

Paramount School of Excellence

Family Handbook



Paramount School of Excellence (PSOE)

Mission Statement

Inspire learning through an unparalleled academic approach. Transform communities by changing lives.

Introduction

As a school community, we work as a team to ensure that each child enjoys, honors and benefits from his/her experiences as a student at PSOE. The experiences here serve as some of the finest opportunities available in any public school.

At PSOE, the overall atmosphere for learning is everyone's responsibility – staff, students and families – working together. Learning can only take place when students, teachers, administrators and families work together toward establishing a positive learning environment. The purpose of this handbook is to help each child and family become knowledgeable of the opportunities, benefits and responsibilities as a member of this team. Please read through the handbook carefully, discussing the expectations and resources with your child.

We are excited to have you as part of our team, and look forward to working together for the success of each child.

Note: PSOE reserves the right to make changes in the *PSOE Family Handbook* at any time and without notice.

Welcome to the Paramount School of Excellence

At Paramount School of Excellence we can't wait to explore the possibilities within our school and our community. Our school will treat every child and every family with healthy support, positive communication, and focused instruction. Our school will challenge the traditional boundaries between subject areas, creating a culture of constant connectivity within the school's curriculum.

From our innovative framework, PSOE will utilize an expansive technology base, themed discovery zones, character education, and a projects-based atmosphere to help raise the level of excitement and student performance. As a dedicated "Green School," we will also make use of exciting components like wind turbines, gardens, and discovery centers in an effort to keep our students and families active and aware of their impact on the environment.

As the School's leader, I have worked in education since 1995, and in Core Knowledge charter schools since 2001. I have been writing school curriculum and presenting educational workshops around the country since that time. In my experience, I'm confident Paramount School of Excellence will become a place where we can be proud of our student character, student achievement, and annual academic growth.

You are strongly encouraged to read this handbook and use as a resource in guiding your child(ren)'s education. The purpose of this handbook is to help each child and family become knowledgeable of the opportunities, benefits and responsibilities as a member of the school. Please read through it carefully, discussing the expectations and resources with your child. After all, understanding the frameworks of your child's education is paramount to their success in school!

We are excited to have you as part of our school, and we look forward to working together for the success of each child.

Tommy Reddicks
Executive Director
Paramount School of Excellence

School Contact Information

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Statement of Purpose

PSOE provides parents the choice of curriculum and will hold each parent /guardian to higher expectations of involvement. Parents will be expected to be involved in their child's education and assist with class needs, as they are able. Students and their families living in Indianapolis will have the option of choosing a school that requires a commitment from students, parents and all staff members in the form of a contract. The Board feels it is sending an important message that every stakeholder accepts and signs a contract of responsibility and commitment. Our curriculum is aligned with the Indiana State Academic Standards and was carefully chosen to enable parents to guide their children towards a higher level of academic achievement. We believe that if all children have a solid base of knowledge early on, the academic achievement level will be in place for students to attend college in the future. Parents want the best for their children and rely on the local assigned school to fill this requirement, which is often not always the best match for their child. It is our goal to provide a school that accommodates parents' work schedules as well as a rigorous academic program for their children.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Year

The length of the school year is 182 days. The school year is divided into four terms (2 semesters). Each grading period ends with report cards distributed, with two (2) Parent Teacher Conferences set during the year – one per semester.

The school calendar, which shows the last day of school, does not include days for inclement weather. If additional days are used for inclement weather, the last day may be later depending on the number of additional days required.

Scheduled Days

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Master Schedule

PSOE Daily Schedule (Kindergarten – Grade 8)*

Before School Care Program	6:15 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
Breakfast Served	7:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m.
School Begins	8:00 a.m.
K-2 Dismissal	3:15 p.m.
3-8 Dismissal	3:30 p.m.
Walker Dismissal	3:40 p.m.
After School Care Program	3:15 – 6:00 p.m.

This is the school-wide master time schedule. Your child's teacher will provide individual grade level schedules.

* Registration is required for participation in the Before and After School Care program, and charges do apply. Parents must pick up children not participating in the After School Care Program by 3:45 p.m. Failure to do so will result in charges of \$1/minute for parents/guardians.

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Grading Scale

Letter Grades (3-8)	Number Grades (K-2)	Grading Scale
A+	4+	97-100
A	4	94-96
A-	4	90-93
B+	3.5	87-89
B	3	84-86
B-	3	80-83
C+	2.5	77-79
C	2	74-76
C-	2	70-73
D+	1.5	67-69
D	1	64-66
D-	1	60-63
F	0	0-59

ATTENDANCE

Failure to Ensure (FTE) and Truancy Policy

It is imperative that parents/guardians ensure school attendance for their children. According to State Law (Failure to Ensure Law— I.C. 20-33-8 Required Attendance), parents/guardians are accountable for the attendance and education of their children. At Paramount School of Excellence, elementary students with ten (10) or more days of unexcused absences during any one semester are subject to possible filing of charges with the Juvenile Court Division. A parent/guardian who fails to follow the law will be considered in violation and will be subject to a “Class B Misdemeanor” which could result in imprisonment of not more than 180 days or a fine of \$1000.

The Indiana Compulsory Attendance Law states that the family or legal guardian has primary responsibility for ensuring attendance. Letters may be sent to parents after 10 days of unexcused absences without medical documentation in one year and/or 5 days of being tardy. Students are counted as tardy after 8:00 a.m. Additional absences or tardiness will be reported as truancy or FTE to the School Director.

Being absent from school for one day, or even from one class period, without acceptable cause is truancy. Acceptable cause may include, with appropriate documentation, but is not limited to: service as a page in the Indiana General Assembly, service on a precinct election board on an election day, subpoena to appear in court, incarceration, in-school or out of school suspension, required religious observations, hospitalization, doctors’ written order for home stay, death in the immediate family.

Evidence of habitual truancy and/or Failure to Ensure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Failure of parent/guardian to ensure that his/her child attends school or classes as required by law
- Ten (10) or more days tardy from classes in one grading period; or
- Ten (10) or more days absent from school during one school year

When children are not in the classroom, consistent and sustainable learning is impeded. PSOE staff and administration have made intentional attempts in bringing the importance of regular attendance to your attention. Our policy is as follows:

Absences

- When a child has accumulated three (3) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a phone call home.
- When a child has accumulated five (5) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a 2nd phone call home.
- When a child has accumulated six (6) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a letter in the mail stating our attendance policy.
- When a child has accumulated seven (7) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a certified letter in the mail stating our attendance policy.
- When a child has accumulated eight (8) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a phone call to set up a contract meeting about our attendance policy.
- When a child has accumulated nine (9) or more unexcused absences in a school year, parents/guardians receive a visit from our school officer or designee.
- When a child has accumulated ten (10) or more unexcused absences in a school year, truancy/FTE can be filed and subject to expulsion.

Tardiness

- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, five (5) or more times in a school year, parents/guardians receive a phone call home.
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, seven (7) or more times in a school year, parents/guardians receive a letter in the mail stating our attendance policy.
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, ten (10) or more times in a school year, an immediate meeting is convened to establish an attendance contract.
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, thirteen (13) times in a school year, the child will be assigned a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) day in Recovery.
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, fifteen (15) times in a school year, the child will be assigned one (1) day in Recovery.
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, seventeen (17) times in a school year, the student will receive one (1) day of Out of School Suspension (OSS).
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, nineteen (19) times in a school year, the student will receive three (3) days of Out of School Suspension (OSS).
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, twenty-one (21) times in a school year, the student will receive five (5) days of Out of School Suspension (OSS).
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, twenty-three (23) times in a school year, the student will receive seven (7) days of Out of School Suspension (OSS).
- When a child has been tardy, without an acceptable excuse, twenty-five (25) times in a school year, student is subject to expulsion.

Please notify the school as soon as you know your child will be absent. When your child returns to school, a note signed by the parent/guardian must be sent with your child stating the reason and dates for the absence to ensure your child's absences are recorded appropriately. The note should be turned in to the front office. If your child is tardy, please walk the student to the front office and sign in. The student will then be given a pass for admittance into class.

Early release from school is only approved in the event of your child's illness, a medical appointment or a family emergency. Parents/guardians will need to come into the office to sign the student out for the day. **Early dismissal and tardiness to school do count against your child's attendance.**

The principal and/or school dean will investigate all unexcused absences, including late arrivals and early dismissals. If a student is habitually late or absent, a conference with the parent/guardian will be scheduled with the appropriate member(s) of the administrative team to resolve the attendance problem.

Excused Absences

An excused absence or tardy is one for which no negative consequence is assessed against the student. Students who are absent from or late to school for a valid reason (medical or other emergency) are required to provide documentation from the doctor's office. Supporting documents may be required by the school and requested from the parent/guardian. Students must bring a written excuse to the school on the day that the student returns to school. The note must include the date or time and a legitimate reason for the absence. Approval of excused absences is made by the administration, but the student's record is marked as absent per Indiana law.

