic safety drill, we will make every attempt to make you aware of the circumstances. If there is an actual emergency, you will receive specific instructions about where to meet your child for reunification. Please do not come to the school without being instructed to do so since we would need to be able to allow emergency vehicles access to the school in the case of a real emergency.

If your child seems concerned or upset by a particular drill that we practice, please be sure that you communicate with their teacher or school counselor, so that we can work with them to be sure they understand the events of the drill or practice. If you have other questions, please contact your building principal.

### **EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION**

[\(Policy 105.2\)](#)

1. To assist the school district in ensuring that the student is excused from the correct specific instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the specific instruction from which the student is to be excused.
2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the qualifying parent/guardian or student to the building principal. One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one (1) copy shall be kept by the school principal, and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.
3. It shall not be the responsibility of the district or any of its employees to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused, in accordance with a parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if the teacher or principal has a copy of the written request and the written request adequately describes the specific instruction.
4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.
5. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district.
6. The building principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.
7. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the district as necessary for graduation.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

### **(Policy 231.1)**

The first objective of any field trip is the educational value to the students. Approval of all trips must be given by the school administrator and the Forest Area School District Board of Directors. When transportation of pupils is necessary, arrangements for buses will be made and the use of private cars will be discouraged, except under special circumstances.

The following provisions are suggested as a basis for all trips:

1. The teacher will notify students that it will be necessary for them to arrange for a way home in case the trip concludes after the closing of school.
2. Parental permission must be secured before students are taken on a trip.
3. The conduct of all students on these trips must be exemplary. All school expectations apply when on a field trip.
4. Refunds of money paid for field trips will be issued only if the money is unencumbered. Students who cannot participate due to discipline or choose not to attend after first committing to go may not be eligible for refunds.

## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

([Policy 117](#) and [Policy 204](#))

Whenever a student experiences a disability or an extended illness, a parent/guardian may request homebound instruction through the building principal. Homebound instruction will generally consist of a maximum of five (5) hours per week. Additional hours may be authorized by the Superintendent on an as needed basis.

In order for the school district to obtain approval from the state for homebound instruction, certain information must be submitted relative to each individual case.

In cases where students have physical disabilities, the following information is necessary from a medical doctor:

1. A specific diagnosis of the physical disability.
2. A statement to the effect that while the student is not physically able to attend, s/he is able to receive one (1) hour per day of homebound instruction.
3. The approximate length of time (in months/days) the student should be confined to his/her residence. The requests for homebound instruction on the basis of emotional, nervous, or mental disorders will be accepted only when the statement supporting the request is issued by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist. All requests for homebound instruction will be reviewed by the building principal and those meeting the above criteria will be forwarded to the Superintendent for approval.

The Board shall provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least two (2) weeks.

## **HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER CARE, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY**

([Policy 251](#))

Students enrolled in this district experiencing homelessness, foster care, or other educational instability, shall be provided support and services, as appropriate to each individual student's needs, in accordance with Board policy.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Defining Homelessness

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act defines "homelessness children and youths" as any individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Furthermore, this includes:

- Children and youths who are:
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up");
  - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
  - abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied homeless youth including any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.

## PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

### School Placement Process

Students who are experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth have the right to attend either their original school or the school in the area in which they currently reside for the duration of their homelessness, or until the end of the school year if the family finds permanent housing. A school district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal the decision if they believe attending the school of origin is not in the best interest of your child

### Enrollment of Students

Schools are to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth, even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, and any other required documentation.

### Transportation

In the case where the educating district is different from the district where the student is temporarily residing, students shall receive transportation to and from the school of origin if necessary.

### Food Services

Immediately upon enrollment, students who are experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth are entitled to receive a daily, free school lunch.

### Title I

Students who are experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth are entitled to Title I educational services. Title I services include academic assistance for students within the classroom. All students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are screened three times per year to determine academic programming needs.

### Resources:

- [Basic Education Circulars \(BECs\) About Homelessness](#)
- [Forest Area School District Policy 251: Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care, and Educational Instability](#)
- [Supporting the Educational Experience of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Community Resources](#)

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment for a student eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act: The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled into the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. Forest Area School District will provide its share of the transportation to the school selected for the duration of the dispute resolution process.

If the Forest Area School District disputes the identification of an individual, the student and parent/guardian will be contacted in writing to communicate their concerns. The Homeless Liaison will maintain communication until the dispute is resolved.

If dissatisfied with the school's decision, the parent, guardian, or youth may appeal the decision to the state level. Contact information will be provided by the Homeless Liaison to do so.

Contacts include:

Elisha Pospisil, Forest Area School District Homeless Liaison  
814-755-4491  
epospisil@forestareaschools.org

Wendy Kinnear, PA Regional Coordinator  
724.458.6700  
wendy.kinnear@miu4.org

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
www.education.pa.gov/homeless

### **LOST AND FOUND**

A lost and found department is operated by the high school office. Pupils losing or finding any articles should report these to the office. A list of these articles will be placed periodically in the bulletin. All unclaimed articles are returned to the finder.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

It is the responsibility of the student who has had an excused absence to meet with his/her instructors on the first class day they return to arrange for make-up work. The teacher will determine the length of time for work to be made up, but no longer than five (5) days should be allotted except with special permission from the teacher or principal.

### **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Parents/guardians are urged to contact the school about any questions regarding their child's school work. Appointments for conferences with teachers, counselors, or principals must be made by calling the school office.

### **PARENT EMERGENCY CARDS**

All students must have a parent or guardian emergency card on file in the office. Emergency cards must be returned within three (3) days of the start of school.

### **REQUEST FOR LEAVING SCHOOL**

No student will leave the building, except as part of class instruction, without the expressed permission of the school principal or his/her representative. If a pupil becomes ill during school hours, he/she must obtain permission from the teacher in charge of the class to go to the school nurse. In the event of the nurse's absence, the student shall report to the office. If it is deemed appropriate that the student be sent home, then we require parents or guardians to come into the school and sign out the child. If a student leaves school for any reason without permission it will be considered skipping school.

### **SCHOOL WELLNESS**

The Wellness Policy is an important tool for schools and parents to promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and provide assurance that school meal nutrition guidelines meet the minimum federal school meal standards. The Forest Area Wellness Committee supports section 204 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act through ongoing implementation and assessment of the Wellness Policy. Please contact your building principal with questions about the Wellness Policy or the Wellness Committee.

## **STUDENT INSURANCE**

School insurance will be made available to parents, annually. The insurance premiums shall be paid by the parents. All students participating in extracurricular athletics must have school insurance or proof of private insurance. Information is posted on the FASD website or is available from the school nurse.

## **TESTING PROGRAM**

Forest Area School District administers national, state and local assessments. Testing windows will be posted on the district calendar, found on the district's website. Remediation and retesting may be needed to ensure that graduation requirements are met.

## **THERAPY DOG PROGRAM**

Forest Area School District has 2 therapy dogs. Research has shown that therapy dogs in schools can help build strong social emotional skills in students. A therapy dog's presence in schools can help to reduce anxiety, help students work through anger management, reduce bullying tendencies, and support other social matters that developing students face.

The specific goals of the program are to:

- Increase empathy and compassion in all students;
- Help students connect with something in the school setting and reduce anxiety; and
- Support academic performance, while increasing confidence and self-esteem.

## **TUITION AND AFFIDAVITS**

Pupils may be accepted to Forest Area Schools on a tuition basis if nonresidents.

A child shall be considered a resident of the school district in which his/her parents/guardians reside. Any student not having at least one parent/guardian residing in the Forest Area School District and who is requesting permission to attend school here shall be admitted only through tuition payments, court placement, or due to exceptional circumstances which must be presented in writing to the Superintendent of Schools. In all cases an affidavit of residence and name and address of the person responsible shall be furnished and processed as provided by the School Code.

## **VISITORS**

### **(Policy 907)**

The Board welcomes and encourages interest in district educational programs and other school-related activities. The Board recognizes that such interest may result in visits to school by parents/guardians, adult residents, educators and other officials. To ensure order in the schools and to protect students and employees, it is necessary for the Board to establish policy governing school visits. For these reasons, the following guidelines apply to visitors to the school:

- Persons wishing to visit a school should make arrangements in advance with the school office in that building.
- Upon arrival at the school, visitors must register at the office where they must provide any required information or identification to protect the health and safety of students, staff and the school community, as well as sign in and sign out, receive a pass, receive instructions, and be informed of the school's health and safety rules, which must be followed prior to entry and while the visitor is in the school building and on school property.[2]
- Only one (1) designated entrance that is monitored and capable of controlling visitor entry shall be used by visitors to the school. All other entrances shall be locked.[3]

- All staff members shall be responsible for requiring a visitor to demonstrate that the visitor has a visitor's pass and has registered at the school office and received authorization to be present for the purpose of conducting business.
- No visitor may confer with a student in school without the approval of the building principal.
- Should an emergency require that a student be called to the school office to meet a visitor, the building principal or designee shall be present during the meeting.
- Failure to comply with this policy shall result in more limited access to the school as determined by the building principal, consistent with Board policies, administrative regulations, school rules and federal and state law and regulations.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

[\(Policy 916\)](#)

A volunteer is an adult, whose role is more than that of a visitor, who voluntarily offers a service to the district without receiving compensation from the district. A volunteer is not a school employee. [\[10\]](#)

Volunteers must be approved by the Forest Area School Board before providing service in the schools. More information about volunteer requirements can be found on the district website or at Central Office.

## **WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL**

A student must follow the district's withdrawal procedure and return all district property.

