2026-2027 STUDENT HANDBOOK

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER(s) OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS CHANGE. WRITTEN NOTIFICATION WITH DATE AND SIGNATURE REQUIRED.

A+ WELCOME TO DESTIN ELEMENTARY

HOME OF THE DOLPHINS
2026-2027

Welcome to Destin Elementary! ***A New Wave of Excellence***

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to another exciting year at Destin Elementary School! We are thrilled to begin this school year together and celebrate an incredible milestone—25 years as an A-rated school by the State of Florida! This achievement reflects the dedication of our students, teachers, staff, families, and community. We are proud of our tradition of excellence, and we are excited about what the future holds.

This year brings an especially exciting new chapter as we move into our new 3rd–5th grade wing. While our building may be growing and changing, our commitment remains the same: to ensure that every student makes meaningful learning progress and reaches his or her highest potential.

Our emphasis on student achievement, positive student interactions, and a strong sense of belonging makes Destin Elementary a place where learning and fun go hand in hand. We want every Dolphin to feel safe, supported, challenged, and excited to come to school each day. Throughout the year, students will encounter challenges, but we will encourage them to see those challenges not as roadblocks to learning, but as opportunities for growth, perseverance, and success.

We believe that the strongest schools are built through strong partnerships with families and the community. We invite and encourage you to become an active partner in your child's education by joining our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), serving on our School Advisory Council (SAC), volunteering in your child's classroom, or participating in our mentor program. Your involvement makes a difference and helps make Destin Elementary an even stronger school community.

This handbook contains important information, policies, and procedures to help keep you informed as we work together to support student success. Please take time to review the information carefully and keep this handbook available throughout the school year. If you have questions or cannot find the information you need, please contact the school office. We are always happy to assist you.

Destin Elementary is truly a school that pursues excellence. As we begin this new year, let us continue to challenge ourselves, celebrate growth, support one another, and make every day an opportunity to learn something new.

I am confident that with the partnership and support of our students, families, staff, and community, this will be another rewarding and memorable school year for everyone.
Together, we are ready to make waves!

With Dolphin Pride,

Amy Morgan
Principal

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OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Okaloosa County, Florida
2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Pre-School Planning	**Friday - Tuesday**	**August 5 – Aug. 10, 2026**
Professional Development Day	Friday	August 7, 2026
First Day of School for Students	**Tuesday**	**August 11, 2026**
Labor Day Holiday	Monday	September 7, 2026
End: 1st Grading Period	**Friday**	**October 9, 2026**
Teacher Work Day/ Student Holiday	Monday	October 12, 2026
Veterans Day Holiday	**Wednesday**	**November 11, 2026**
Thanksgiving Holidays	Monday-Friday	November 23 - 27, 2026
End of First Semester	**Friday**	**December 18, 2026**
Winter Break Holidays	Monday - Wednesday	December 21 – January 4, 2027
Teacher Work Day/ Student Holiday	**Tuesday**	**January 5, 2027**
Professional Development Day/Student Holiday	Wednesday	January 6, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	**Monday**	**January 18, 2027**
President's Day Holiday	Monday	February 15, 2027
End: 3rd Grading Period	**Friday**	**March 12, 2027**
Spring Break Holiday	Monday - Friday	March 15 – 19, 2027
Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday	**Monday**	**March 22, 2027**
End of Semester/Last Day for Students	Thursday	May 27, 2027
Memorial Day Holiday	**Monday**	**May 31, 2027**
Last Day for Teachers	Tuesday	June 1, 2027

SCHOOL MISSION

To provide high-quality instruction and an engaging environment designed purposefully to meet needs of students to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. By setting high expectations, we will build a culture centered on having a positive growth mindset in all aspects of our students' lives.