Excessive Absenteeism

Keep in mind that excessive absenteeism can become a serious legal issue **regardless of a status of excused or unexcused**. Excessive absenteeism can result in FTE (Failure to Ensure) and/or Truancy determinations by the prosecutor's office. Excessive absenteeism may lead to disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to (1) a referral to city/state services, (2) grade level retention, (3) suspension, (4) expulsion from the school.

Make-up Work

Students are expected to complete all work before leaving or immediately upon their return from an absence. In the case of illness or other unexpected absence, students or their families should contact their teachers as soon as they return to school to obtain their missed assignments. It is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian to ensure make up work is completed.

Procedures for Attendance

1. Attendance is taken daily at 8:00 a.m.
2. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must get a pass from the office before continuing to the classroom and are marked tardy.
3. Parents or guardians are to call the office to leave a message if their child(ren) will be absent or tardy. Calling does not guarantee the absence or tardy will be excused.
4. Absences are to be certified in writing by the parent/guardian on the first day the child returns to school.

Valid reasons for being absent or tardy are:

- Illness
- A family emergency requiring immediate attention
- Excused absences may also be granted for exceptional educational opportunities or any other reason deemed necessary by the parent or guardian of a student and approved by the School. ***In these cases, it is important for parents/guardians to request, in writing, an early leave at least five school days prior to the absence.*** These requests should be delivered to the school office.

Lost and Found

There is a lost and found box located in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). Parents/guardians of all students should clearly mark all their child(ren)'s belongings with first and last name. Any student who has lost an item should check lost and found in the MPR.

Lunch/Recess

PSOE students are offered a nutritious lunch during blocks 5 or 6, 10:45 – 1:20 daily. Additionally, children are offered breakfast daily from 7:30 – 7:55 a.m. PSOE offers each student a free breakfast and lunch. Guest adult lunches cost \$3.50.

Students who wish to bring their own packed lunch may do so, but PSOE values nutrition and will strongly discourage lunches that do not align with school values. Items such as junk food, fried chips, and sodas will not be allowed in the lunchroom without special permission. *Any items taken from students (when deemed as non-nutritious) will be returned at the end of the day unless taken in a disciplinary situation.*

Non-Discrimination Statement

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and, where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Morning/Afternoon Supervision

Before School Care

The Before School Care program takes place in the PSOE multi-purpose room. For safety reasons, students in grades K – 8 are to be signed in by parents/guardians (not dropped off outside of school) and must be registered with the YMCA. Parents/guardians are to use the west-side stair entrance for pick up and drop off. Failure to do so may result in restriction from the program. There is a **per child fee**, which will be billed through the YMCA. Any student participating in the Before School Care program must have a registration form on file with the YMCA. **Any parent/guardian guardian delinquent on**

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payments to the YMCA whose students continue to attend the YMCA may be subject to strict fines for delinquency and permanent removal from the program.

All students must stay in the multi-purpose room during the Before School Program and After School Program and are not permitted to wander through the school. Students not participating in the Before School Program may enter the building at 7:30 a.m. from the parent drop-off area.

Once students arrive at school, they are not allowed to leave the school grounds for any reason without escort by their parent/guardian and without being signed out.

Students who are not picked up at 3:45pm will be sent to the YMCA and charged \$1/minute until they are picked up.

After School Care

The After School Care program takes place in different locations throughout the PSOE campus. For safety reasons, students in grades K – 8 are to be signed out by parents/guardians. Failure to do so may result in restriction from the program.

School Calendar

The school calendar for the current academic year is listed on the school website, the school app, and at the school office. Changes may be made as deemed necessary due to inclement weather and/or emergencies.

Student Progress

High Ability Philosophy

PSOE recognizes there are high ability students in all racial, economic, and cultural groups who when compared to their peers, perform at an advanced level, or demonstrate the potential to be challenged beyond the standard curriculum in one or more academic domains of math and language arts. PSOE shall provide educational opportunities to encourage high ability students to reach their maximum achievement level at every stage of development. The program for high ability students will be differentiated in depth and breadth with specific enrichment opportunities designed to meet the cognitive and affective needs of the high ability students. PSOE is committed to providing enhanced instruction in addition to the regular curriculum standards to challenge high ability learners to reach their greatest potential.

Definition of High Ability

PSOE recognizes that a high ability student performs at, or shows the potential for performing at, an outstanding level of accomplishment when compared to other students of the same age, experience, or environment and whose educational needs and individual growth capabilities are above grade level curriculum in the general intellectual and specific academic domains of math and language arts high ability students are characterized by exceptional gifts, talents, motivation, or interests.

Goals:

- PSOE will ensure that all students regardless of race, cultural background, and economic status have the opportunity to be identified for high ability services in every grade level.
- PSOE will ensure that the curriculum for grades K-8 is aligned both horizontally and vertically to ensure maximum growth opportunities for high ability students at every level of achievement.
- PSOE will provide services to meet the social and emotional needs of high ability students.
- PSOE will continually challenge high ability students to strive toward their utmost degree of achievement, and ensure that educational growth and success is being met at each level.

Personnel Roles

There are many members of PSOE's personnel who are involved in the high ability identification process. In addition, the following personnel will be key to the identification process and high ability program implementation:

- Executive Director
- Principal
- Curriculum Director
- High Ability Coordinator
- High Ability Cluster Teacher
- High Ability Classroom Teacher
- School Counselor

Parent/Parents/guardians may request that the school provide certain information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's teachers and paraprofessionals, as appropriate.

Broad Based Planning Committee

The Indiana Department of Education requires the establishment of a broad based planning committee (BBPC) that meets annually to review the local education plan for high ability students. The purpose of this committee is to plan and review the continuous development and implementation of the services and programs for high ability students. The committee will have representatives from diverse groups representing the school and community. The committee must include at least one educator, student, parent/guardian, and other community member/stakeholder. The committee is an advisory group that works closely with the PSOE Administrative team in making recommendations about curriculum, professional development, and enrichment resources. This is separate from the Identification Committee.

Identification Process

Grade level testing for all students takes place in kindergarten, second, and fifth grades. In addition, a student could be assessed at any time throughout their academic career at PSOE, if warranted by data or other recommendation. An Identification Committee, composed of the High Ability Coordinator, Curriculum Director, an administrator, the High Ability Cluster Teacher and/or the High Ability Classroom Teacher for the corresponding grade level, and the School Counselor, meets to review and evaluate data to determine high ability eligibility.

Timeline of Identification Procedures

All kindergarten, second, and fifth grade students are assessed for possible High Ability Program placement during the second semester of the current school year.

Appeals Process

The formal appeal of a High Ability Program placement decision regarding a student may be made by a parent/guardian, teacher, or other stakeholder. The person requesting the appeal must submit an appeal form (obtained from the school office) to initiate the process.

Exit Policy

It is the goal of the High Ability Program that each student achieves maximum potential through enriched learning and advanced academic opportunities. Students must continue to demonstrate academic excellence in classroom performance to remain in the program. However, there may be cases when the program is not the best placement for the identified student.

Exit Procedure

If a student, parent/guardian, teacher, or other stakeholder believes high ability services are no longer appropriate; the following guidelines will be followed:

- Arrange a conference with the parties involved, including the parent/guardian and the teacher providing services. This conference may be a telephone conference.
- If an intervention is implemented, all participants must agree on a probationary period (no shorter than nine (9) weeks) to implement interventions.
- If the probationary period is not successful, the student can be exited at the end period with a formal review of the student's progress.
- The principal must sign the documentation giving permission to remove the student from high ability services.
- All formal documentation must be sent to the High Ability Coordinator.
- The PSOE High Ability Program will communicate this withdrawal with appropriate stakeholders.

A student will not be readmitted to the High Ability Program during that same school year. A student could still be eligible to qualify for the High Ability Program during the following school year if the High Ability Identification Committee determines that this would be a beneficial placement. Parents/guardians, appropriate school personnel, or other stakeholders may make that formal request for high ability placement during the school year that follows the official exit from the High Ability Program.

Assessment

Continuous evaluation of student learning is an integral part of the instructional process at PSOE. Assessment of student learning is done in many ways, depending on the subject area. Following is a short description of various types of assessment tools used at the school.

ISTEP +

As mandated by state law, PSOE administers the Indiana Statewide Testing of Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+). Scores on standardized tests help the school assess how much progress students have made relative to standards mandated by the state. Currently the ISTEP+ assessment is administered to students in Grades 3-8 in March and April.

ACUITY

PSOE administers ACUITY (an online national assessment) three times each school year to students in Grades 3–8. The assessment provides online data to teachers for use in benchmarking the growth of

individual children and allows important resources in planning for the needs of every child ensuring continuous academic achievement.