# **IV: STUDENT SERVICES**

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

### **EMERGENCY HEALTH INFORMATION**

Emergency information should be on file in the health room. This information should include:

1. Parent's name, address, and telephone number
2. Physician's name, address and telephone number
3. Emergency number in event parent is unavailable or person who will accept and/or pick up student in case of illness or emergency, other than parent.
4. Inform the office, IMMEDIATELY, of a change of guardianship, address, phone number or other information required on the emergency card.

### **MEDICATIONS**

[\(Policy 210\)](#)

Before any medication may be administered to any student during school hours the Board requires the schools to obtain the written request of the parent which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the board and its employees of liability for administration of medications; and the written prescription of a physician which shall include the name and purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or special circumstances under which the medication shall be administered, and the length of period for which the medication is prescribed.

Medication needs to be delivered to the nurse or to the office in the proper prescription bottle on arrival to school. Students are not permitted to carry medication with them during the school day. The exceptions to this requirement are asthmatic students who carry inhalers and students with severe allergic reactions who require an Epi-pen with them at all times. Those students may carry their medicine with permission from their physician

and the school nurse. Medications will be dispensed and administered by the school nurse. Students who are permitted to self-administer medications will be supervised by the school nurse or designee.

### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

While the state of PA permits the use of medical marijuana for treatment of certain illnesses, federal law does not permit the possession of, or dispensing of, medical marijuana on school district property. In fact, the Forest Area School District would jeopardize the opportunity to receive federal funds if medical marijuana were administered or possessed on school grounds. For these reasons, if a student is prescribed medical marijuana and The Forest Area School District receives certification of such from a licensed physician, the Forest Area School District will work with the parent to allow for release time where the student may be transported off of school grounds by a parent for administration of the prescription by a parent or the student's medical provider. Under no circumstances shall medical marijuana be brought onto school property.

### **EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS**

[\(Policy 210.1\)](#)

The Pennsylvania Public School Code, Section 1414.2(g) allows parents/guardians to request an exemption to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector for their student. In order to request this exemption, contact the school nurse to make an appointment to discuss this decision, review and sign the opt-out form.

### **POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS**

[\(Policy 210.1\)](#)

Students must meet all requirements of the Forest Area School District policy #210.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers. More information and the required forms are available through the school nurse.

### **NALOXONE**

In an effort to ensure the health and safety of its students and staff, the Board hereby authorizes the district to store and administer Naloxone (aka Narcan) for use during emergencies related to a known or suspected opioid overdose. Our school nurses are trained to administer Narcan ([Policy 210](#))

### **NURSE'S OFFICE**

The school nurse performs both health and social services. She is responsible for safeguarding the students' health in preventive as well as emergency cases. Students should only report to the nurse with the permission of the teacher or administration, or in case of emergency.

All medication will be kept in the nurse's office and dispensed by the nurse.

Accidents must be reported to the school nurse and a report made so that information can be forwarded to the insurance companies. There is a possibility that students may be hurt during the school day or in an extracurricular activity. If a student is hurt during the day, he/she should:

- o Report all accidents at school to the teacher.
- o Report athletic injuries to the coach.

If medical attention is needed, parents or guardians will be immediately notified and the correct procedure for the injury will be followed.

**IF THE NURSE IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE STUDENT SHALL NOT CALL HOME OR LEAVE THE SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE PRINCIPAL OR DESIGNEE**

**SCREENINGS**

Vision screening is done by the school nurse yearly on every student. Hearing screening is done in grades K-3, 7, and 11, and students in other grades if hearing problems are suspected. Scoliosis screenings are administered to students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Height and weights are measured yearly on every student. Parents will be notified if their child fails a screening. Parents are then asked to follow up with a specialist and return the specialist referral form to school after the exam.

**PHYSICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS**

**(Policy 209)**

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires physical exams for children in grades K, 6 and 11 and dental exams for children in grades K, 3, and 7. Parents will receive a form for their private physician and dentist to complete and return to school. If parents choose to have these exams done at school by the school physician and dentist, they will be notified as to the date of the exam and are invited to be present.

**MEDICAL AND RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS**

**(Policy 203)**

Parents should contact the school for details concerning provisions related to medical and religious exemptions concerning required medical examinations and immunizations.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES**

**DRUG FREE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

All students at all grade levels will receive age-appropriate, developmentally based drug prevention instruction each year.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM**

The purpose of the School Counseling Department is to assist students with their social, educational and vocational development. Students may make an appointment to see the counselor during study hall or they may “drop in” to see the counselor after obtaining permission from their classroom teacher. Through the Counseling Department, students can receive information about scholarships as well as vocational/trade schools and college entrance requirements.

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**(Policy 236)**

The Board is committed to assisting all students to achieve to their fullest potential.

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides a systematic process using effective and accountable professional techniques to mobilize school resources to remove the barriers to learning and, when the problem is beyond the scope of the school, to assist the parent/guardian and student with information so they may access services within the community.[\[1\]](#)

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) shall provide assistance in:

1. Identifying issues that pose a barrier to a student’s learning and/or academic achievement.

2. Determining whether or not the identified problem lies within the responsibility of the school.
3. Informing the parent/guardian of a problem affecting the student's learning and/or academic achievement.
4. Making recommendations to assist the student and the parent/guardian.
5. Providing information on community resources and options to deal with the problem.
6. Establishing links with resources to help resolve the problem.
7. Collaborating with the parent/guardian and agency when students are involved in treatment through a community agency.
8. Providing a plan for in-school support services for the student during and after treatment.

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **(Policy 819)**

Students shall receive age and developmentally-appropriate, student-centered lessons on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies focused on resiliency, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for self or others, including how to engage school resources.

These lessons shall be integrated into the curriculum of health classes and other classes as appropriate. The lessons may be taught by health and physical education teachers, classroom teachers, student services staff or community service providers.

## **THREAT ASSESSMENT**

### **(Policy 236.1)**

The district utilizes a threat assessment team and conducts threat assessments which is a fact-based process for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behaviors may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

## **V: COURSES AND CURRICULUM**

### **REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

#### **(Policy 212)**

The pupil's report card will be issued every nine (9) weeks during the school year. At the midpoint of each grading quarter, an academic progress report will be sent to parents/guardians of students.

At the midpoint of each grading quarter, an academic progress report will be sent to parents of students who are achieving at a level of 65% or below or are in danger of failing. Reports will be a standard form which will be completed by the teacher and a copy will be on file in the office.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE**

The "I" grade is given when a student fails to complete his/her work due to legitimate reasons. The "I" grade must be made up within 15 school days after the student's return to school unless additional time is authorized by the principal, or it will change to a failing grade.

## **PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS**

### **(Policy 215)**

The “Guiding Philosophy” in reference to progress and promotion for the schools of the Forest Area School District is to encourage each student to achieve his/her maximum potential while in attendance in the school district. To reach this goal the administration, faculty and staff members of the school district will assist every student without partiality as much as possible without endangering the learning processes of the other members of the student’s group.

Promotion to the next educational level will be based on the student’s ability to profit most from experiences at that level. Factors to be considered in cases where retention at the same grade level is a possibility are:

- o Achievement of the student in an academic subject.
- o Attendance record of the student.
- o Ability of the student to do school work as reflected by a standardized test of mental ability.
- o Attitudes of the student toward the school, the faculty, and his/her peer group.
- o Sociological or psychological factors resulting from the student’s home life or community relationships that would influence his/her level of educational achievement.
- o Age and size of the student in comparison to the age of the group he/she will enter.

A student will be considered for retention at the same grade level in grades PK-8 if he/she has failed two or more major subjects or a combination of major and minor courses that add up to two credits. A student who has missed twenty or more school days in a school year may be considered for retention at the same grade level.

Students in grades 9 -12 shall be promoted based on credits earned and must earn all credits required for graduation.

**\*As per Pennsylvania School Code, the final decision regarding the promotion or retention of a pupil shall be made by the building principal.**

## **HOMEWORK**

**(Policy 130)** Homework at Forest Area Schools is an integral part of the learning process. As an integral part, homework reinforces good study habits, independence, self-discipline and classroom learning.

The purpose of homework assignments should be to:

1. Provide practice and reinforcement of skills presented by the teacher.
2. Broaden areas of interest through enrichment.
3. Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to know what their child is studying.
4. Encourage parent/guardian and child interaction.

Each student shall be responsible for completing homework assignments as directed.[\[1\]](#)

Homework shall complement classroom instruction and be planned and evaluated with respect to its purpose, appropriateness, and completion time.

The demand of homework upon the students' time shall be consistent with the best interests of the students in regards to other valuable experiences to be gained outside of school.

Homework shall not be assigned as a form of punishment.

### **CAREER PREPARATION**

As a part of the high school experience, all students will be offered the opportunity to participate in resume writing, interviewing skills, job shadowing and career exploration as a part of the secondary curriculum to ensure that students are preparing for their future and meeting the state standards for Career Education and Work.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL/CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

[\(Policy 124\)](#)

While there is no guarantee, it is possible that a summer school program may be offered. The program is designed for remedial work and the courses offered depend upon the greatest needs of the students and the availability of the staff. If the program is offered, it will provide an opportunity for the student to make up credit for courses failed. The school district reserves the right to limit the number of summer school/correspondence course credits that will be accepted toward graduation. A fee is charged to the student for each course taken in summer school or by correspondence. Students are expected to be in attendance for every summer school class unless given prior permission for absence by the administration. Any unexcused absence will result in a course failure. Students taking correspondence courses must have the courses pre-approved by an administrator.