SCHOOL DAY



SCHOOL HOURS

School hours will be 8:25 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. For safety and supervision reasons, students should not come on campus without being in the company of an adult prior to 8:00 a.m. If a student repeatedly arrives prior to this time without a school-approved purpose, the parent/guardian will be contacted by the school office. If early arrival continues, students will be sent to Boys & Girls Club and parents may be billed for services.

Students arriving after 8:25 are tardy and must be escorted by parent to the office to receive a tardy pass. See Policy for Late Arrival

2:52 Bus Riders
2:54 Car riders
2:55 Walkers/Bike Riders/Daycare dismissed

SAFETY

Students who walk, ride bicycles, or ride the bus to school must have a clear understanding of the safety rules from parents. The school will reinforce these rules for the safety of our children in partnership with the home and school. Reinforcement by both parties will assure students of the importance of these rules and student safety.



LATE ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS

Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms by 8:25 a.m. An adult must escort their child to the office and sign in if they arrive after the bell. A tardy pass will be issued allowing the student to enter class. Students should arrive at school in time to put away backpacks, turn in homework and notes, sharpen pencils, and prepare for the day before the last bell rings. If your child eats breakfast in the cafeteria, please allow them enough time to eat and get to class before 8:25 a.m. Breakfast is served daily from 8:00 a.m. until 8:20 a.m.

EARLY CHECKOUT

Early checkout is discouraged due to instructional time missed. In the case of an emergency or medical appointment, please refer to the following checkout policy. Excused checkouts are defined under the Attendance Requirements section.

Students will not be able to leave school unless they have first been checked out through the front office. Teachers are not permitted to release a student to a parent

or any individual without prior permission from the office, except under special circumstances such as award ceremony days, field days, and field trips. To avoid class distractions, parents will not be allowed to go to the classroom. **A photo ID is required at all times in order to remove a student from school**. *To ensure a safe dismissal, there will be NO checkouts after 2:15 p.m. unless there is an illness or emergency.*

VISITORS

All visitors to our school must report to the school office and sign in utilizing our digital security system before entering any other part of the school. The office personnel will deliver messages or forgotten items to the students. A visitor's pass must be worn while visiting all areas of the school. To provide a secure environment, all gates and entrances are locked once the last school bus arrives at school. After this time, students and parents should enter through the front office. Student visitors from other schools or small children are not permitted to visit the classrooms during school hours. Parents are welcome to visit, but must pre-arrange the visit with the teacher and administration at least 24 hours in advance of the planned visit.

MESSAGES



Interruption of the school day in each classroom is discouraged. Therefore, only in the case of an emergency will phone calls be sent directly into a classroom but instead will be directed to the teacher's voicemail. While most frequent message requests concern changes in student transportation, please be mindful that many teachers will not be able to check their voicemail until the end of the school day as instructional time is prioritized. Thus, we ask that all such arrangements be made prior to the student's arrival each day. This will reduce unnecessary classroom interruptions and will help ensure that a student clearly understands what he/she is to do after school on a given day. **Please also be aware that, unless the office is notified in writing with a parent/guardian signature, students will be required to go home the way they came to school or via their regularly established departure plan.**

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Students and parents are responsible for exercising care in the use of textbooks and library books loaned to them. The parent/guardian must pay for lost or damaged books at full replacement cost.

WEBSITE

The school website lists current information such as activities, events, announcements and special functions. www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/DestinEs. In addition, teachers will send home class newsletters containing pertinent academic and class information.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

****Destin Elementary is not responsible for lost or stolen items.****

Parents are urged to label student's personal items such as jackets, sweaters, and lunchboxes with the child's name (first and last). Students are strongly discouraged from wearing expensive jewelry and bringing more money than is needed for the day. A lost and found is located in the cafeteria. **Children are not allowed to bring toys from home.** *Cell phones/Cellular Watches should be silenced; not used during the school day and should be kept in the child's backpack so they are not visible or distracting student learning. Please refer to the OCSD policy on electronic devices for further information.*

TRANSPORTATION

CHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION

The following is Okaloosa School Board Policy*:* **SCHOOL BOARD POLICY F-7 RELEASE OF PUPILS DURING SCHOOL HOURS – STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANYONE EXCEPT PARENTS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES (WRITTEN CERTIFICATION REQUIRED) DURING SCHOOL HOURS.**

Please be advised that bus transportation is determined based on the student's home address on file. Parents and guardians are not permitted to request alternate bus stops at locations other than the student's primary residence. This policy is in place to ensure consistency and safety for all students.