MCLASS

PSOE administers mClass DIBELS and TRC (an online national assessment) three times each school year to students in Grades K–5. The assessment provides online data to teachers for use in benchmarking the growth of individual children and allows important resources in planning for the needs of every child ensuring continuous academic achievement. Reading skills are assessed in grades K-5, and math skills are assessed in grades K-2.

Interim Progress Reports

Interim Progress Reports are issued to all students at the midpoint of the grading period. These reports inform parents/guardians of their child's academic developments and any potential problems the child may be experiencing.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year, in the fall and spring. Information will be sent home to schedule times with teachers. Appointments **must** be set to allow adequate attention and time to meet with each parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use these times to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress at school. Conferences with teachers and/or members of the administration can also be arranged as needed throughout the school year. Conference dates and information will be announced in the school newsletter.

Report Cards

Report cards are distributed four times a year, shortly after the end of the grading term. Parents/guardians are required to meet with the child's teacher to review and receive the report card after the 1st and 3rd terms. Report cards list a student's proficiency for each of the standards identified for mastery during that term, attendance records, and a description of the student's behavior and social developments.

Social Skills and Work Habits

Every PSOE student is evaluated each midterm and at report card time in the following areas:

1. **Honesty**—to be honest in word and deed, never cheating on tests, never taking that which does not belong to oneself, or taking credit for something belonging to another.
2. **Cooperation**—is helpful to the teacher(s) and fellow classmates, and is willing to learn
3. **Follows school rules**—follows instructions as given by teacher and other staff
4. **Responsibility for own actions**—admits mistakes and accepts consequences for actions
5. **Effort**—works hard and wants to achieve
6. **Respect for others**—shows respect in speech and behavior toward adults and students. Does not damage property belonging to the school or others
7. **Responsibility toward academic work**—completes work assignments and brings books and supplies needed
8. **Works independently**—uses good judgment when given assignments to work alone, and when choices are provided in classroom use of time
9. **Self-control**—controls anger and behaves appropriately
10. **Completes work on time**—regularly completes homework assignments

The classroom teacher facilitates evaluation of social skills and work habits with input from all specialists who teach the student. The child's social skills and work habits are recorded on the midterm reports and each report card.

Student Portfolios

Student portfolios are used to provide a representative sample of a student's work to reflect growth over a period of time. During parent-teacher conferences, children's portfolios may be shared with parents/guardians. Portfolios include writing samples, math computations, and writing samples in addition to assessment data. As students grow, they will be involved in the compilation of quality work for their portfolios. This fosters the following valuable life-skills:

- the ability to plan, initiate, and complete a project;
- the ability to **reflect** on, and **evaluate** one's own learning, and that of others;
- **valuable study skills and work habits**, (e.g., note-taking, library research skills, studying strategies).

Parent/Guardian Communication

Newsletter

At the end of each school month, a monthly newsletter will be sent home with your child(ren). Please read the newsletter to keep updated on the activities of PSOE and its upcoming programs/events.

Parent Portal

PSOE utilizes a parent portal, which allows school parents/guardians to receive weekly email updates on classroom and school activity. For more information on the parent portal, please inquire at the school office.

School App

PSOE utilizes a school app (for iPhone and Android capable phones) to post calendar events, forms and policies, and extracurricular information. This app can be found on iTunes. For more information, please inquire at the school office.

PowerSchool

Parents/guardians must provide a working email to have access to PowerSchool. PowerSchool is the school's online information system. This system allows parents/guardians access to their student's grades, potential homework, upcoming assignments, etc. For more information, please inquire at the school office.

PowerSchool App

Parents/guardians can download the PowerSchool App for free from your carrier's app store.

School Website

The PSOE website is updated regularly and contains helpful information about the school. Please visit the website at www.paramountindy.org.

Academic Support Activities and After School Programs

Extracurricular activities, life skills and enrichment are a critical component of PSOE. PSOE sponsors a variety of after-school activities, clubs, and programs offered to every child and offered one day each week after school. Intervention and enrichment of core subjects are offered daily, as are leadership development, service club, homework assistance, and clubs. Enrichment activities such as green initiatives, co-curricular activities, character development, visual and performing arts and cultural activities, physical fitness and wellness programs are essential to a child's development. In addition to academic rigor, PSOE focuses on programs that foster an appreciation for *paying it forward* and character development by stressing our core values. This initiative is guided through our curriculum using multiple resources. Information about the program will be made available through our newsletter and your child's teacher.

Academic Support Activities Policies and Procedures

1. If your child is not participating in the after school program, the instructional day ends at 3:15 for K-2 and 3:30 for 3-8. **Parents/guardians must pick up children who are not participating by 3:45 to avoid an immediate charge of \$1/minute.**
2. In case of severe weather or any other unsafe condition, parents/guardians are contacted and are responsible for arranging early pickup of their children.
3. No student is allowed to leave the school premises and re-enter to attend the Academic Support Activities program.
4. Parents/guardians **are required to sign their children out** at pick up in the office. Children are released **only** to the person(s) whose name(s) are listed on the Authorized Release of Student Form. If a person not listed on the form is to pick up your child, you must advise the director of the Program prior to pick up. **Identification** (picture I.D.) must be shown by authorized persons before he or she is allowed to pick up a child.
5. Please allow enough time to pick up your child(ren) by closing time of the program. The school policy for late pick up will be in effect. Please contact the school if you have questions.

Admissions

Applications for New Students

1. PSOE will begin accepting applications from new students for the following school year in November.
2. The school holds lotteries each March (when necessary) to determine acceptance and waiting list status as outlined below for the upcoming school year.
3. The lottery for the upcoming school year is held in March when and if the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, a public lottery will be held to determine which applicants are admitted. The number of seats available will be determined by the number of students who recommit minus the capacity. The date of the lottery will be publicly announced in advance.

An applicant's rank on the waiting list is determined by lottery. All applications will be date/time stamped as they are received and filed by grade level. All applications for each grade are placed in a box and are randomly drawn. The first application pulled is number one, and so on. If there is an available space in the grade for that applicant, the individual is admitted to the school. If not, that student is placed on the waiting list for that grade, in the order the application was pulled in the lottery. Applicants from the first

preference group normally will have preference over any applicant from the second preference group, and so on.

For certain grades (for example, Kindergarten), there are new spaces available every year. According to Indiana State Compulsory Attendance policy, all Kindergarteners must be five (5) years of age by August 1 of the upcoming academic year to be eligible for enrollment. For other grades, depending upon the number of students returning to the school and the number of sections opening for that grade, there are few, if any, available spaces.

All applications received after the open enrollment period will be placed on a waiting list for that class, or grade level in the order in which they are received. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of their child's acceptance no later than seven (7) days past the acceptance period deadline and will have (7) days to respond to the school in writing of their decision to attend. If an accepted applicant decides not to attend the school, the slot will be given to the first person on the waiting list.

Waiting lists do not carry over into the next school year. All applications and waiting lists are disposed of on September 1.

Enrollment Dates and Lottery Process

November 1

Intent to Enroll forms will be handed out to all PSOE students on, or before, November 1st of the calendar year. All forms will be sent home with a return date prior to winter break.

November 2 - Winter Break

Intent to Enroll forms will be turned in to the admissions director.

January 2 - March 1 **Open Enrollment**

Open enrollment for new applicants will be held immediately upon return from Winter Break and continue until the last day prior to Spring Break.

March 2

If PSOE is over-enrolled in any grade by the end of the open enrollment period, the admissions director, assistant director, principal, and Executive Director, director and will determine the date of the lottery.

March 3

Lottery parent/guardian notification letter sent.

March 23

The admissions director, assistant director, principal, Executive Director, director and an unbiased member of the community will be present for a random lottery for grade(s) that are over enrolled.

March 24

Parent/guardian enrollment status notification letter sent. Parent/guardian must accept student's admission into the school, in writing, within seven (7) days of receiving PSOE's enrollment status notification letter.

April 3 - May 23

Registration packets will be distributed to all enrolled students during the first week following Spring Break. Enrollment packets will be collected by classroom teachers, the office clerk, and the admissions director through the end of the academic year.

May 30 - July 15

At the close of the academic year, students/parents/guardians will be contacted and interviewed by the admissions team to fill any open positions for the upcoming school year.

Lottery Rules

1. All references to dates are defined to mean the CLOSE OF BUSINESS on the date indicated.
2. Lottery refers to the selection of applicant names by a random blind drawing. Individual names will be drawn from a container, in sequence, until all names in the container have been exhausted.
3. All eligible applicants are assigned a random number.
4. All applicants (students not already attending school, including siblings of those already attending) participate in the lottery irrespective of preference status.
5. Applications received during the open enrollment period are eligible to participate in the lottery.
6. All applicants offered a seat must accept the offer for attendance within seven (7) days. Those not responding (excludes declines) will be moved to a pool for the subsequent lottery.
7. A lottery shall be conducted by Paramount to include all grades in which the number of applicants exceeds the number of expected seats available.