### **GIFTED PROGRAM**

[\(Policy 114\)](#)

A program for gifted students is provided for Forest Area students. Students are identified for this program through a multidisciplinary evaluation. Each gifted student is expected to excel above and beyond the basic educational program. A Gifted Individual Education Program (GIEP) is written for each gifted student to expand and enhance the student's learning.

### **SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION Act of 1973 and THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

[\(Policy 103.1\)](#)

[\[11\]\[12\]](#)

A Section 504 Service Agreement (Service Agreement) is an individualized plan for a qualified student with a disability which sets forth the specific related aids, services, or accommodations needed by the student, which shall be implemented in school, in transit to and from school, and in all programs and procedures, so that the student has equal access to the benefits of the school's educational programs, nonacademic services, and extracurricular activities.[13] If you have any questions, contact your building principal.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND CHILD FIND**

[\(Policy 113\)](#)

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), special education means "specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability." Children who receive

special education and related services are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes opportunities to participate in the school's general curriculum and to make progress towards meeting annual goals. Children who receive special education will have opportunities to take part in other typical school activities that are appropriate to their individual needs. Students with IEPs or 504 plans have extra protections.

In Pennsylvania, schools are required to serve eligible children from birth until the age of 21, or graduation from high school, whichever comes first. Services are provided by licensed personnel and include special teaching, materials, and techniques.

The Forest Area School District provides a full continuum of special education programs and/or services for students identified as exceptional. Programs/services are provided at no cost to the parents and are individualized to meet the educational needs of each and every student at Forest Area.

Forest Area School District provides students with special education services in the following disability areas:

- Hearing impairment (including deafness)
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Visual Impairment (including blindness)
- Emotional Disturbance
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Intellectual Disability

There are specific criteria that need to be met in order to qualify for special education. Although medical information is important to provide to your child's educational team, know that the criteria needed to meet educational criteria may differ from medical diagnoses.

If any of the situations below are present and you are concerned, contact your classroom teacher. The teacher and/or principal can initiate the child study process.

- When birth complications or a medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning
- When a child seems to have difficulty hearing or seeing
- When you or others outside the family do not understand a child's speech
- When a child appears to be learning more slowly than other children their age
- When a child appears to have social emotional difficulties that affect their ability to learn
- When a child has motor difficulties (moving, jumping, using their hands, etc.) that interferes with their ability to keep up with other children. If you have any questions, contact your building principal.

## **TITLE I**

Both East Forest Elementary School and West Forest Elementary School receive Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law and your child's education. For more information, please see the attached letter in the Appendix.

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

[\(Policy 138\)](#)

Students requiring these services will be identified at the time of enrollment in accordance with the testing required by the state of Pennsylvania to determine the level of instruction. More information about ELL services in the Forest Area School District can be obtained by contacting your building principal.

## **MIGRANT STUDENTS**

[\(Policy 142\)](#)

Students requiring these services will be identified at the time of enrollment in accordance with the testing required by the state of Pennsylvania to determine the level of instruction. More information about Migrant Student services in the Forest Area School District can be obtained by contacting your building principal.

## **ELEMENTARY**

### **GRADING POLICY**

[\(Policy 212\)](#)

**Pre-Kindergarten** students' progress is reported by:

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

**Kindergarten** students' progress is reported by:

E = Exceeds the Standard: The student exceeds proficiency in essential skills and concepts by demonstrating in-depth, higher level application. Only applicable to LA and Math concepts indicated by an \*.

M = Meeting the Standard: The student demonstrates proficiency in essential skills and concepts.

P = Progress Toward the Standard: The student is developing an understanding of essential skills and concepts but has not yet met the standard.

I = Intensive Progress Needed to Meet the Standard: The student has not yet begun to demonstrate an understanding of essential skills and concepts. Considerable teacher support and guidance is needed.

NT = Not Taught This Marking Period.

**First through Second:** Percentage grades will be given in the following subjects: Math, English Language Arts, Social Science (Science, Health and Social Studies), Art, Library, Music, and Physical Education.

**Third through Sixth Grade:** Percentage grades will be given in the following subjects: Math, English Language Arts, Science, Health/Social Studies, Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Band/Chorus 4-6. Specials will be included in Honor Roll calculations and weighted based upon the time spent in class

Elementary students in grades 1 - 6 will receive an effort grade for Handwriting. Students' progress is reported by:

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

The following grade scale is used in the elementary for measuring student's performance.

100-92% = Excellent

91-83% = Above Average

82-74% = Average  
73-65% = Below Average  
64% and below = failing

A grade range of 60% to 100% will be established for the first three marking periods and for the first marking period of a semester course. There will be no floor during the final marking period with a grade range from 0% to 100%.

### **FINAL GRADES**

The final Grade will be the average of the four grading periods. All grades will be calculated to the first decimal place and rounded to the nearest whole number with .5 or higher rounded up.

### **HONORS RECOGNITION**

Honors recognition will be made for grades 3-6. High Honors will be given to any student whose cumulative grade point average falls between 92% and 100% for any grading period. Honor's recognition will be given to any student whose cumulative grade point average falls between 91.9% and 86%. *In all classes where "honors" status is considered, no grade below 74% will be allowed.*

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

### **COURSES DROPPED**

A student may elect to drop a course under the following conditions: drop form with signatures from his/her parent or guardian, the subject matter teacher, school counselor, and high school principal within the first 6 days of the course so that he/she may be rescheduled in another class and be early enough to benefit from the years instruction.

If a student wishes to drop a course after the first 6 days, he/she must secure the permission of the building administrator. Parent or guardian permission is still required. If permission is granted, a failure for the course will be recorded on the student's permanent transcript.

Forest Area School District administrators may waive this procedure to benefit a student's best interests as determined by the administrators and/or the IEP team.

### **GRADING POLICY**

[\(Policy 212\)](#)

All grades assigned at the 7-12 grade levels shall be in percentage form. All courses will be graded in the percentage format and will be used in calculating the student's grade point average, class rank, and all honors considerations. The following scale will be published on each report as an indicator of student performance within a grade range:

100-92% = Excellent
91-83% = Above Average
82-74% = Average
73-65% = Below Average
64% and below = Failing

A grade range of 45% to 100% will be established for the first three marking periods and for the first marking period of a semester course. There will be no floor during the final marking period or the final grade with a grade range from 0% to 100%. For each year-long core subject course, excluding Keystone trigger courses, each of the four marking period grades will be calculated at 22.5% of the total year-end grade with the final grade making up the remaining 10% in a student's final transcript and used in all calculations of Grade Point Average and Class Rank. For semester courses, each grade will constitute 45% of the total grade, with the final examination again constituting 10% of the final grade. In instances where final grades are not required for a course, the weight of each marking period grade within the total will be adjusted equally.

Any student who elects to take courses at another educational institution or institution of higher learning will be given credit for the course work completed but the grades will not be factored into the student's cumulative average, or be counted toward any class ranking.

Any student with a failing grade or "D" average for a class shall not be allowed to be excused from tutor period except for academic help.

### **VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**

#### **(Policy 214)**

Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from each class on the basis of their accumulated grade point average beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade up to and including the end of the fourth quarter of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. To be eligible, students must complete both their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years at the Forest Area School District and pass at least 12 credits in those two years.

### **WEIGHTED CORE COURSES**

Some academic courses will carry an additional .1 multiplier because of their academic rigor. Specifically, these courses are Calculus, Algebra III Trig, English Composition, Literature and Interpretation, Physics, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Biology, Government and Economics, Human Biomechanics, French III, French IV, Spanish III, Spanish IV. This multiplier or weight will only be given upon the final percentage grade obtained at the conclusion of the course.

### **HONOR ROLL**

For Honor Roll recognition, a student's overall average for each quarter grading period must be as follows:

Highest Honors = 100 to 97 overall average

High Honors = 96.9 to 92 overall average

Honors = 91.9 to 85 overall average

(No grade below 74%)

All grades obtained will be averaged to determine honors standing; no student failing any course will be considered. VTC grades will be recorded at their given value – recognizing and honoring the VTC's failure point of 69%.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **(Policy 217)**

The following sections pertain to the graduation requirements of the Forest Area School District and the state of Pennsylvania.

- Credit requirements
- Career Preparation
- Graduation Pathways

**CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

It is suggested that students complete at least 7 credits per grade level and may take no more than 9 study halls per 6-day cycle without approval from the building principal. Transfer students will be permitted to substitute any additional elective credit for the .5 Business and .5 FCS credits at the discretion of the building principal. 28 credits are required for graduation (see table below).

Building principals will have the authority to waive one arts and humanities credit for vocational students by substituting the Business and Family and Consumer Science required courses for a humanities credit, allowing vocational students to graduate with 27 earned credits.

*Minimum number of credits earned by academic discipline in order to graduate.*

	Non Vocational Students	VTC Students
English Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics*	3 or 4	3
Science*	3 or 4	3
Social Studies	3	3
Health, Physical Education, and Safety	4	3
Art and Humanities	2	2
Business	.5	.5
Family and Consumer Science	.5	.5
Electives	7	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>

\*Non-Vocational Students must complete a total of 7 credits in Math and Science.

\*One computer science elective may be substituted for one math or science credit as per PA law.

\*High School Seniors who are participating in the Entrepreneurship Academy at the Clarion Venango Campus or who are electing to participate in the FASD Diversified Occupations program may have one elective credit waived by the principal and graduate with 27 credits.

\*Since some schools have differing requirements for physical education, transfer students may have up to two health, physical education and safety credits waived by the principal if it is essential to allow for graduation within four years.

**TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

Students in Grades 9-12 are required to participate in the Pennsylvania State Standardized Assessment (Keystone). Tested Courses are:

Keystone Trigger Course	Keystone Test
Algebra IB	Algebra I
Academic Algebra I	Algebra I

English 10	English Language Arts
Cell Biology	Biology

**What are the Keystone Exams?**

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. Students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystones throughout their high school careers.

**What is assessed on the Keystone Exams?**

Pennsylvania adopted the Common Core Standards, standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. The Keystones are designed to measure these standards.

**GRADUATION PATHWAYS**

Through Act 158 of 2018 and Act 6 of 2017, students graduating from a Pennsylvania public high school in 2023 or later will have the flexibility to meet statewide high school graduation requirements through one of five pathways that fully illustrate their college, career, and community readiness. A graphic demonstrating the five primary pathways to graduation begins on the next page.

**SENIOR EXPECTATIONS**

The last month of school is extremely important in terms of achieving final grade standing for the year. Therefore, it is expected that our seniors provide the student body with the proper example. It is also expected that as soon-to-be graduates, they conduct themselves as individuals ready to enter into the adult world. For that reason, during the second semester of the academic year, should it be necessary to suspend a senior for a Level Three violation under the Forest Area School District discipline code, he/she may be excluded, at the discretion of the building administrator, from all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the year. These activities may include all trips, open-period testing release, commencement, and all other school and senior activities.

The open-period final exam format, which has been adopted for the seniors, is a privilege and not mandated by policy. It is designed as a reward for deserving members of the senior class. Seniors must abide by all rules governing this privilege, as expressed by the building administrator, and must be on time and present for every scheduled final examination. Failure to report for a scheduled final exam or tardiness to a scheduled exam shall result in the student receiving a zero for the final exam, which comprises 10% of the student’s final grade. The building principal also has the discretion of assigning an incomplete to the student’s transcript until such time that the final examination is made-up, as scheduled by the building administrator. Failure to make-up the final exam shall result in no credit being awarded for the course and will likely jeopardize the student’s graduation status.

**COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

[\(Policy 217\)](#)

Ceremonies will be available to all qualified graduating seniors in good standing. Seniors choosing to participate in these ceremonies are required to attend all rehearsals unless previously excused by the principal. Requests to be excused from rehearsals must be presented in writing to the principal prior to the day of the requested absence. Requests to be excused from practice should be only for extraordinary reasons and not for

routine business or employment. Seniors absent from scheduled rehearsals without prior approval will not be permitted to participate in Commencement ceremonies.

Attendance at these ceremonies is deemed a privilege and as such may be revoked for appropriate cause. If a student has earned a diploma but does not participate in commencement for whatever reason, he or she will be given the diploma any time after the next regular working day following commencement exercises.

## **VI: STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**

[\(Policy 122\)](#)

School policies and procedures will apply to all after school activities and events. Students participating in after-school activities should not arrive at the school earlier than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled activity unless notified beforehand to arrive earlier. This is to be interpreted as 15 minutes prior to the time you are to be on the floor for athletic practice, etc. **Students remaining after school must be under adult supervision at all times.**

### **CLASS/CLUB RECORDS**

[\(Policy 618\)](#)

The officers of each class and club must keep accurate records to show exact receipts, expenditures, and dues collected. All records and dues collected must be given to the school secretary for deposit on the same day they are collected. No disbursements will be made from a class or club account without advisor's approval. All monies will be deposited in the class or club account.

### **EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES/WORKING PAPERS**

Employment certificates are issued through the high school offices in accordance with the PA child labor laws. The principal may revoke a work permit if a child is not meeting academic expectations. Questions may be directed to the principal. More information can be found at:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Codes%20and%20Regulations/Child-Labor-Law.aspx>.

### **LIBRARY**

All books and other library materials should be returned to the library before they are overdue so that all students will have the use of these materials. The library is intended to be a resource for all students and staff members that will help students to access information and materials for research projects and reading materials.

The library is a place for quiet work or study. Socializing, excessive noise, and frequent, purposeless visits are not permitted. Any conduct which is disruptive and/or prevents others from working will result in the student's being sent back to study hall or class. Students who are consistently disruptive in the library will be denied use of the facilities during school hours for specified periods of time, and action will be taken according to the disciplinary code.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony shall be held annually. Candidates for full National Honor Society membership shall have spent at least one semester in the Forest Area School District and shall be members of the junior or senior class. Candidates from the sophomore class shall be elected to National Honor

Society under a one year probationary status. Sophomore probationary candidates shall become eligible for full membership in their junior year.

All candidates eligible for election to the Chapter shall have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 92% calculated to include weighted courses.

A faculty council consisting of five teachers appointed by the principal shall elect new members based upon the guidelines of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Once admitted to the National Honor Society, members must maintain their cumulative 92 average. Those students falling below the scholastic standard shall be dismissed from the National Honor Society. A member may also be dismissed from National Honor Society if he/she does not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character that were used as the basis for his/her selection. Furthermore, a student who is dismissed or who resigns may never again become a National Honor Society Member.

### **POSTERS AND SIGNS**

[\(Policy 220\)](#)

Students must obtain permission from the school principal to place posters or signs in the halls or classrooms. The same students will be responsible for removing the sign or poster immediately after their effectiveness. Posters and signs should be put in place without causing damage to the surface on which they are placed. Thumb tacks are to be used only on bulletin boards.

### **PROM**

- o The Prom is open to Forest Area Students in grades 10 through 12. A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student may only attend the prom if they are the date of another student in grades 10-12.
- o School employees, faculty members, and administrators are guests of the junior class.
- o Parents are welcome to attend the crowning, but are requested to leave immediately following the crowning ceremony.
- o Guests attending the prom who do not attend a Forest Area High School must have prior approval by the building principal or principal's designee one week in advance. Guests must provide documentation showing that they are 20 years of age or less.
- o Tickets for the Prom must be obtained and paid for before arriving at the event.

### **FUNDRAISING**

[\(Policy 229\)](#) The Board of School Directors has a policy prohibiting the sale of any article during school hours. Students should not bring fundraising materials from outside organizations to school to sell. Sales by school organizations whose sales campaigns are approved by the principal may be permitted. All sales must comply with the District's [School Wellness Policy](#).

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Students will set a good example in the matter of sportsmanship, and should quickly condemn unsportsmanship-like conduct on the part of either students or adults. Visiting teams are to be honored guests of the home team and should be treated as such.

### **STUDENT ATHLETES, CHEERLEADERS, ALL CLUB AND ACTIVITY MEMBERS**

All student athletes, cheerleaders and club and activity members must not only follow the rules and regulations as printed in this handbook, but must also follow any guidelines and regulations that are established for their particular activity. These additional regulations and guidelines will be printed and distributed to each student at

the beginning of his/her activity. The guidelines and regulations are written and approved through the efforts of the administration, advisors, and coaches.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

HS Student Council provides for student activities, serves as a training experience for both leaders and followers, promotes the common good, gives a share in the management of the school, develops high ideas of personal conduct, acts as a clearing house for student activities, seeks to interest students in school affairs and helps solve problems that may arise. Members of the Council are your representatives and have direct access to the school administrator.

### **VALUABLES**

Students are advised that items of value should be left at home. The school is not responsible for articles that are lost or stolen from the individual or his/her locker.

## **VII: STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

([Policy 218](#)) The Forest Area School Board acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning: an effective instructional program requires a wholesome and orderly school environment so the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students and employees.

The Board shall require each student of this district to adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board and administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The rules govern the student conduct in school and during the time spent in travel to and from school. Such rules shall require that students:

- o conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior;
- o respect the rights, person and property of others;
- o preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged; and
- o obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority.

Video and audio monitoring is utilized by the district and will be reviewed when necessary.

### **INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION**

Students meeting in the hallways are responsible for reporting to their classes on time. No outward signs of affection, during school hours or at school functions are encouraged. Violations of this policy will be treated as Level I offenses of the discipline code.

### **CAFETERIA CONDUCT**

Students must report to the cafeteria on time during assigned lunch periods and may not leave without proper authorization. They are responsible for the cleanliness of the area in which they eat and for returning all materials used to the proper location.

Students may be assigned seats if necessary for disciplinary action. Misconduct may result in loss of cafeteria privileges and/or other disciplinary action.

Students are not permitted to eat from other students' trays. No food or drinks, except water, are permitted out of the cafeteria unless authorized.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

(Policy 224) All students should be proud enough of their school buildings and grounds to help keep them clean. Visitors coming to our school should find it respectable at all times. The following guidelines should be followed:

1. Always keep lockers in an orderly manner, so that when opened to take out books, papers do not fall on the floor.
2. Any damage to assigned desks, lockers, etc., is to be reported to the teacher at the beginning of the period (immediately) so that a student cannot be unjustly accused of the damage.
3. Students are asked not to walk on the grass where walkways are available.
4. Students will refrain from writing on walls or desks.
5. Paper is to be put into waste baskets not on the floor, or in desks, or in lockers.
6. Students who lose or damage school property will be required to pay for this damage or loss.
7. The wearing of apparel which damages school property is prohibited. This includes the wearing of cleats in the building.
8. Students are not permitted on the playing floor of the gymnasium unless they are wearing gym shoes.
9. Students will refrain from carrying quantities of homework and exam papers and such articles as pencils, pens, and combs in their textbooks.
10. Students should not adjust window blinds unless requested to do so by a teacher.
11. Students are expected to cooperate with the school officials in keeping the school buildings and grounds neat and orderly at all times.
12. Shelving, heaters, etc., are not constructed to hold students. Sit on chairs.