We must enforce the rules as written and require the custodial parent to give us written documentation when regular dismissal routines are to be changed. This may place a slight burden on the custodial parent to provide the necessary documentation for the appropriate authorities, but such a safeguard is critical for the protection of our students.

If a student is to go home with a friend, to a sitter, or to any place other than the usual afternoon plan, the student must bring a note, signed by the parent with the date, child's name, teacher's name, address, phone number of the destination where the child will be going. **The student will bring the note to the office for approval by the principal. *DISTRICT POLICY STATES THAT NO CHANGES OF STUDENT'S REGULAR AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS CAN BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE.**

BICYCLE AND SCOOTERS

All students who ride bicycles or scooters to and from school should always park and lock their bicycles/scooters in the racks located in the front and back of the school. Students are to walk their scooters, bicycles, skateboards while on school property. **Florida law requires that all students wear an appropriate bicycle helmet**.

BUS RIDERS



Transportation by bus is available to elementary students living one mile or more from the school or living within a mile of the school but forced to cross predetermined hazardous walking areas. Only zoned students qualify for school bus transportation consideration. Students are to behave in an orderly manner while on the school bus and at bus stops. Students may be excluded from riding the school bus if they do not follow prescribed county behavioral regulations.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY M-12, 10, STATES, "NO CHILD SHALL BE PERMITTED TO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS HOME WHO WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION IN THE MORNING. IN THE EVENT A STUDENT IS REQUESTING TO RIDE A BUS IN THE AFTERNOON AND WAS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RIDE THAT BUS IN THE MORNING, HE/SHE MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES: (1) THE STUDENT MUST HAVE A PERMISSION SLIP SIGNED BY THE PARENT STATING THAT HE/SHE HAS ALLOWED THE CHILD TO RIDE THE BUS, (2) THE STUDENT MUST TAKE THE PERMISSION SLIP IN ADVANCE TO THE OFFICE FOR SIGNATURE, AND (3) THE SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP MUST THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE BUS DRIVER.

Please note that special permission to be transported will not occur if the bus is already at capacity.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

1. STAND OFF ROADWAY WHILE WAITING FOR THE BUS.
2. PUPILS MUST BE ON TIME: BUS WILL NOT WAIT FOR THOSE WHO ARE TARDY.
3. PUPILS MUST BOARD AND LEAVE THE BUS AT THEIR REGULAR STOP.
4. WALK 10 FEET IN FRONT OF THE BUS. WAIT FOR DRIVER'S SIGNAL BEFORE CROSSING ROAD.
5. THE DRIVER IS IN FULL CHARGE OF BUS PUPILS. PUPILS MUST OBEY DRIVER.
6. THE DRIVER HAS THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN SEATS. PUPILS MUST SIT 3 TO A SEAT FROM WINDOW TO AISLE.
7. KEEP YOUR SEAT AT ALL TIMES WHEN BUS IS MOVING.
8. KEEP ARMS AND HEADS INSIDE WINDOW. NO OBJECTS SHALL BE THROWN FROM WINDOWS OR AT BUS.
9. UNNECESSARY CONVERSATION WITH THE DRIVER IS DANGEROUS.
10. OTHER THAN ORDINARY CONVERSATION, CLASSROOM CONDUCT IS TO BE OBSERVED.
11. ABSOLUTE SILENCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL RAILROAD CROSSINGS.
12. NO EATING, DRINKING OR USE OF TOBACCO IS ALLOWED ON BUS.
13. NO ANIMALS (DEAD OR ALIVE), GLASS OR GLASS CONTAINERS, SHARP OBJECTS, BALL BATS, CUTTING INSTRUMENTS, BATONS, AND DRUMSTICKS WILL BE ALLOWED ON BUS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF DRIVER.