Applications will be made accessible on the school website and in paper form at the school. Upon submission of an application, the information is reviewed for eligibility of attendance. The data will be monitored and reports created to determine the need for a lottery, waitlists, and letters of acceptance.

Applications for Re-enrollment

1. Students currently enrolled in and attending PSOE in good standing remain enrolled for the following school year if they submit an *Intent to Return Form* (provided by the office). They are not required to submit a new application or go through the lottery process.
2. Students expelled from the school for behavior problems must reapply for admission and will follow the procedures outlined above for new students.
3. Students who withdraw before the last day of the current school year must reapply for admission and will follow the procedures outlined above for new students.

Books, Fees, and School Supplies

Books

Books, which belong to the school, may be assigned to students during the school year. These include hard cover and soft cover books, as well as workbooks. Students will be assessed a book rental fee each academic year based on the textbooks and workbooks purchased for the grade level.

It is expected that students will treat all books with respect and will keep them in good condition for return at the end of the year. Students may not write in books unless explicitly instructed to do so by a teacher.

If a student loses or damages a book (or any other piece of school property that was in their care), parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of the replacement. A bill will be mailed to the student's home address. Reports cards and all student-related records may be held pending the payment of any outstanding bill.

Book Fees

There is a \$25 book fee for every student at PSOE. This fee is due at the time of enrollment. This non-refundable fee helps cover the yearly cost of book repair and consumable replacement. A Textbook Assistance Application is available at the front office which may reduce or remove the book fee.

Activity Fees

There is a \$10 activity fee for every student attending PSOE. This fee is due at the time of enrollment. This fee is a one-time non-refundable fee that supports the school's afterschool activity and athletic expenses. Students that qualify for textbook assistance may also have this fee reduced or removed.

It is the policy of PSOE to ensure our student athletes maintain academic standards which move them toward credit completion while prohibiting the retention of a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in extracurricular athletic programs.

Financial Assistance

From time to time, limited financial assistance may be available for field trips, uniforms, and supplies. Please contact the School Counselor for additional information.

Supplies

Before the beginning of the school year, a student supply list will be posted on the school website (supply lists will also be available in the office in July). Students are expected to bring basic supplies, which differ by grade level, to school. Parents/guardians must visit the school website or contact the office for classroom supply lists. These lists are made available at least one month prior to the opening of the upcoming school year.

Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

PSOE's curriculum is built on the Indiana Academic standards using innovative technology and effective instructional practices as a hybrid design for delivery. Technologies, such as Interactive White Boards and computerized student workstations, coupled with irreplaceable teacher interaction, form an interactive foundation in the student's learning environment. The PSOE facility design is an aesthetic learning tool equipped with themed-based discovery rooms, real-world settings, and multi-sensory environments. All PSOE students are taught normed behaviors for interacting appropriately in all school environments. Uniforms are worn in these areas to ensure a harmonious social culture.

Paramount School of Excellence develops curriculum that meets and exceeds the Indiana State Academic Standards to create an overall program of study that includes the depth and breadth necessary to meet the needs of all students.

Homework

Students are responsible for completing homework assignments and projects. Assignments are given outside of the school day to develop students as self-managers and independent learners. Homework load is progressively assigned as the student matriculates into older grade levels.

Emergency Procedures

A district-wide crisis management plan is reviewed each year with all staff. All school staff, in cooperation with the school director, is responsible for the implementation of any needed procedures related to crisis in the school building.

Accidents

All children experience minor scrapes and bruises. The school nurse, provided by Community Health Network, maintains a log of all children seen on a daily basis. For more serious incidents, an Accident Report Form is completed and maintained by the school nurse. Instances of serious accident may include some or all of the following procedures:

1. The school nurse or a staff member carries out immediate first aid.
2. A staff member contacts the parents/guardians to pick up the student for medical care.
3. In cases where the parents/guardians or the designated emergency persons cannot be reached, or where immediate medical attention is needed, the school calls a local emergency unit for treatment and/or transportation to a hospital. A staff member accompanies the student and stays until the parent/guardian arrives.
4. In cases of extreme emergency, staff may contact the local emergency unit before calling the parent/guardian.

Child Abuse Protocol

Indiana law requires immediate reporting of suspected child abuse to the authorities and to the appropriate individual in charge of the school. Failure to do so is a violation of the law. While it is the responsibility of all PSOE staff to act as immediate reporters of any possible student injury and/or abuse, it is not the job of any PSOE staff member to cast judgment or make assumptions related to any possible student injury/abuse. All cases of student injury/abuse, or student reports of injury/abuse, will be immediately forwarded to the proper authorities.

Emergency Contacts

Parents/guardians of all students are required to fill out an emergency contact information form on the student registration form.

In emergency situations, the school calls the numbers listed on the form. It is essential that parents/guardians update this information if their address, phone number, or emergency contact person changes.

Fire and Inclement Weather Drills

Fire drills are conducted monthly according to a schedule set by the Fire Prevention Office of the Indianapolis Fire Department. Fire exit directions and procedures are posted in all rooms and teachers review fire exit procedures with students on a regular basis.

In the event of a fire, everyone is evacuated from the building immediately. If students are unable to return to the building because of smoke or fire conditions, the school follows emergency evacuation procedures.

Inclement weather drills are conducted each semester. Procedures are reviewed by teachers, and practiced by children. Exit directions and procedures are posted in all rooms.

School Closings or Late Starts

How Does Paramount Make Closing/Delay Decisions?

Paramount is in the center of the IPS district, so our cold weather policy is modeled off IPS policy. PSOE will typically follow IPS in terms of closure and delays, but may close or delay on days that IPS is open due to site-specific concerns related to student and staff safety. When inclement weather strikes central Indiana, the safety of our students, families and staff is our number one concern. The decision to delay or cancel school and activities is not taken lightly by our seasoned leadership team involved in this critical process.

When snow rolls in overnight or in the early morning, local members of the leadership team are on the streets early. Conditions of both main streets and side roads are assessed to get as complete a picture of conditions as possible. Many factors play into making important and timely decisions: amount and type of precipitation, temperature/wind chill, visibility, status of clearing roads, status of clearing sidewalks, refreeze of melted snow/ice from previous day, blowing snow and continued snow in the forecast.

One of the key factors is the safety of students who walk to Paramount. While there is not a hard-set temperature cutoff to determine a delay or cancellation, our leadership team consults the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's wind chill chart](#) to determine potential dangers due to cold weather. As a general guideline, the threshold of 10 minutes to frostbite would lead to cancellation, but the call may be made at less severe temperatures.

By 5:00 a.m., our leadership team compares conditions across the city to agree on a recommendation to share with the Executive Director, who then makes the final decision on delays and cancellations. Our goal is to have word to all families and staff before 6 a.m. to ensure as much time to align work and childcare plans as possible.

The decision to open, close or delay school is the product of a team of professionals doing their best to keep Paramount students and families safe when weather becomes hazardous, which is an example of our commitment of excellence when serving our community. We also want to ensure students are protected from the cold weather on those chilly days when we remain in session. If your child needs gloves, a coat or other winter gear to stay warm, contact the FACT Team to learn more about support services available to our families.

If school is closed or the opening delayed due to inclement weather, power outage or other problem, local radio and television stations announce this information. Look for information on local television networks. Parents/guardians may choose to have notice sent to your cellular phone and/or email. Information will be shared through the school newsletter.

Only under extreme circumstances does a school closing occur once students have arrived. If an early closing should occur, parents/guardians are notified of early dismissal.

Closings during the day are announced on local radio and television stations. Please call the school if you are in doubt.

Unless otherwise stated, all late starts begin with drop off at 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. start time. Late starts do not include school breakfast.

Unless otherwise stated, half-days end at 12:00 p.m. (Noon), and will include school lunch.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Board of Directors Meetings

The school's Board of Directors holds the charter to PSOE. It sets the policies of, and governs the terms by which the charter is issued. Meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive sessions. Notices for the meetings are posted on the front windows of the school 48 hours prior to each meeting. For more information on the PSOE School Board's public meeting policy, please visit the school's website and reference the school board.

Dismissal

No child will be dismissed early unless a note has been sent in ahead of time and/or in the event of an emergency. Students picked up early without an accepted excuse will be deemed tardy (see page 7 for accepted excuses). Student pick up is at 3:15 p.m. each day for K-2 and 3:30 each day for 3-8. This policy is to minimize the disruption caused by interrupting learning time. **Families with students in K-2, who have siblings in 3-8, must pick up their students at the later release time of 3:30PM.**

Failure to Pick up Your Child

Students have a fifteen-minute grace period, 3:45pm, after the end of the instructional day during which the parents/guardians must pick them up. After that grace period expires, at 3:45pm the student will be sent to YMCA, where a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed for each minute the child remains at YMCA (after the 15-minute grace period). Students not picked up within a reasonable amount of time may be referred to Child Services and/or the local police.