### **DANCES**

1. A minimum of two chaperones must be secured and committed to attend before the dance will be scheduled. Chaperones are expected to arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of the dance and stay until all students have left school grounds. At least one chaperone shall remain at the entrance at all times. The chaperone's judgment and word will be final regarding all decisions during the event.
2. One set of gym lights, or all of the stage lights with the curtains open must be lit at all times. All exit lights must be lit as well. The light control panels will be locked with the head chaperone having the only key. Anyone interfering with the lights will not be permitted to attend in the future.
3. The student dress code will be in effect during all dances. Exceptions may be made for prom or homecoming if attire is suitable. The principal or chaperone in charge will have the final say as to whether or not the attire is appropriate. ~~It includes the wearing of hats, etc.~~ Students not in compliance will be asked to leave.
4. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers or elsewhere in the building. The custodians will set up gates blocking access to all hallways except the restrooms and emergency exits.
5. All dances will include grades 7 through 12 unless otherwise specified. All dances must be scheduled through the principal. No student shall be admitted after 8:30 P.M. unless they are an East Forest or West Forest team member returning to the school following an away athletic event or school activity.
6. Any student leaving the dance early must sign out at the admission table and record the time. Parents will be notified. Students who leave the dance early must immediately leave school grounds. Those failing to do so will lose their privilege to attend future dances. Students who leave the dance early will not be readmitted.
7. Students will follow the Forest Area School District code of conduct or they may be asked to leave.

8. Any excessive displays of affection between students will necessitate their being asked to leave the dance. They will not be permitted to attend another dance that year until given approval by the principal.
9. Students wishing to sign in a guest for the dance must do so a day in advance and must follow the specific guest sign-in procedures. Guests may be no older than 20 years of age and must comply with all Forest Area policies the same as Forest Area students, and be approved by the building principal or principal's designee. Students are responsible for their guest's behavior.

## **DRESS**

[\(Policy 221\)](#)

Students have the right to govern the length or style of their hair including facial hair. This right may be limited with evidence that the length or style of hair causes a disruption of the educational process or constitutes a health or safety hazard. When length or style of the hair presents a problem, some types of covering should be considered.

School officials may impose limitations on dress when the attire causes a disruption of the educational process, and/or constitutes a health or safety hazard. Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education activities, concerts, performances, athletic contests or other situations where special attire may be required.

Students are not permitted to be barefoot in the school except in the locker room.

Concert dress code is as follows:

- o Appropriate attire as established by the director

Students have the responsibility to keep themselves, their clothes, and their hair clean. School officials may impose limitations on student participation in the regular instructional program where there is evidence that the lack of personal hygiene constitutes a health hazard.

The Forest Area School District believes a student's manner of dress and hair style is a basic responsibility of the student and his/her parents. Students and parents, as responsible members of the community, are expected to continue to exercise good judgment in the selection of appropriate clothing for school. Inappropriate clothing is defined as that type of attire that causes an interruption of the educational process or constitutes a health or safety hazard. Forest Area School District and School Board ~~accepts~~ adopts the following restrictions:

- o No T-shirts advertising drugs, sex, alcohol, tobacco, or vulgarities or shirts having negative or demeaning comments regarding clubs, organizations, or individuals within the school will be permitted.
- o No altering of manufactured tops and/or shirts.
- o No hats, sweatbands, head coverings, and sunglasses are to be worn inside the building during school hours.
- o Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. No bare feet will be permitted. Footwear is to be worn in such a way as not to constitute a safety hazard. No slippers are permitted.
- o Jewelry may not be worn in classes where it may constitute a safety hazard.
- o Students must be covered by clothing from midhigh to shoulder.
- o The following items are prohibited:
  - a. Mesh shirts, net shirts, and see-through shirts are not permitted unless another shirt is worn underneath. Students should wear proper undergarments.
  - b. Bare-midriff shirts, halter tops, tube tops, or thin-strapped (spaghetti straps) tank tops. Cleavage must not be seen.
- o Undergarments should not be seen.

- o Pajamas, and character pajama pants are not permitted.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the dress code may result in a Level I violation of the discipline code. Students may be required to change clothing before returning to class.

### **HALL PASSES**

Students are NOT permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a hall pass from an authorized staff member. If you wish to see a teacher during his/her conference period you must arrange for this in advance. The teacher must give you a pass permitting you to be excused from study hall. You must deliver this pass to your study hall teacher at the beginning of the study hall period.

### **RESTROOM USAGE**

Students are to use the designated restroom. No one is to be excused from class except in case of an emergency. Only one person is to be excused from a room at a time. Students MUST carry a hall pass and sign out.

- A. Restrooms are to be used only for the purpose intended. Any other usage such as smoking, loitering, meeting, or hiding from school personnel will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the disciplinary code.
- B. Students are to go to the restroom between periods. If an emergency necessitates using the restroom during a class, the following procedures should be observed.
  - 1. Ask the teacher's permission.
  - 2. Follow the procedure established by the teacher. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT A TEACHER MUST HONOR YOUR EVERY REQUEST. IN CASES WHERE A STUDENT TAKES ADVANTAGE, A REQUEST MAY BE DENIED.**
- C. Remember, the restrooms are there for your convenience. Please report any restroom damage or malfunction that you see, immediately, to any staff member.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS**

No student is to leave the building or school area during the school day unless given permission by the office. Any student failing to check out properly will be considered truant from classes and will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes students who go to the parking lot without permission from the office.

### **LOCKERS**

The school district provides students with lockers for the storage of their clothing and school materials. The school district, standing in loco parentis (24 P.S. Sec. 1317), reserves the right to authorize school personnel or law enforcement officers accompanied by school personnel to search individual pupil lockers. Periodic inspections for cleanliness and safety can be made.

### **OPEN CONTAINERS**

Students are not permitted to consume any type of liquids, in either bottles or cans, with the exception of water.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All students are required to take and pass physical education classes to meet the requirements for graduation.

Physical Education requirements for all students are as follows:

- 1. Athletic pants or shorts and a T-shirt
- 2. Gym shoes
- 3. Hair must be kept out of face during physical education so as not to interfere with participation.
- 4. Jewelry should not be worn in gym class.

5. Only doctor excuses, and on rare occasions excuses from the nurse, will be accepted as reasons for not participating in physical education. All doctors' excuses must specifically address what the student may and may not do, also any recommendations for an adaptive prescription of permitted activities during the period of incapacitation. This must be included with the excuse to be valid.
6. No gum chewing

For students in grades 7 - 12:

7. Showers are recommended after every class. (Bring soap and towel.)
8. Each student must dress in gym clothes for every gym class.
9. Gym clothes should be laundered once a week.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **(Policy 237)**

The school administration recognizes that electronic communication devices can be beneficial and used for educational purposes. However, use of electronic communication devices in school situations that disrupt and interfere with the educational process is not acceptable. No pictures or video may be taken unless specifically authorized by staff. Teachers may request that all electronic devices be turned off during instructional time. Teachers may require that students place their phones in a classroom basket or hanging rack in the classroom. The use of electronic devices are permitted in the cafeteria and hallways. If the device is used inappropriately, the progression of classroom discipline should be:

1. verbal warning
2. confiscating the phone for the period
3. send the phone to the office with a write up

All use of electronic devices is at the discretion of the teacher.

Students whose electronic device(s) repeatedly cause a disruption/distraction to instruction will be referred to the office according to the discipline code. Administration reserves the right to confiscate and to revoke electronic device privileges at any time.

Unauthorized possession or use of electronic devices shall result in confiscation of the item by school personnel and possible disciplinary action.

## **RESTRICTED AREAS**

The following areas are restricted to students except by the direct permission of those persons who are authorized to be in charge:

- ◆ The teacher's room
- ◆ The cafeteria kitchen
- ◆ All storage and stock rooms
- ◆ Athletic equipment rooms
- ◆ Locker rooms unless scheduled for a class
- ◆ Faculty lunchroom

Students are, at NO TIME, to remain in any part of the building unless a teacher is present and assumes the responsibility. Students who find themselves in unsupervised rooms, or if assigned to a room which is locked, should report to the office immediately for reassignment.

## **SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS**

([Policy 810](#) and [Policy 810.2](#))

School bus transportation is provided for the student's safety and convenience. Transportation is provided as a privilege, it is not a mandate, and therefore can be revoked at any time for misconduct. Students are expected to help maintain the condition of the bus on which they ride. Students will be videotaped and audio taped. Tapes will be reviewed as necessary.

Each child may have (2) primary designated stops. Variations to the primary stops will only be granted for the following situations as described:

### **DAYCARE OR OTHER CARE PROVIDER**

The District will consider requested changes to an assigned bus stop that are made by working parents/guardians who have a daycare arrangement or other care provider arrangement for their child. Students can be assigned to bus routes only within the attendance area in which the student resides. All requests must be submitted to the building Principal in writing at least three (3) days in advance of the requested change and must be approved by the District's Transportation Coordinator.

### **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Changing a student's assigned bus stop in emergency situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. An *emergency* is defined as: a serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action. Changes to an assigned bus stop due to an emergency situation will not be honored on a frequent (monthly or weekly) basis, shall cease upon the resolution of the emergency situation, and accommodations can only be provided when there is available space on the affected vehicle. In the event that a parent or guardian feels that an emergency situation is present, the parent or guardian shall contact the building principal, who will then notify the transportation office of the emergency-based request. Whether a situation constitutes an emergency shall be determined at the sole discretion of the District's Transportation Coordinator.