14. LARGE OBJECTS INCLUDING BAND INSTRUMENTS THAT INTERFERE WITH SEATING AND SAFETY OF OTHER STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON BUS.

15. RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE. SERIOUS OR REPEATED MISCONDUCT MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE BUS.

Violations of the rules will result in the school addressing infractions according to the district Bus Infraction Elementary Matrix.

CAR RIDER SAFETY PROCEDURES

It is essential that all persons who drive on our campus drive carefully.

They should understand that children often do the unexpected. Drive slowly (5 mph) and with great caution. Adults transporting a student to or from school should drive to Benning Drive to enter in the 3rd-5th Car Ramp or proceed to turn east on Kelly Street and enter the K-2 designated car drop-off and pick-up zone located at the northwest corner of the school.

Pay careful attention to the School Zone warning lights, the crossing guards and the speed limit. Following these guidelines will ensure the safety of our students and aid the staff and crossing guards with directing traffic:

A.M. DROP OFF

- ALL STUDENTS: Upon arrival, students will be directed to their assigned area in the cafeteria, classroom hallway, or atrium where they will be supervised until 8:15 a.m., and then be released to class.
- **Never create a safety hazard by dropping off or picking up a student across the street from the school.**
- Do not drive off until your child steps onto the sidewalk.
- Arrive early - 8:00 a.m.- to avoid traffic delays
- Students arriving after 8:25 are tardy. Parents are to park at the Front Office and walk their child in to be checked in.
- For the safety of others, please avoid using your cell phone in the parking lot and in the car rider lines. Cell phones are distracting!
- Patience – Patience – Patience

P.M. PICKUP

- A school issued ID card with your child's personal ID number must be visible. Students will not be placed in a car not displaying the required ID tag.
- Individuals without an ID tag will report to the office with photo identification. The Office Staff will verify and notify the car ramp to have the student report to the office.
- Load children from the right side of your vehicle only.
- Students will not be released to parents who park and walk up to the car dismissal area.
- The car ramp is a NO PARKING zone, cars should not be left unattended.

- Please encourage your child to come directly to the car ramp at dismissal.
- For the safety of others, please avoid using your cell phone in the parking lot and in the car rider lines. Cell phones are distracting!
- Again – Patience – Patience – Patience



INCLEMENT WEATHER DISMISSAL
(SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)



Establish a rainy day plan with your child. Have an understanding when and where you will meet. Phone messages for your child will not be allowed.

WALKERS: If inclement weather dismissal is decided, students who are walkers will be asked to report to the car rider area to wait for parents to come pick them up. Students will not be allowed to walk home from school during inclement weather dismissal. **Be prepared to show your Car ID TAG or report to the office with photo ID**.

CAR RIDERS: Car riders will be dismissed as usual. If you pick your student up as a car rider, always have your Car ID TAG visible.

BUS RIDERS: In inclement weather, please allow your child to continue to ride the bus. Parents may take or pick up their child at the **BUS STOP**. This will help with our traffic problem at the school on rainy days.

****IF POSSIBLE, WE WILL POST ANY LAST MINUTE INCLEMENT WEATHER DISMISSAL ACTIVITY ON OUR WEBSITE ****
www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/destin

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-5) ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS
(Okaloosa District Policy)



Regular attendance provides students the opportunity to master required skills at each grade level. Many integral activities, including class discussions, group experiences, field trips, guest speakers, and group instruction, cannot be simulated or replicated with the written work. Therefore, with the goal of promoting student success, Okaloosa County Public Schools has adopted a uniform Attendance Policy. It is our intent to encourage honest, accurate, and consistent adherence to this policy by all students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

To fully benefit from the instructional program provided at Destin Elementary, students are expected to attend school regularly, be on time for classes, remain at school for the entire instructional day, and satisfy all course requirements. Poor attendance, excessive tardiness and/or frequent early checkouts may result in low or failing grades. If a student's absences begin to increase and/or tardiness becomes an issue, a formal letter from the principal will be mailed home. Such correspondence is intended to alert parents of county-wide attendance regulations.