Parent-Teacher Student Organization (SCO)

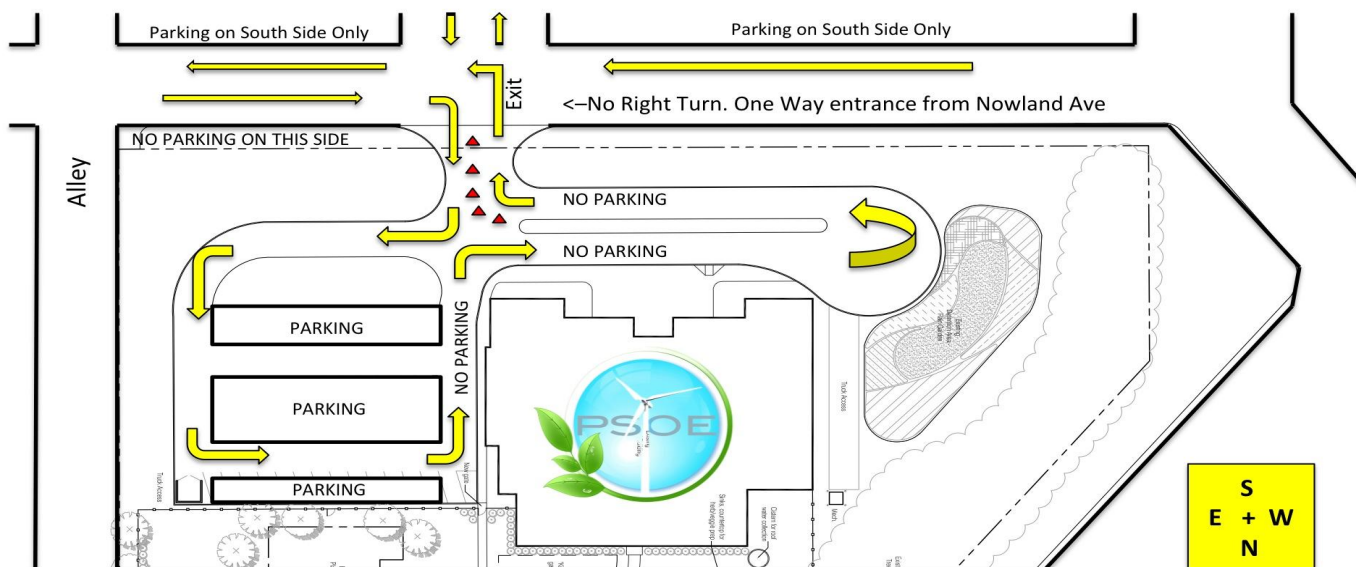
The school encourages an atmosphere in which parents/guardians, administration, and staff join in a partnership to foster the mission of PSOE. This partnership offers an environment for collaboration and exchange of information between the school and parents/guardians.

All parents/guardians are invited to attend meetings, and to join committees or volunteer for activities. Meetings are held monthly and provide an opportunity to dialogue with school administrators about issues of common concern.

The goals of the School Community Organization (SCO) are:

- To increase communication among parents/guardians, staff, and students
- To provide academic interaction for students and their families
- To provide interaction among parents/guardians
- To provide a structure for parent/guardian volunteer activities that support the school's academic culture
- To raise funds to help support the school

Driveline Map



Arrival Instructions:

1. Arriving from the east or west on Nowland Avenue, or from the south on Oakland Ave:
 - a. Approach the school entrance with caution and wait for the crossing guard to signal your safe entrance across traffic into the school driveline.
 - b. Upon entering the driveline, turn right to circle the parking lot until arriving at the front of the building to drop off your student(s).
 - c. **DO NOT PARK AT THE CURB!** Students should exit from the car to the school sidewalk to enter the school.
 - d. Continue around the circle to the exit.
 - e. There are no right turns out of the school lot.
 - f. Wait for the crossing guard to signal a safe exit, and exit straight onto Oakland Avenue or left onto Nowland.
 - g. Students may enter the building at 7:30 AM and are counted tardy at 8:00 AM.
 - h. Classes start at 7:55 AM
2. Important Details for the safety of your child:
 - a. Do not stop on Nowland to let your students out of your car. This puts your students at an unnecessary risk. Stay patient, and drive your students to the school.
 - b. Turn your music down, and choose acceptable music. Offensive music with suggestive lyrics sets a poor example for all students.
 - c. Do not smoke while on school property. This is a state law. Please respect the example you set by extinguishing your cigarettes prior to turning into the school lot.
 - d. Refrain from swearing or cussing while on school property.

Departure Instructions:

1. Pickup Times:
 - a. There are 2 release times at PSOE. K-2 (bottom floor) students will be released at 3:15 PM and 3-8 (top floor) students will be released at 3:30 PM.
 - b. Families with students in K-2, who have siblings in 3-8, will be released at 3:30PM.
 - c. Students who carpool in grades 3-8 with students in grades K-2 will be released at 3:30 PM.
 - d. Students who walk home will be released at 3:40PM after the standard release time to allow traffic to decrease.
 - e. Students not picked up by 3:45PM will be sent to YMCA aftercare, and parents/guardians will be charged \$1/minute until their child is picked up.
2. Pickup Procedure:
 - a. Parents/guardians must park to pick up their child. Parking rules are listed below:
 - b. No parking on the North side of Nowland Avenue between Parker and Dearborn.
 - c. No parking in front of garage entrances in the alley.
 - d. No parking anywhere in the roundabout in front of the school: this is a pick-up and drop-off zone only.
 - e. Parents/guardians must enter the building to pick up their child from the classroom.
 - f. Parents/guardians must present an ID to pick up their child (until the teacher can adequately identify the parent/guardian).
 - g. Parents/guardians are expected to pick up their child on time, and return to their vehicle to clear space for others to park.
 - h. Upon leaving the parking lot, do not turn right onto Nowland Avenue. This is a "School-Advised One Way Zone" designed to protect student walkers and keep the road from getting too congested.
 - i. Speeds in the driveline must be less than 10 MPH at all times.
 - j. Parents/guardians are expected to drive slowly and carefully, while staying aware of their surroundings.

Additional Parking

We have opened three additional parking areas, which can be accessed through the alley on the east side of the school. There is a parking area on the north side of Nowland and two other areas on the south side of Nowland.

Student Pick Up Card

All designated pick up people must have the current year Student Pick Up card to go to the student's classroom. This ticket must be shown at the front doors to access your child's classroom.

Student Drop-Off

A drop-off zone has been designated on the curb in front of the school. This zone is for drop off only. **Vehicles may not be left unattended in this zone.** All other vehicles are to park in the designated lot and within the identified parking spots.

All students arriving after 7:55 a.m. must enter the main entrance and are listed as tardy as of 8:00 a.m. They will receive a "late slip" from the main office, which they will need to enter the classroom. Late arrival to school is counted against student attendance under Indiana law.

Health Policies and Procedures

Administration of Medication

The nurse's office works very hard to maintain the health of all the students. It is our goal to make sure all students have a safe and healthy place to learn. Please remember that we are working for the total welfare of all the students at PSOE.

Giving medication during school hours is discouraged and restricted to necessary medication that cannot be given at home. Whenever possible, medication should be taken at home. Medication that must be given at school **MUST** be brought to the nurse's office before school and stored in a cabinet or refrigerator.

If your child needs to take a prescription medication at school, ask your pharmacy to provide a duplicate bottle for school usage. Any changes from your child's original prescription must be verified by the doctor, either by a fax or a new script. If your child has a medical condition that requires medication to be given on an as-needed basis, a doctor's note is requested to contain instructions for administration of medication and reason for the medication.

All medications brought to school **MUST** be in the prescription bottle or original container. Medicine will not be given unless it is prescribed for the child bringing it to school, and the container has the individual's name on it. All medications must be accompanied by a medication slip, including:

1. Student's Name
2. Medication Name
3. Directions (amount and time to be given)
4. Number of days to be given
5. Parent/guardian's signature, telephone number, and date

Any medication, not in the original container with the child's name on it, will be held by the school nurse for a parent/guardian to pick up within one week. After that, it will be destroyed.

No medications, whether prescription or over-the-counter, are given without written consent from parents or guardians.

Communicable Diseases

Parents/guardians must notify the school immediately if a student has contracted a communicable disease. The school will then notify parents/guardians of other students in the grade level homeroom. If more than one case of a communicable disease occurs in a single homeroom or area of the school, the school may contact a Public Health officer. In the event of an epidemic, special precautions or exclusion policies will be initiated.

PSOE follows isolation and quarantine regulations as prescribed by the Indiana Department of Public Health. The complete recommendations for isolation and quarantine for communicable diseases can be found at the following online address: (http://www.state.in.us/isdh/files/Communicable_Disease_Summary_Chart_2010.pdf). In the chart below are guidelines that apply to how long a child should stay at home if common childhood diseases and conditions should occur.