### **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Parents/Guardians shall assume responsibility for their child after the child has exited the contractor's vehicle at any bus stop and, if requested, shall provide assurances to the administration's satisfaction that the student would not be placed in a dangerous situation if dropped off at a particular bus stop.

Students in grades PreK – 3 will not be dropped off even at their designated stop unless the driver sees a parent or the designated day care provider is clearly present at the stop. Individual circumstances will be considered if the parent/guardian contacts the Transportation office prior to the scheduled drop off.

### **BUS STOP REGULATIONS**

1. Arrive at the bus stop on time ~ 5 minutes prior to the time the bus is to arrive and wait for 20 minutes in case it is running late.
2. Wait for your bus in a safe place ~ well off the roadway. Bus riders must conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
3. Respect the property rights of people who reside at or near the bus stop.
4. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to get on the bus. Enter the bus single file with no crowding or pushing.
5. Be careful if crossing the roadway to board the bus ~ check to make sure all traffic has stopped.

### **BUS RIDING REGULATIONS**

1. Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.

2. Student's conduct may be video and audio-taped on the bus.
3. Be courteous; use no loud or profane language.
4. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
5. Keep the bus clean; pick up any mess you make.
6. Do not throw any objects in the bus or outside the bus.
7. Squirt guns of any kind are not permitted on the bus.
8. Remain seated at all times while on the bus.
9. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus. Windows are to be opened only with the driver's permission.
10. Do not be destructive ~ defacement or destruction of property will be dealt with according to the school disciplinary code.
11. Smoking/vaping or the use of tobacco products on the bus will be dealt with according to the disciplinary code. Lighting of matches or lighters is not permitted on or around the school bus.
12. The driver has authority and the students are to obey, cooperate and show respect.
13. Be courteous to fellow students.
14. Bus drivers are authorized to assign seats.
15. Enter the building immediately upon arrival at the school.
16. Putting off any explosive devices on the bus will result in suspension from riding the bus and be dealt with according to the disciplinary code.

### **BUS UNLOADING PROCEDURES**

1. Students should exit the bus in a quiet, orderly manner and proceed directly to their assigned area at school or to their homes.
2. Students who must cross the road should cross 10 feet in front of the bus. Check traffic in both directions before proceeding across the roadway. Watch the driver for a signal to cross.
3. Children walking along the side of the bus should stay away from the bus as far as possible if sidewalks are not available.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. The preceding regulations apply to any trips under school sponsorship.
2. Students should respect and obey the chaperones assigned to the trip.
3. Students must notify the proper personnel of their attendance or absence from transportation for events related to school functions.

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

1. Evacuation drills are scheduled so that students on the bus know exactly what to do in case of an emergency.
2. The driver or the assigned helpers must have the cooperation of the students. Students are to remain quiet during drills or an emergency so that they can hear directions.
3. Students are not to leave the bus for emergencies unless instructed to do so by the bus driver.
4. No individual is to open any emergency door except in the event of a true emergency. These doors are never to be used for routine boarding or exiting.

### **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

Children who engage in serious discipline problems on the bus, such as fighting or any other activity that endangers the health or safety of other passengers, may have their riding privileges suspended by the principal. The parent/guardian of suspended students is then responsible for transporting his/her children to and from the school safely. The following procedures will be used ~ the driver will report the incident to the manager of the bus garage who will notify the building principal on a "Bus Conduct Report."

Students who disobey these rules may be assigned warnings, given reassignment, suspended from riding the bus, or may face other appropriate disciplinary action.

### **DROP OFF AND PICK UP ZONES**

East:

Students can be dropped off and picked up in the designated zone at the side of the building. Students may enter through the main entrance. Students being dropped off after the start of school or picked up before the end of school must be signed in or out at the office by an adult.

West: Elementary students can be dropped off and picked up in the front of the building. Parents are asked to park in a parking space. Students should use the crosswalk to enter the building. High school students may also be dropped off at the rear of the building at the gym entrance during regular arrival and dismissal times. Any student arriving after the start of the day or being picked up/leaving before the end of school must be signed in or out at the office.

### **SNOWBALLING**

All students are prohibited from throwing snowballs, not only on school property, but also en route to and from school. This includes students who are waiting at or leaving school bus stops.

### **TUTOR PERIODS**

Pupils must report on time to their assigned tutor period. Students who have been excused by properly authorized passes given in advance to the tutor supervisor should report directly to the pre-arranged assignment. **PASSES MUST BE PRE-ARRANGED.**

- o Students are not allowed to talk during tutor periods without previous permission from the teacher.
- o Students are expected to study or read. Books and periodicals which provide justifiable school learning experience will be permitted. Books and periodicals not appropriate for school situations should be confiscated. Pupils are not permitted to leave the tutor period without the supervisor's permission for such chores as getting books, going to the restroom, seeing other classmates, seeing a teacher, etc. Efficient use of the three minutes between classes should be mandated.
- o Students who want to see the School Counselor or a teacher during a tutor period must anticipate this and get, in advance of the tutor period, an excuse or pass from the counselor, teacher or the office. A pupil may not leave tutor periods to get a request that he/she be excused.
- o Any student with a failing grade or "D" average for a class shall not be allowed to be excused from tutor periods except for academic help.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT AT SCHOOL EVENTS**

Students are under the jurisdiction and therefore the rules and regulations of the school at all extra-curricular activities, including those at other schools. All school rules must be followed during the activity. If violations should occur, the discipline code will be enforced. A student could be suspended from attending or participating in all Forest Area School events if his/her conduct is not of the best quality.

Courtesy must be shown toward all opponents and officials at all sporting events. Booing opponents and/or officials is one example of unacceptable behavior.

Students who leave a school activity early must leave the school grounds. Students will not be permitted to leave the school building and re-enter.

NOTE: Students whose activities have been suspended due to disciplinary reasons are not permitted to attend or participate in any school functions or activities, during or after school, for the period of time stated in the length of suspension.

## **STUDENT DRIVERS**

### **(Policy 223)**

Students who hold a Pennsylvania driver's license and who have parental permission may apply for a parking permit to park in the student lot. The privilege of parking on school property may be revoked with cause at the discretion of the administrator.

- o All student cars must be parked in designated areas.
- o Students who refuse to park in their assigned parking place may lose their parking privileges or receive suitable punishment.
- o No cars may be removed from parking areas during the school day except by permission of the principal or his designee.
- o All signs indicating parking areas, reserved areas, and one-way drives are to be observed.
- o A student who drives in a careless or reckless manner will forfeit his/her privilege to use the school parking facilities.
- o Smoking or use of nicotine and other tobacco/vaping products is not permitted in cars while the car is on school property.
- o The speed limit on school grounds is 15 MPH.
- o Illegally parked cars will be towed away without notice and the driver will be responsible for towing charges.
- o Vehicles parked on school property are subject to search by the school administration at any time.
- o All cars must be properly registered in the principal's office and display parking permits on the mirror.

No student may leave early and ride with another student without prior written permission of the parent of the student that is riding, the student that is driving, and the school principal.

## **VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER STUDENTS**

### **(Policy 115)**

The bus transporting the students to the Venango Technology Center will leave East Forest at 11:00 and West Forest at 11:20. The buses will load from the front doors near the main office. Students need to make sure the bus monitor/building secretary is aware he/she is boarding the bus.

It is the policy of both the Forest Area School District and the Venango Technology Center that all students attending the Career Center be transported by bus to and from the center. However, those students who have received written permission from the Venango Technology Center director and the Forest Area Administration to drive or ride with someone to the Venango Technology Center school may do so.

Parents/guardians will be given notification of first behavior problems of any student riding the VTC bus and will be informed after proper due process that the next offense will result in suspension from the bus with the parents/guardians providing transportation. Bullying will not be permitted en route to and from Venango Technology Center.

## **VIII: DISCIPLINE CODE** **FOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT** **STUDENT CONDUCT AND**

## DISCIPLINE CODE

### I. GENERAL STATEMENT

The Forest Area School Board of Education has the right and authority “to adopt reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper regarding the management of its school affairs.” (24 P.S. Sec 510). The Student Conduct and Discipline Code is designated to balance the responsibility of the school authorities to maintain and support a thorough and effective system of public education (Pa. Constitution, Article 3, Section 14) with the personal rights and freedoms of all pupils. “The authority possessed by the State to prescribe and enforce standards of conduct, although concededly very broad, must be exercised consistently with constitutional safeguards.” (Goss v. Lopes 419 US 565, 1975). Adherence to this code by pupils, school personnel, and the parental support which is needed will not only create an atmosphere conducive to learning but will also protect the rights of our youth. The Discipline Code is designed to provide a guide which is reasonable in dealing with discipline problems and one which will establish the parameters for students and staff to follow so that all parties know what is expected of them.