A. Reporting an Absence

When a student accumulates a total of eighteen (18) excused or unexcused absences within a year, the student must have an excuse from the doctor or an official agency (i.e. Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, etc.) for each subsequent absence.

1. After the ninth (9th), but before the fifteenth (15th) absence (excused or unexcused), the parent will be notified.
2. After the ninth (9th) absence (excused of unexcused), a letter will be sent to the parents notifying them of the necessity for a doctor's excuse or an excuse from an official agency. In addition, this letter will notify parents of the consequences of any additional absences.
3. All absences after the tenth (10th) must be reviewed by a child study team, i.e. guidance committee, attendance committee etc., for recommendations
4. Students will have five (5) school days, including the day they return, to bring in written verification for an excused absence. The absence will be considered unexcused if the school does not receive verification for the absence within that time frame.

B. Absences Defined

1. **Excused Absences** are absences resulting from:
   - Death in the family;
   - Any reason up to 9 absences per period per semester;
   - Illness or injury requiring medical or dental attention (physician's statement required);
   - Illness, injury, or circumstances not requiring medical attention will require a parent note explaining the absences, up to 9 absences per semester;
   - Appointments for medical or dental care (physician's note required);
   - Appointments scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy;
   - Religious holidays: students are permitted to be absent in observance of established religious holidays, but they must be counted absent on all school records. Absences of a religious nature, preceded by prior parent notice, will not require written notification on the student's return to school. Review School Board Policy for additional information.

2. **Unexcused Absences** are absences resulting from:
    - Any absences not designated as excused/unverified absences
    - Truancy
    - Suspension
    - Expulsion
    - Participation in private lessons, activities, or classes sponsored by outside agencies

Students who are suspended from school, expelled, or truant will receive a grade of zero (0) for any classwork, tests, and assignments by the teacher on the day of the absence.

When a student accumulates a total of ten (10) excused or unexcused absences the student will be referred to the MTSS Team.

TARDINESS

The parent will be notified when a student has reached five (5) unexcused* early checkouts and/or late arrivals within a semester. When the number of early checkouts and/or late arrivals reach seven (7) within a semester, the parent will be required (at the principal discretion) to have a conference with the principal or the principal's designee.

NOTE: Students who must leave school as a result of illness will be excused.
*Excused tardies will be defined the same as absences in section 3, A.

MAKE UP WORK

For excused absences, the student will be expected to make up the work missed during the time of absence. Parents should contact the school office to request make up work for excused absences. If the school is contacted in the morning, assignments may be ready for pick up from 3:00-3:15 that day. As a general rule, make-up work must be completed within five (5) school days after the student returns to school. However, the teacher and/or the principal may grant additional time for the make-up work if the individual situation warrants.

C. Truancy

If the school determines that a student subject to compulsory school attendance has had at least (5) unexcused absences within a calendar month or ten (10) unexcused absences or absences for which the reason is unknown within a 90-calendar-day period or has had more than fifteen (15) unexcused absences in a 90-calendar-day period, the superintendent of schools may file a truancy petition. **F.S. 984.03, F.S. 984.151, F.S. 1003.26** (Please refer to OCSD Pupil Progression Plan for further information regarding truancy.)

SCHOOL WITHDRAWALS

Parents may request a withdrawal by calling the office or in writing; giving date the transfer or withdrawal is to become effective and a change of address or location of next school. It is permissible and encouraged for parents to hand-carry a student's school records if the move is out of the county. The school office will need at least

three days in advance in order to have the records ready. All textbooks, library books, and cafeteria charges **must be cleared before** the student leaves.