Influenza	Fever greater than 100 degrees F, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea also can occur in children.	1-3 days	Person to person by direct contact with infected secretions or via large or small droplet aerosols	1 day prior to symptoms through 7 days from clinical onset	Exclusion of the student should be based on the on the condition of the child and if there is a school policy that warrants exclusion for symptoms of influenza.	Immunizations are available for most students and adults unless contraindicated Cover the mouth and nose in the nook of your elbow and discard tissues immediately
Scabies	Itching and blister-like sores in the burrows of the skin	2 – 6 weeks	Direct contact with an infested persons skin, clothing or linens	From infection until eggs/mites are destroyed by treatment	Exclude until the day after treatment	Inform parents of infestations and proper control measures for home elimination. Prophylactic treatment of home contacts
Conjunctivitis	Redness of eye involving tearing, irritation, swelling and discharge	Bacterial – 1 to 3 days Viral – 12 hours to 3 days	Contact with discharge from conjunctivae or upper respiratory tract of infected persons. Fingers and inanimate objects can also be sources of transmission	Possibly up to 14 days but depending on cause	Exclusion recommended until examination by physician and then approved for readmission	Use precautions in handling eye discharge and hand washing

Doctor/Dentist Appointments

All appointments are strongly urged to be after school hours. If this is not possible, a parent /guardian or a designated guardian must come to the school office to pick up a student for a medical or dental appointment. **Students cannot be released unless an authorized person listed on the emergency contact is present.**

Health Requisites

PSOE employs a full-time counselor/social worker and school nurse. PSOE follows state law concerning proper immunization and requires that immunization records be on file before a student can attend school. All students must present, before admission, a physician's certificate listing the required immunizations as outlined by the State Board of Health. Parents/guardians are required to maintain a current record of immunizations with the school nurse for their child(ren).

Illness and Exclusion Policy

If a student shows any symptoms of illness, such as a temperature, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, or a rash, the child should not come to school until a diagnosis has been determined or the symptoms have disappeared. This helps reduce the spread of infections at school.

If a student shows symptoms of a serious illness while at school, the student is excluded from the regular school program, and the following procedures are followed:

1. The student is asked to report to the nurse's office.
2. Parents/guardians are notified to make arrangements to have the student picked up at school. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, the person designated on the emergency form is called. **It is essential that parents/guardians list people on the emergency card who can pick up the student if the parents/guardians cannot be reached.**

Permission to Administer Over-the-Counter Medication

Over the counter medications (such as Tylenol, non-aspirin pain relievers, cough syrups, cough drops) at school should be restricted to only when necessary. These are provided by the parent/guardian. The nurse's office **DOES NOT** keep medications of any type on hand.

Parents/guardians must sign a permission form from the school nurse authorizing dispensing over-the-counter medication for headaches or other common ailments.

Prescription Medication

The school nurse administers prescription medications when the following specific requirements are met.

1. A signed consent form is on file to give the medication
2. Medications are to be given to the school nurse in a pharmacy or manufacturer-labeled container.
3. The label must state:
 - a. Student's name
 - b. Name of the drug
 - c. Dosage
 - d. Directions for use
 - e. Physician's name
 - f. Expiration date of a time-dated drug

All prescription medications brought to school must be stored in the nurse's office, with the current supply kept to a 30-day minimum. The school nurse will work with the instructional staff to maintain consistency in the child's medication schedule.

Transporting of Medication

It is strongly recommended that primary students (K-5) **DO NOT** transport their medications. It is always best that a parent or guardian bring medications directly to school. The medicine will need to be given to the nurse's office in accordance with the medication policy.

Items of Interest or Concern

- Inhalers: Students may carry their inhalers if they have a written statement from the doctor. The nurse must be notified. Inhalers may be stored in the nurse's cabinet.
- If your child becomes ill or injured, it is imperative that the nurse's office has **three (3)** legitimate contact numbers on file. The nurse's office must be able to reach parents, guardians, or someone who will be responsible for the child and pick them up in a **timely** manner.
- PSOE has a "no active lice" policy. Any student diagnosed with lice must be free of active lice before returning to school. Information on lice control is available in the nurse's office. Students with active lice will be immediately sent home. Students can return 24 hours after medicinal treatment.
- Pink eye: Student can return 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotic.
- DO NOT send your child to school if they had a fever above **100 degrees or more** within the last **24 hours**. If they complain of feeling ill, please check their temperature before sending them to

school. After being sent home, students may return after 24 hours if the fever has abated without the aid of medication.

- DO NOT send your child to school if they have had **diarrhea or vomiting in the last 24 hours**.
- If your child has **any** type of infection, they must have been on an antibiotic for **24 hours** before returning to school.

Screening Tests

PSOE works with the State and local health agency to conduct age appropriate health screenings. These tests are carried out under the supervision of the school physician, school nurse, and/or specialist in a particular health field. Health screening procedures can only identify potential or existing health problems. School officials will notify parents/guardians of the results of the screening to allow the necessary follow up with medical personnel.

Indoor Air Quality Control

The health, comfort and learning environment of students and staff are important aspects of PSOE's mission. In accordance with IC 33-1-1, PSOE has identified the School Operations Manager, Mary Laffin, as the IAQ Coordinator for the school. Concerns can be submitted to the IAQ Coordinator via email school@paramountindy.org or by phone (317) 775-6660 x. 2011.

School Rules and Policies

Computer/Internet Policy

Use of PSOE's computer network is a privilege, not a right. Students may use the computers if they observe the rules as outlined below. Failure to follow these rules may result in loss of computer network privileges, time spent in Recovery, or suspension.

1. The network is to be used only for activities that support education and research related to assigned schoolwork.
2. When communicating with others on the Internet, students must be polite and appropriate at all times.
3. The network is not to be used for any illegal purpose. Illegal activities include tampering with the computer hardware or software, unauthorized entry into computers, or knowledgeable vandalism or destruction of computer files. Such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law and can result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion.
4. Copyrighted material is not to be copied without permission. Copyright laws and rules regarding software, information, and attribution of authorship are to be respected. No software other than what is provided by the school may be installed.
5. Any use of the network, which involves obscenity, profanity, racism, sexism, personal attacks, harassment, bullying of students on the basis of sex, race/color/national origin or disability, or offensive messages or pictures is prohibited and will result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion.
6. Passwords and/or accounts are not to be shared. Violations of the policy that can be traced to an individual account will be treated as the sole responsibility of the owner of the account.
7. It is against policy to attempt to use the accounts and passwords of others, using pseudonyms, anonymity or attempting to access information of others.
8. It is against policy to knowingly degrade the performance of the network. Electronic chain letters and "mail-bombs" are strictly prohibited.

9. Students who have knowledge of violations of these policies must report the information immediately to the teacher, school director, or system operator. Failure to do so can result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Dress Code

The school uniform selections are available exclusively through Charter School Uniforms, <https://www.parkersu.com/store/school/5600>.

All uniform items must adhere to policy as listed below. School uniform standards by grade level are available on our website at <http://paramountindy.org>. ***Any item of clothing that is excessive in distaste, fit, condition, or distraction may result in a removal from the classroom, parent/guardian call for alternative clothing, and/or discipline referral at the discretion of the principal.***

(K-2) Shirts Orange polo shirts are the only acceptable uniform shirt. These are available in both short and long sleeve. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. T-shirts should be worn under the PSOE school uniform shirtsleeve. No undershirt can be worn with sleeves that extend beyond the school uniform shirt.

(3-5) Shirts Light blue polo shirts are the only acceptable uniform shirt. These are available in both short and long sleeve. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. T-shirts should be worn under the PSOE school uniform shirtsleeve. No undershirt can be worn with sleeves that extend beyond the school shirt.

(6-8) Shirts Navy blue polo shirts are the only acceptable uniform shirt. These are available in both short and long sleeve. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. T-shirts should be worn under the PSOE school uniform shirtsleeve. No undershirt can be worn with sleeves that extend beyond the school shirt.

(K-8) Skirts/Skorts For girls, Khaki V-neck jumpers with pleated skirt and Khaki pleated skirts are the only acceptable school skirts. All skirts must be at least mid-thigh (safely below extended fingertips) in length. Shorts or under-skirts should be worn under all skirts.

(K-8) Shorts Khaki cotton shorts are the only acceptable uniform shorts. Shorts must be factory-hemmed, and be securely fastened at the waistline with a belt. No sagging or drooping is acceptable. Short length must be within three inches of the knees. Shorts are not acceptable on cold-weather days.

(K-8) Pants Khaki cotton twill pants are the only acceptable uniform pants. Pants must be securely fastened at the waistline with a belt and straight-legged. With pants containing belt loops, a belt must be worn. No drooping is acceptable. Pants are not to drag on the ground. Pedal-pusher, cargo, and capri pants are not acceptable.