### II. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. **Forest Area Board of Education** ~ The Board of School Directors holds all school personnel, through the Superintendent, responsible for the control and proper conduct of students while under the legal supervision of the school and supports all personnel reasonably acting within the framework of district policy.
2. **Superintendent** ~ The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing all necessary procedures to implement the Board of School Directors’ policies relating to the standards of student behavior.
3. **Principals** ~ The school principal shall be responsible to the Superintendent for the student conduct within his/her school. The principal shall have the responsibility to enforce the district policies. The principal will handle discipline problems in a reasonable and prudent manner, based upon the standards which are set forth herein. He/She is responsible for disciplinary communications among faculty, students, parents, and community agencies. The responsibilities of the principal also include the administration of reassignment, detention, recommending suspensions and expulsions, and maintaining discipline records.
4. **Teacher** ~ It is the responsibility of the teacher to:
  - a. Enforce all facets of the discipline code.
  - b. Act with the dignity and respect which he/she in turn expects to receive from the students.
  - c. Make every effort to recognize the individuality and dignity of the student.
  - d. Look upon discipline with an objective and positive manner, administering it impartially and matter-of-factly within a reasonable time. Acts of discipline should be forgiven and forgotten immediately following.
  - e. Never publicly ridicule or physically abuse any child and never strike a child.
  - f. Plan and conduct a program of instruction, which will stimulate learning and reduce behavior problems.
  - g. Manage the classroom routine so that it reduces the opportunity for students to become disruptive.
  - h. Make every effort to develop communication between teacher and parent relative to the performance of the student.
    - i. Distinguish between student misconduct, which should be handled by the teacher and that which requires the attention of the principal.
    - j. Treat individual infractions individually.
    - k. Be sensitive to changing behavior patterns, talk to students about their problems immediately and refer students to the school counselor.
    - l. Attempt to resolve any situation where the student is behaving in such a way as to jeopardize his own safety or the safety of other students or teachers.
    - m. Supervise all students at all times. Students should never have the feeling that they are unsupervised
5. **Parent** ~ It is the responsibility of parents to:

- a. Follow the proper procedures if they feel that their rights and/or the rights of their child have been grieved under this policy. The procedures to be followed should be initiated with the individual who has been involved with their child. If they are not satisfied with the resolution of the matter at any time, they may proceed to the next level of responsibility in the following manner:
  - i. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the teacher or the individual involved.
  - ii. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the principal.
  - iii. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the superintendent.
  - iv. Write a letter and request to be placed on the Agenda of the next Forest Area School Board meeting.
- b. Instill an enthusiastic attitude in your child from his/her first day of school, by encouraging him/her to reach his maximum potential.
- c. Keep in mind that parental attitude and opinion so often become that of your children.
- d. Stimulate learning in the home as well as the school. Provide a place for him/her to do homework assignments and be available to assist your child, if needed.
- e. Build a good working relationship between yourself and your child, his teacher, and his school.
- f. Encourage your child to take pride in his appearance.
- g. Be firm with standards you set for your child. Be careful not to expect more than his capabilities will allow.
- h. Insist upon prompt and regular attendance.
- i. Recognize that the teacher deserves the same consideration and respect that we insist upon as parents.
- j. Insist that your child bring home promptly all communications from school. Be certain to read them and, if necessary, discuss them with your child.
- k. Help your child to understand that rules are a necessary part of our society. Should your child become involved with an infraction, cooperate with the school in resolving the problem.
- l. Communicate with the school in any problem the student might have.
- m. Establish rapport with the school.
- n. Teach your child to respect himself/herself so that he/she will understand why he/she must show respect for the law, the rights of others and public safety.
- o. YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD'S MISDEEDS

**6. Student ~**

It is the responsibility of the student to cooperate with investigations and report criminal arrests to the principal

It is the responsibility of the student to follow the proper procedure if they feel that their rights have been violated under this policy. The procedures to be followed should be initiated with the individual who has been involved. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution of the matter at any time, then he/she may proceed to the next level of responsibility in the following manner:

- i. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the teacher or the individual involved.
- ii. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the principal.
- iii. Make an appointment and discuss the problem with the superintendent.
- iv. Write a letter and request to be placed on the Agenda of the next Forest Area School Board meeting.

**DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES**

The purpose of the Student Discipline Code is to maintain an orderly environment where students can learn while developing an understanding of independent responsibility. Strong expectations for conduct and discipline prepare students for their place in the community and in the employment world. It is understood that common sense and reason should prevail when discipline is administered.

Restorative justice is a philosophy and approach to discipline that focuses on repairing harm, promoting accountability, and fostering positive relationships within a school community. At our schools, we believe in the principles of restorative justice as well as traditional punitive measures, aiming to create a safe and supportive environment for all students, staff, and families. When it is appropriate, restorative justice measures will be applied to disciplinary situations by both teachers and administrators. It is strongly recommended that the teacher address disciplinary concerns first in the classroom by conferencing with the student, involving the parents in the conversation and asking students to correct their behavior by making amends. When these approaches fail, students will then be referred to the administration. The administration may use restorative tactics in combination with traditional measures.

**Restorative measures may include:**

**Conferencing-** The process typically involves the following steps:

1. **Dialogue:** All parties affected by the harm or conflict come together in a safe and respectful setting to share their experiences and perspectives. This includes the individuals directly involved, as well as any other affected individuals, such as witnesses or community members.
2. **Understanding and empathy:** During the dialogue, participants are encouraged to listen actively and express their feelings and concerns. This process helps build empathy and understanding among all parties involved.
3. **Accountability and responsibility:** Once the harm is acknowledged and understood, individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and the consequences they have caused. This may involve reflecting on their behavior, understanding the impact it had on others, and identifying ways to repair the harm.
4. **Restorative action:** Together, the participants determine appropriate actions or measures to address the harm done and restore relationships. These actions may include apologies, community service, restitution, or other forms of meaningful reparation.
5. **Reintegration and support:** After the restorative process, individuals are welcomed back into the school community, emphasizing the importance of providing ongoing support to ensure their successful reintegration.

**Reassignment-** Relocating the student to provide additional support to de-escalate and contemplate their actions with continued academic participation.

**Other disciplinary consequences may include:**

**Detention** - Students will spend their own time either before or after school or at lunch time in 30 minute increments and be given the opportunity to contemplate their actions.

**Suspension** - Suspension is exclusion from school for a period of up to ten days. If the suspension exceeds three school days, the student and parent shall be given the opportunity for an informal hearing consistent with the requirements of the law.

**Expulsion** - Expulsion is exclusion from school by the Board of School Directors for a period exceeding ten (10) consecutive school days. The Board may permanently expel any student whose misconduct or disobedience warrants this sanction. No student shall be expelled without an opportunity for a formal hearing before the Board, or a duly authorized committee of the Board, or a qualified hearing examiner appointed by the Board, and upon action taken by the Board after the hearing.

**LEVEL I VIOLATIONS**

1. Cafeteria disruption
2. Class disruption
3. Hall disruption
4. Bus disruption
5. Unacceptable language/actions/gestures
6. Dress code violations
7. Loitering
8. Late to school/class (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
9. Outside assigned area without a pass or abuse of a pass
10. Consuming food or drink outside of cafeteria
11. Inappropriate public displays of affection
12. Violating individual classroom policies
13. Failure to complete reasonable assignments or carry out reasonable directions
14. Violation of computer use policy.
15. Possession and/or use of unauthorized electronic devices and/or refusal to surrender electronic devices.
16. Disrespect toward staff/insubordination
17. Unauthorized /inappropriate use of electronic devices including taking pictures or making recordings.
18. Plagiarism/Forgery
19. Cheating
20. Other behaviors that are disruptive to the educational process

<b>First Offense</b>	<b>Second Offense</b>	<b>Third Offense</b>	<b>Fourth Offense</b>
Teacher/Student Conference Warning	Teacher completes Discipline Form	Teacher completes Discipline Form	Teacher completes Discipline Form
Teacher records date of warning	Parents Contacted	Parents Contacted	Parents Contacted
Infraction may result in a warning and/or a reassignment/conferencing.	Conferencing, Reassignment, detention and/or suspension	Reassignment, detention and/or suspension	Reassignment, detention and/or suspension

**Any level one offense committed while under the supervision of a substitute teacher may be handled as a level two offense.**

**Detention may be assigned before or after school or at lunchtime in one or more 30 minute increments.**

**Chronic offenses of Level I or Level II Violations may result in assignment to another educational setting.**

**Multiple offenses will result in increased consequences.**

**Video and audio monitoring is utilized by the district and will be reviewed when necessary.**

**LEVEL II VIOLATIONS**

1. Fifth offense of Level I violation
2. Destruction/defacing school property or school grounds (restitution is mandatory)
3. Skipping class
4. Unauthorized exit from school building/grounds
5. Theft (restitution is mandatory).
6. Cheating/Plagiarism/Forgery.
7. Disrespect toward staff/insubordination.
8. Skipping after-school detention.
9. Minority, ethnic, or racial slurs or intimidation, writing, or gestures
10. Harassment/hazing/sexual harassment (Policy 103).
11. Bullying (Policy 249).
12. Cyber Harassment (Policy 249).
13. Possession and/or use of electronic devices not authorized by the teacher and/or refusal to surrender electronic devices.
14. Unauthorized/inappropriate use of electronic devices including taking pictures or making recordings.
15. Assault - Physical contact was made resulting in injury.
16. Fighting - Physical altercation resulting in a minor injury or no injury.
17. Verbal assault - Inappropriate comments directed towards another student or staff.
18. Violation of acceptable use policy (Policy 815).
19. Actions that cause or create a danger to oneself or others.
20. Unacceptable language/actions/gestures.
21. Possession, use or sale of tobacco (Policy 222)

All violations will lead to a citation being filed with the District Magistrate as per PA state law.

First Offense: One (1) Day Suspension;

Second Offense: Three (3) Day Suspension;

Third Offense: Ten (10) Day Suspension~ Automatic SAP Referral;

Fourth Offense: Administration may recommend expulsion.

22. Possession, use or sale of vaping materials (Policy 222).

All violations will lead to a citation being filed with the District Magistrate as per PA state law.

First Offense: One (1) Day Suspension;

Second Offense: Three (3) Day Suspension;

Third Offense: Ten (10) Day Suspension~ Automatic SAP Referral;

Fourth Offense: Administration may recommend expulsion.