MEDICAL

SCHOOL CLINIC

The purpose of the School Clinic is to provide care for a student who becomes ill or injured at school and for dispensing of medicines. OCHD provides a school clinic with a qualified Health Tech. If the Health Tech is absent, a substitute will serve in her capacity. As there are no facilities available to keep sick children for an extended period, parents will be called to pick up an ill child. **For any type of treatment, Health Cards need to be filled out through the parent's FOCUS account.**

Children with communicable diseases will be sent home and should have a doctor's certificate or certificate of clear health from the health department to re-enter (State Health Laws).

Telephone numbers to call in case a child gets sick or injured while at school are imperative. If parents plan to be out of town or cannot be easily reached, it is advised to leave a Power Of Attorney with a reliable contact person and a copy to the school Clinic. In addition, Twin Cities Hospital has a Kid Med Program for such emergencies. In case of serious accidents, an emergency vehicle will be called to transport the injured child to the nearest clinic or hospital.
If your child has any type of medical problem, please alert us as soon as possible as it will help us to better care for your child. Problems such as allergies, diabetes, seizures, etc. should be brought to our attention.

MEDICATIONS



In order for medicine to be administered at the school, parent permission and instructions must be obtained. The parent will be required to come into the clinic to fill out the Medication Administration Form when they hand carry the medication to the nurse. This form authorizes the school to assist in the administration of medication. The medication prescribed for the student **must** come in the **original container**.

The school's designee will record each dosage given on the Individual Medication Administration Log. If your child is on daily medication and you forget to give him/her the early morning dosage, you will need to come to the school and administer the medication and sign a new form giving us permission to give the next dosage later than the time stated on his/her medication form. Parents' phone calls are not acceptable to change the dosage or time of dosage. Changes in the dosage or the times medication is administered will require a physician's written permission. The first dosage of any new medication shall not be administered during school hours due to the possibility of an allergic reaction.
Non-prescription medication must be brought to school, by a parent, in an original, unopened container and shall be labeled with the student's name. A permission form

for the administration of medication must be completed, signed, dated, and kept on file. Each administration will be recorded on the Individual Medication Administration Log whenever given. No medication will be administered without permission. NO MEDICATION CAN BE FURNISHED BY THE CLINIC. **Under no circumstances are children to have any kind of medication in their possession while at school or on the school bus, including inhalers and EpiPens.**
The Okaloosa County Health Department provides Medication Administration Forms that will be used in the Clinic for all students. Each parent will be required to come into the clinic to fill out this form when they hand carry medication to the Nurse.

PUBLIC LAW 504

Those students who are not classified as exceptional students with active IEPs may qualify as handicapped persons as defined in Rule 6A-19.001(6) FAC and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1979. Rule 6A-19.001(6), FAC, defines a handicapped person as:
Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment: or is regarded as having such impairment.

1. Physical or mental impairment:
   a. Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, including speech organ; cardiovascular; reproductive, digestive, genito-urinary, hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or
   b. Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.
2. Major life activities: Functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
3. Has a record of such impairment: Has a history of, or has been incorrectly classified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
4. Is regarded as having an impairment:
   a. Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but that is treated by an institution as constituting such a limitation.
   b. Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities: as a result of the attitudes of others and, therefore, is treated by an institution, as having such impairment.

If you, as a parent, think that your child may qualify as handicapped under Section 504, please contact the school's guidance counselor. Medical verification of the handicapping condition is required.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Student accident insurance will be available during the first month of school for families who wish to purchase coverage. Specific information regarding coverage, benefits, and enrollment will be sent home as soon as it is available after the school year begins. Participation in this insurance program is optional and not required. The coverage has been selected with the needs of school-aged children in mind and may provide valuable protection in the event of a school-related accident. For your child's protection, we encourage you to review the information carefully and consider whether this coverage is appropriate for your family.

DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

If the educational process is to be successful, there must be close communication between parents and school staff in every aspect of the learning process. Parents are successful when they communicate discipline expectations to their children and monitor those expectations in a consistent manner at home. Schools are successful in the learning process when they communicate discipline expectations to the students and maintain that expectation in a consistent manner at school. When parents and schools work together with open communication about discipline expectations, students can be successful with their school activities with little interruption.

It is our belief that children progress best when there is order and consistency. This approach works best when a student's expectations are communicated to the student in a kind and fair manner. Students are expected to use self-discipline as part of their learning process. Understanding the importance of "being responsible for their actions" is a goal that must be achieved if students are to be successful citizens. **Under no circumstances will rude, defiant behavior be tolerated**. Disruptive behavior even by one student interferes with the learning process in the classroom; therefore, we have definite guidelines regarding misbehavior in the school setting.

Discipline reports are maintained by each teacher to report inappropriate behavior if needed. Consequences will be administered in a fair and firm manner.

Okaloosa County School Board Policy 4-33 states : the possession or display by a student of any sword, sword cane, electric weapon or device, air or CO2 powered device, destructive device, or other weapon, including a razor blade, box cutter or knife, while on school property, on school sponsored transportation, or while attending a school sponsored activity may warrant him/her up to a ten (10) day suspension from school and may be recommended for alternative placement by the principal, and the parent of guardian of the student shall be contacted regarding the incident.

THE SCHOOL PLAN OF ACTION FOR DISCIPLINE

1. Individual Classroom Plan of Action
   You will receive class plans for behavior as soon as teachers and students have agreed upon their class rules and consequences. The Principal's plan is a continuation of the Classroom Plan.
2. Principal's Plan of Action
   After taking the steps in the Individual Class Plan, the student will be referred to the principal.

LUNCHROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. Students are asked to follow these simple rules:



1. Stay seated
2. Keep your feet under the table
3. Use quiet voices
4. Raise your hand for assistance
5. No talking between tables
6. No sharing of food, due to the food allergies of some children

B. The lunchroom monitors will monitor student behavior. They will notify classroom teachers of any misbehavior. A time out table will be established for any inappropriate behavior from a student who has previously reported. A student may also be assigned to the time-out table for a first offense if the monitors deem it necessary. The time-out table is for immediate use by the monitors and will not be used for on-going discipline.

C. Minimum consequences for Inappropriate Behavior in the lunchroom will be:

1. 1st Offense – Lunchroom monitors talk with the students about behavior.
2. 2nd Offense – Notify teacher on duty.
3. 3rd Offense – Notify Administration.

Each nine weeks every student will begin with a clean slate.

DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS

(A) Appropriate student grooming and dress are primarily the responsibility of the student and parent. However, in adopting a student dress code, it is the intent of the school board to ensure that a student's personal hygiene, appearance, or dress is such that it does not disrupt or interfere with the educational process or endanger the health and safety of the student or others.

(B) The wearing of garments appropriate for school is to be encouraged. All instructors should be alert to give helpful, friendly guidance in these

matters without embarrassment to the pupil. Failure of any student to dress simply and appropriately should be brought to the attention of the principal. Extremes in dress, hairstyle, make-up, or jewelry are not in good taste and should be discouraged. The principal of the individual school will determine when these provisions have been violated and will make the initial decision as to conformity to policy and discipline for offenders.

(C) If a student is suspended for violating any provision of this code, he or she must be readmitted to school as soon as the violation has been corrected. Guidelines to assist students, parents, and administrators toward a better understanding of the above are specifically:

<u>Elementary Grades K – 5</u>:

1. Clothing must be neat, clean, and appropriate.
2. Footwear is required for sanitary and safety reason.
3. Garments bearing inappropriate slogans or pictures are not permitted (i.e., alcohol, drugs, racial remarks, or sexual connotation).
4. Hairstyle must not interfere with vision.
5. The midriff must be covered and undergarments must not show at any time.
6. Closed toe shoes are required for all PE classes.