Sweaters Navy blue zipper or button sweaters and sweater vests are the only acceptable uniform sweater. No sweatshirts, hoodies, or jackets are allowed while in school. No logos may appear on sweaters or sweater vests. Students may wear jackets and coats during inclement weather, but must remove the jacket or coat after arrival.

Hair All students' hair must be neat, clean, and well-groomed. Hairstyles should not create a safety or health hazard and/or interfere with the educational environment of the school. Decorations in hair must not be excessive or have the potential to cause distractions. Any hair decoration that is excessive in size or distraction may be removed at the discretion of the teacher and/or school director.

Shoes Shoes must be **a tennis shoes with non-marking soles**. Shoes must be closed (heel and toe) and sturdy. Students may wear boots during inclement weather, but must change into tennis shoes after arrival.

Belts Whenever school pants are worn, belts must be worn at all times. Belts must be less than 2" in width, **must be brown or black**, must be leather, synthetic leather, or vinyl, and must be worn through the belt loops of the school pants. Belt buckles must be plain and not oversized, branded, or iconic.

Socks Navy blue, black, brown, or white crew socks, calf length, and knee-high socks are appropriate. All students must wear socks. No logos may appear on the socks. Girls may wear white or navy tights or socks.

Jewelry, Body Piercing, Tattoos Outside of earrings, no body piercing is permitted. Tattoos are not permitted. Any tattoos, temporary or permanent, must be removed before the student may attend class. Jewelry should not dangle (earrings, necklaces, chains, etc.) or interfere with the educational environment of the school. Necklaces or chains may not be worn on the outside of the school shirt or jumper. Boys and girls may wear stud-style earrings (one per ear) that fasten securely to the ear lobe and do not dangle. Outside of a watch, no bracelets may be worn. Hair bands, Silly Bands, and rubber bands are not to be worn on the fingers, hands, feet, ankles, legs, wrist, arms, or neck. A single ring may be worn on each hand. Any jewelry that is excessive in size or distraction may be removed at the discretion of the teacher and principal.

Toys / Collectibles

Items such as collectable cards, playing cards, portable electronic audio devices, including radios, tape players, CD players, beepers, pointers, iPods, and mobile telephones are not to be brought to school. If a student is found using any of these items, the item is confiscated and turned over to the principal. The item is returned to the student at the close of school on Friday of the week it is confiscated. If a second violation occurs, the student's parent or guardian must pick up the item at the administrative office.

Telephone Calls, Mobile Telephones and Messages

Cellular phones and other communication devices are not permitted on school property by students during the school year/instructional day. Telephone messages will only be delivered in emergency cases. Students who ask and receive permission may use the school office telephone. **Students are not permitted to call home to receive permission for fieldtrips or for forgotten class work.**

Visitor Procedures

ALL visitors and volunteers (this includes parents/guardians) must sign in and out at the school office. Volunteers in the buildings will receive special nametags designating them as building volunteers. Volunteers, visitors and parents/guardians are not to use cellular phones within instructional areas/classrooms, as it interferes with instruction. Parents/guardians wishing to visit the classroom during instructional time must make arrangements a minimum of 24 hours in advance. The school's Visitor Policy is available at the school office.

Student Discipline

PSOE student discipline policies and guidelines are executed in accordance with Indiana Code, IC 20-8.1-5.1. Copies of the Code can be made available in the school office.

Search and Seizure Policy

1. The School Board recognizes that the privacy of students and their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable cause for a search.
 - As used in this policy, “reasonable cause for a search” means any circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing will lead to the discovery of:
 - i. Evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook; or
 - ii. Anything, which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.
2. All lockers and other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school corporation and are provided for the use of the students are subject to inspection, access for maintenance, and search pursuant to this policy. A student who uses a locker that is the property of a school is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or the locker's contents. No student shall lock or otherwise impede access to any locker or storage area except with a lock provided by or approved by the principal of the school in which the locker or storage area is located. Unapproved locks shall be removed and destroyed.
3. The principal, or a member of administrative staff designated in writing by the Executive Director, may search a locker and its contents where either the person conducting the search or the person designating the search believes there is reasonable cause. Where the locker to be searched is assigned to a particular student and that student is on the school premises at the time of the search, the student shall be notified prior to the search and given the option to be present at the search.
4. The principal, a member of the administrative staff, or a teacher may search a desk or any other storage area on school premises other than a locker when the person conducting the search has reasonable cause for a search.
5. The principal, or another member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the Executive Director and acting at the direction of the principal, may search the person of a student during a school activity if the principal has reasonable grounds for a search of that student.
 - Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to:
 - i. Searches of the pockets of the student,
 - ii. Any object in the possession of the student such as a purse or briefcase, and/or
 - iii. A supervised “pat down” of the exterior of the student’s clothing by a staff member of the same sex.
6. Searches of the person of a student that require removal of clothing other than a coat or jacket shall be referred to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy. A person of the same sex as the student being searched shall conduct searches of the person of a student in a private room. At least one, but not more than three, additional persons of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness, but not participate, in the search. At the request of the student to be searched, an additional person of the same sex as the student designated by the student, and then reasonably available on school premises shall witness the search. The parent or guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.
7. Anything found during a search conducted in accordance with this policy, which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook, may, as deemed appropriate by school authorities, be:

- Seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if it is tagged for identification at the time it is seized and kept in a secure place by the school director/principal or the school director's designee until it is presented at the hearing,
 - Returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized,
 - Destroyed if it has no significant value, or
 - Turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.
8. Anything found during a search conducted in accordance with this policy which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person may be seized and, as considered appropriate by school authorities, may be:
- Returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized,
 - Destroyed, or
 - Turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.
9. The school director/principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the school director, may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:
- Search any area of school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on school premises;
 - Identify or dispose of anything found during a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

Where law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school employee shall assist or otherwise participate in any search conducted.

Core Expectations

The following directives, known as the "**Core Expectations**," represent basic beliefs of PSOE, which all students are expected to follow. These rules apply at all times the school is responsible for the students, including any off-site, school-sponsored functions such as field trips, sporting events, and overnight retreats.

1. Listen to and follow the directions of the teachers and staff
2. Do your best, work hard, and strive to achieve
3. Cooperate and help others
4. Treat yourself and others with respect
5. Respect the property and rights of others
6. Do not disrupt the educational process
7. Be honest in word and deed
8. Be responsible for your actions and for what you need to do

Each of the Core Expectations promotes the PSOE values –

- **Contribute More:** through a commitment to outstanding moral character
- **Desire More:** through a commitment to academic growth
- **Do More:** through a commitment to creating a sense of community
- **Learn More:** through a commitment to core curriculum
- **Expect More:** through a commitment to measurable results

Recovery

Recovery is a system of behavior and academic support. The Recovery Process supports teachers in protecting the learning environment from distractions and off-task behaviors while also providing a setting where students continue to work and be academically challenged. Additionally, students receive the support of a counselor to unpack with and provide for their emotional and social needs. Students may

receive support in this classroom at any time throughout the school day depending on when they meet the criteria for entry, which includes habitual behaviors that negatively influence the learning environment. After students enter the Recovery Room, the staff strives to prepare the students to reenter the home classroom as quickly as possible, however, students must meet readiness benchmarks before returning to class. If the student does not comply with the Recovery procedures, the student could be escalated through the school's discipline process.

Recovery Parents/guardian

Expulsion

The following behaviors may result in a student being expelled for a period of time as allowed by Indiana law:

- Causing serious injury to another person
- Habitual misbehavior
- Possession, use of, sale of, or furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.
 - In order to maintain a safe environment, PSOE does not recognize a discernable difference between the possession of a real firearm, knife, or explosive device and an imitation or replica of a firearm, knife, or explosive device.
- Unlawful possession of, use, or sale of any controlled substance
- Robbery or extortion
- Offering, furnishing, or sale of any drug paraphernalia
- Criminal behavior
- Threats of a terrorist nature, hate violence, or hate crimes
- Sexual assault
- Battery

Forms and processes for appealing expulsion are available in the school office, and are outlined in Indiana Code, IC 20-8.1-5.1, Chapter 5.1, Suspension, Expulsion and Student Discipline.

PSOE expects all students to conduct themselves in a civil and socially responsible manner. Disciplinary measures, carried out in accordance with state law, are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment.

Notification of an expulsion hearing before the administration will be sent in accordance with IC 20-8.1-5.1-13. Formal findings from such a hearing will be explained in writing to the parents/guardians and the principal of PSOE with stipulations outlining the length of the expulsion.

Any student who has been expelled pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees as specified in IC 20-8.1-5.1-13. When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section and applies for admission to another school for acceptance, the Head of School of PSOE shall notify the head of the receiving school of the reasons for the pupil's expulsion.