23. Other behaviors that cause significant disruption to the educational process.

First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense	Fourth Offense
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Discipline form completed	Discipline form completed	Discipline form completed	Discipline form completed
Student/Parent conference	Student/Parent conference	Student/Parent conference	Student/Parent conference
In-school reassignment or 1 day suspension (in or out)	In-school reassignment or 2 day suspension (in or out)	3 days in or out of school suspension No activities for 10 school days	Considered Level III  No activities for 20 school days
No activities on the day of the detention	No activities for 5 school days	Hearing scheduled for Possible assignment to alternative setting or AEDY	Possible assignment to alternative setting or AEDY

**Conferencing may be used in conjunction with lesser disciplinary action if recommended by the administration and agreed to by both parties. Conferencing may be conducted by appropriate staff.**

### **LEVEL III VIOLATIONS**

1. Fourth offense of Level II violation.
2. Possession, use (including being under the influence), and/or the distribution/sale of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, any form of look-alikes or paraphernalia. This includes the use or possession of anabolic steroids. (Policy 227).
3. Possession of and/or use of weapons or look-alikes (Policy 218.1).
4. Assault on staff members – making aggressive physical contact.
5. Assault on student(s) – violent acts which cause harm or are intended to cause harm – may include but not be limited to the use of a weapon.
6. Arson.
7. Terroristic threats or bomb threats (Policy 218.2).
8. Reckless endangerment of another person or one’s self by initiating actions that could cause serious harm.
9. Indecent exposure.
10. Possession or use of fireworks or any type of exploding device.
11. Tampering with alarms or fire fighting/security systems.
12. Vandalism (Policy 224)
13. Extortion.
14. Major violation of acceptable use policy. (Policy 815)
15. Unacceptable language/actions/gestures.
16. Unauthorized use of electronic devices.
17. Other behaviors that cause extreme disruption to the educational process.

**Given the seriousness of Level III violations, the following actions may be immediate:**

1. Discipline form completed
2. Referral to SAP team
3. No activities for 90 school days, with possible extension of up to 180 school days
4. 3-10 day out of school suspension
5. Police involvement
6. Hearing scheduled
7. Referral to school board for possible expulsion
8. Assignment to the AEDY or another education program which could be in or out of the district.

Chronic violations of Level I, II & III may result in suspension, expulsion and/or assignment to the AEDY or an out of district educational program.

Any student expelled from school or assigned to the AEDY or other placement may be required to undergo drug screening or an evaluation at student expense before being readmitted to school. Any student that does not adhere to the discipline imposed by the District may be subject to more severe discipline including, but not limited to, expulsion.

The Forest Area School District and the Pennsylvania State Police have a Memorandum of Understanding relating to criminal offenses that occur on school property or during school events. The understanding relates to the procedures to be employed by the district and the police should any of the listed offenses occur. A copy of this memorandum is on file in all school offices and at the central office.

### **BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING**

([Policy 249](#)) The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

The school's goal is to educate students on the what bullying entails:

Rude - when someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once.

Mean - when someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once.

Bullying - when someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it* even when you tell them to stop or show them you're upset.

### **SAFE2SAY SOMETHING**

Safe2Say Something reports may be submitted by any individual, including students, parents/guardians, staff and others as a secure and anonymous report about unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent or criminal activities in a school entity or threat of such activities in a school entity through:

1. A twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week telephone hotline maintained by the Office of the Attorney General's Safe2Say Something Crisis Center 1-814-SAF2SAY or 1-844-723-2729;
2. A Safe2Say Something program secure website <https://www.p3campus.com/tipform.aspx?ID=3085&C=e780ab> ; or
3. A Safe2Say Something software program application, or "app" accessed through a mobile electronic device. <https://www.safe2saypa.org/download/>

### **WEAPONS**

([Policy 218.1](#), [ACT 26](#))

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment and its effect upon the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

For the purposes of this policy a “weapon” shall be defined as follows:

A “weapon” shall mean any device, instrument, material or substance, which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing physical injury or terror.” The term shall include but is not limited to: any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, brass knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, BB or pellet gun, look-alike gun, chemical agent, explosive device, and/or instrument, tool, or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury or causing fear of same. Pocket knives, arrowheads and other hunting implements are not permitted in school.

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school sponsored activity.

For the purposes of this policy “possession” shall be defined as follows:

A student is in possession of a “weapon” when the weapon is found on the person of this student, in the student’s locker or vehicle, in or under the student’s control while he/she is on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is on his/her way to or from school. Additionally, any student who is responsible for bringing a weapon into the school environment or to school activities, regardless of whether or not the weapon is in his/her possession at the time of discovery, shall be guilty of violating this policy and shall be treated as if in possession.

Violations of section 912 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code shall also constitute a violation of this policy.

The school district, in compliance with Act 26 of 1995 of the Public School Code, shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student found to be in violation of this weapons policy. Such expulsions shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings as required by law. The Superintendent may, on a case-by-case basis, recommend discipline short of expulsion and in the case of an exceptional student take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.

The Superintendent or a designee shall take the necessary actions to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon on school property.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel in conjunction with their duties are permitted.

## **TERRORISTIC THREATS/ACTS**

### **(Policy 218.2)**

The Forest Area School Board prohibits any district student from communicating terrorist threats or committing terrorist acts directed at any student, employee, Board member, community member or school building.

Terroristic threat shall mean a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another, to cause evacuation of a building, or to cause serious public inconvenience, in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

Terroristic act shall mean an offense against property or involving danger to another person.

When an administrator has evidence that a student has made a terroristic threat or committed a terroristic act:

- The building principal shall immediately suspend the student.
- The building principal shall promptly report the incident to the Superintendent.
- Based on further investigation, the Superintendent shall report the student to law enforcement officials.
- The Superintendent may recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If a student is expelled for making terroristic threats or committing terrorist acts, the Board may require, prior to readmission, that the student provide competent and credible evidence that the student does not pose a risk of harm to others.

If a student is expelled for making terroristic threats or committing terroristic acts, upon return to school, the student shall be subject to random searches.

In the case of exceptional students, the district will take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and follow Board policy

### **UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT OR HAZING**

[\(Policy 247\)](#)

It is the policy of the Forest Area School District to maintain a safe, positive learning and working environment that is free from harassment.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the district staff to harass a student through conduct or communications as defined below. It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass other students or staff through conduct or communications as defined below.

Hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the board.

- **Endanger the physical health** shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.
- **Endanger the mental health** shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

**HARASSMENT:** For purposes of this policy, harassment of a student consists of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion when such conduct:

- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic performance.
- Otherwise adversely affects an individual’s learning opportunities.

**CYBER HARASSMENT:** A person commits the crime of cyber harassment of a child if, with intent to harass, annoy or alarm, the person engages in a continuing course of conduct by repeatedly communicating any of the following by electronic means directly to a child or by publication through an electronic social media service:

- seriously disparaging statement or opinion about the child's physical characteristics, sexuality, sexual activity or mental or physical health or condition; or threat to inflict harm. 18 PA CSA SS2709

**COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

1. A student shall report a complaint of harassment, orally or in writing, to the building principal or a designated employee, who shall inform the student of his/her rights and of the complaint process.
2. The building principal immediately shall notify the Superintendent or other designated administrator and shall conduct an impartial, thorough and confidential investigation of the alleged harassment. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes harassment, the totality of the circumstances, nature of the conduct and context in which the alleged conduct occurred shall be investigated.
3. The building principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Copies of the report shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, the Superintendent and others directly involved, as appropriate.
4. If the investigation results in a substantiated charge of harassment, the district shall take prompt corrective action to ensure the harassment ceases and will not recur.

A substantiated charge against a student in the school district shall subject that student to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, expulsion and possible police action consistent with the student discipline code.

A substantiated charge against a district staff member shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action, including discharge.

**HARASSMENT/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

([Policy 103](#), [Policy 104](#))

Forest Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, and prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§1681 et seq., and its regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the District’s Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”), or both.

The District’s Title IX Coordinator is:

Elisha Pospisil  
 Forest Area School District  
 22318 Rt 62

Tionesta, PA 16353  
Email: [epospisil@forestareaschools.org](mailto:epospisil@forestareaschools.org)  
Telephone Number: 814-755-4491

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights may be contacted at:

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1100  
Telephone: 800-421-3481  
FAX: 202-453-6012; TDD: 800-877-8339  
Email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)  
<https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr>

To report information about conduct that may constitute Title IX sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, or make a complaint of Title IX sex discrimination, please refer to the District's Nondiscrimination Policies and Grievance Procedures, which can be located on the District's website under Board Policies, Policy 103 (Students) and Policy 104 (Employees):  
**<https://www.forestareaschools.org/application/title-ix/>** or contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

### **RIGHT TO SEARCH**

**(Policy 226)** It shall be the policy of the Board that all lockers are and shall remain the property of the school district. As such, students shall have only a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers.[1]  
No student may use a locker as a depository for a substance or object that is prohibited by law, Board policy or district rules, or constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker at any time, based on reasonable suspicion, for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being used improperly for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material that poses a threat to the health, welfare or safety of the school population.

School officials are authorized to search a student's personal possessions or motor vehicle parked on school property when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is violating law, Board policy or school rules, or poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the school population.

### **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**(Policy 227)** Controlled substances shall include all:[12][15]

1. Controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law.
2. Look-alike drugs.
3. Alcoholic beverages.
4. Anabolic steroids.
5. Drug paraphernalia.
6. Any volatile solvents or inhalants, such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products.
7. Prescription or patent drugs, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.[1][16]