Procedural Due Process

Procedural Due Process is afforded to all students, subject to discipline and includes the following:

1. Opportunity to respond to charges in front of a qualified teacher or administrator of the school
2. Opportunity to present witnesses

3. Notification of all evidence
4. Notification of formal outcome within a certain number of days of hearing
5. Right to appeal

Procedures for all Expulsion Hearings

1. A presentation of the evidence against the student is stated by the Hearing Officer (Head of School or Administrative designee) at the school.
2. A presentation by the student and parent/guardian or parent/guardian's designee (individual) of any defense or mitigating circumstances.
3. Submission of written statements from any person in defense of the student accepted by the Hearing Officer. The student may present witnesses and evidence in rebuttal of the school's allegation to the Hearing Officer.
4. The Hearing Officer records a summary of the facts and disputed evidence.
5. Failure of the pupil and/or parent/guardian to appear at the hearing without good cause constitutes a waiver of the hearing and the case is reviewed by the Hearing Officer (Head of School or designee). A decision is rendered on the evidence available.
6. On the day of the hearing, a presentation detailing the reasons for the decision is given to the student and parent or guardian. Formal findings from the hearing officer will be mailed within ten (10) days of the hearing. The decision may authorize return to school at an earlier date, and may include an alternative educational plan or an evaluation request under Chapter 766.

General School Rules and Policy

PSOE facilitates the development of disciplined individuals toward fostering a community of learners attitude and environment. PSOE celebrates the development of our students and recognizes positive growth in all areas, while at the same time correcting negative choices and teaching the proper way.

Policies and consequences consistent with our mission are necessary to ensure a safe learning environment for every child.

Inappropriate Behavior

Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Disrespectful or inappropriate talk and actions
- Disobedience
- Misusing school equipment, or that of others
- Running in class, or in the hallways
- Littering
- Teasing
- Horseplay
- Bullying of students on the basis of sex, race/color/national origin or disability
- Sexual harassment

Teachers will discuss the above behaviors with children and will contact parents/guardians in working together to find a resolution. If the child's behavior problems continue, a referral to the office administration may occur.

Referrals

It is at the discretion of the teacher to refer a child to the administration for intervention of behaviors. Administration will talk with the child, as well as others involved, to understand the circumstances surrounding the incident.

PSOE uses a two-level referral system. Level 1 referrals are referrals where students have mildly disrupted the school or educational environment. These referrals result in a written message, face-to-face discussion with the parent/guardian, or a parent/guardian phone call, along with an intervention/redirection of the student. Level 2 referrals are referrals where students have severely impacted the safety or academic environment of the school. In these cases, the student will face a suspension and/or expulsion, and the parent/guardian will be notified. Habitual Level 1 offenses will escalate to Level 2 suspensions.

Depending on the circumstances that caused the referral, a student may receive a brief “time out” period, or may receive another form of consequence. These may include removal from the classroom, temporary time in Recovery, all day time in Recovery, out of school suspension, or expulsion. Conflict resolution, individual, and/or group counseling may be involved as a component of PSOE’s intervention strategies. Upon each referral to the administration, an attempt to contact the parent or guardian will be made to inform the parent/guardian of the incident as well as the consequences. ***It is a shared responsibility of the parents/guardians to teach and model PSOE’s Core Expectations.***

Suspension

The following behaviors may result in immediate Level 2 suspension:

- Fighting
- Biting/spitting
- Forgery
- Harassment/bullying others (including all forms of cyber-bullying)
- Disrupting the educational environment or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of staff, teachers, or other school officials
- Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical harm to another
- Causing or attempting to cause damage or school property or private property
- Stealing or attempting to steal school property or private property
- Possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substance
- Committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity
- Sexual advances, request of sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Causing or attempting to bring harm to another through hate language or threats of violence
- Habitual Level 1 misbehavior
- Excessive tardiness or absenteeism

Suspensions may be in-school or out-of-school as specified in the notice of referral letter that accompanies each suspension. Parents/guardians may be required to return to school with their child to meet with members of the school staff and administrative team as specified in the notice of referral letter.

Threats to Staff – Clarification of Assault & Battery Definition

Assault (as defined by Indiana Law) is when a student or parent/guardian makes a verbal threat to intimidate or do physical harm to any staff member. The staff member must have a well-founded fear that the threat is real and the perpetrator must have the present ability to carry out the threat. Battery is when

a student or parent/guardian touches, hits, kicks or shoves a staff member in a threatening manner. Any well-founded student threats to staff, or student battery of staff will result in immediate suspension and possible expulsion. Any well-founded parent/guardian threats to staff, or parent/guardian battery of staff will result in an immediate referral to local authorities.

Family and Student Support

A family and student support network works with school personnel, students and families to assist students who are having difficulty adhering to expected attendance or behavior policies, who are experiencing other crisis or concerns in their lives, or who are struggling with academics. Generally, referrals are made after interventions by the teacher and lead teacher were not successful. Parents/guardians may also request intervention by contacting the principal. Response to Intervention is one approach used when strategies are needed to support our students academically and/or behaviorally. Information is available in the school office.

Family Allies Community Team (FACT)

The Family Allies Community Team (FACT) serves to connect families to school and support learning at home for every family at PSOE. Members of the team visit each PSOE family every year for a home or community visit. The team meets with parents and guardians wherever is convenient. This can be at a family's home, nearby coffee shop, library, lunch break at work, etc. During these visits, families will discuss community and educational resources that can help them support their student and have a successful school year. Families can expect a phone call from FACT during the school year to schedule this visit.

Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy

PSOE encourages an atmosphere in which parents/guardians, administration, and faculty join in a partnership to foster the mission of PSOE. This partnership offers an environment for collaboration and exchange of information between school and parents/guardians.

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Parents/guardians are encouraged to become official volunteers at PSOE. To become a volunteer for the school, parents/guardians must undergo training with school administration, and submit to a background check. Then parents/guardians are aligned with an age group and skill set that fits well with their talents and abilities.

SCO

All parents/guardians are invited to attend monthly School Community Organization (SCO) meetings and to join committees or volunteer for activities. The SCO meets on the schedule will be announced in the school office and/or school newsletter. Teachers are members of the SCO.

An administrator is present at all meetings to give information and answer parent/guardian questions.

Annually, PSOE will convene a meeting with the SCO at the beginning of the school year. All efforts will be made to have the parent/guardian involvement meeting the same day as PSOE's Back to School Day.

Policy

1. Parents/guardians have the responsibility to be actively involved and participate in their child's educational experience.
2. Parents/guardians will receive information on all parent/guardian programs a minimum of one week in advance.
3. Parents/guardians will be informed that the SCO provides the opportunity for parents/guardians to raise concerns about school-wide policy. A member of the SCO will serve as a liaison to the school board of PSOE.
4. Parents/guardians will receive the SCO newsletter monthly.
5. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to participate in school-based workshops on how to improve their child's schoolwork.
6. Parents/guardians will receive an explanation of curriculum during the Back to School event held in August from their child's teacher. Parents/guardians who are unable to attend Back to School Day can meet one-on-one with their child's teacher to receive the information.
7. Parents/guardians will receive an explanation of the curriculum, DIBELS, Acuity, and ISTEP assessments at the Back to School Day held in August.
8. Parents/guardians will receive the voicemail number and email address of their child's teacher in the welcome letter sent to parents/guardians and students before the start of school.
9. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to make decisions regarding the education of their child by initiating conversation with the child's teacher. School-wide concerns should be addressed through the SCO group for presentation to the director and school board.
10. Parents/guardians will be informed of teacher professional development days through the school newsletter. Professional development of teachers includes ways to build a successful communication bridge between the school and home.
11. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to review materials on how they can improve their child's academic achievement in the parent/guardian resource area. Parents/guardians should contact the PSOE counselor to set up an appointment for the resource area. Additional support may be provided at the parents/guardians' request.
12. Parents/guardians that need documents written in Spanish will have the opportunity to select "Spanish Materials" on the application for enrollment and registration forms at PSOE.
13. Parents/guardians will have the option to sign a written agreement of what the school and parents/guardians are each supposed to do to help their student achieve.

Conflict Resolution and Parent/Guardian Complaints

Parents/guardians who feel that their rights have been violated or that the needs of their child are not being met should schedule an appointment with their child's teacher by phone or email. If the issue is not resolved, the parent/guardian should place the issue in writing, and contact the school director by phone or email. If the issue is not resolved after meeting with the principal, the parent/guardian should submit an official complaint (Official PSOE Complaint Procedures can be found at the school office and on the school website).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents/guardians certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents/guardians or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents/guardians or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents/guardians or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records, which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent/guardian or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent/guardian or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent/guardian or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents/guardians and eligible students about directory information and allow parents/guardians and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents/guardians and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.