STUDENT PROGRESS

REPORT CARDS/INTERIM REPORTS



Okaloosa District elementary and secondary schools report grades at nine (9) week periods with an interim report to be given at 4 ½-week intervals. Interim reports explain progress and problems your child may be having and offer recommendations for improvement. These reports can be found on FOCUS. Two nine-week periods will equal a semester.

Destin Elementary teachers are taking advantage of our district's FOCUS Gradebook, which is a computerized grade reporting system. Therefore, parents/ guardians should use the FOCUS Parent Portal to view their children's performance at home. The system requires a student ID number for confidentiality purposes. Additional information regarding this service will be provided later.

Our core curriculum is the Benchmark for Excellent Student Standards. The B.E.S.T Standards describe the student achievement that the state will hold schools accountable for students learning. Grades communicate to you how well your child is achieving the B.E.S.T Standards. The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T) will be given to students in all grades three times a year for progress monitoring. Students will also be assessed by using iReady throughout the school year. You may learn more by visiting our county website, http://www.okaloosaschools.com/, or by visiting the state website, http://www.myflorida.com/.

CONFERENCES

Conferences between the teacher and parents or between the principal and parents are welcomed and encouraged. If, at any time, you would like to have a conference with the teacher or the principal, please call the office and make an appointment. We also have the services of a School Counselor should there be a need. Conferences to be held after school will be scheduled Monday through Thursday. The progression of conferences should begin with the classroom teacher. There may be times during the school year when the teacher or principal will request a conference with the parents. We hope that all parents will cooperate with the school in this regard, and we pledge our full cooperation in return. There will be designated times and dates that the classroom teacher will have conferences during the school day for the convenience of our parents.

LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM

A type "A" federally approved lunch program is available. A countywide menu is planned and adhered. The lunch period is a learning activity for the child; therefore, pupils who bring their lunches will be required to eat in the cafeteria with those who purchase their meals

The Okaloosa County School Food Service Program operates for "You."

We are proud of our cafeteria and welcome you to come have lunch with us. Each day a **"Healthy Choice Menu"** is served from our self-serving hot and cold food bar. This menu includes an entree, fresh fruit, and other healthy choice food items, including; either fruit juice, whole milk, 2% milk, or low-fat chocolate milk. Breakfast is also served daily from 8:00 a.m. until 8:20 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to join their children for lunch on designated days and sit in the outside courtyards. The turf courtyard's are Outdoor Classrooms, and are not available during lunch. Parents may not dine outside with children other than their own. Due to safety concerns, visitors will need to sign in at the front office and obtain

a visitor's badge. Visitors who fail to do so will be redirected to the office. This policy is enforced for the safety of our students, please respect our efforts. The cafeteria doors leading to the bus ramp will be locked during school hours; please do not exit through these doors. A lunch menu is available for viewing on the school web site. Parents are asked to use cash to purchase their lunch when eating with their children.

Our new updated computer system issues each student a cafeteria account number. With this number, students can make deposits to their individual accounts to be used for purchases of meals, extra milk or juice or other items available to them.
Money for prepaid meals should be taken to the cafeteria in the morning as students arrive at school. Please place this money in an envelope with the student's first and last name, account #, and grade if there is more than one student in the family or pay on the MySchoolBucks App.

Meals may be paid for by the day or for as many days as you wish. The cafeteria only accepts prepaid lunch money in the morning, before the lunch schedule begins.
Lunch money should be given to the student before he/she arrives at school.
All lunches are to be pre-paid by check or cash. On occasion, the cafeteria has allowed a child to "charge" lunch in an emergency, with the stipulation that the balance is paid promptly the next day. Charging lunch is not a routine practice. The cafeteria management appreciates your cooperation, please stop by if you have any questions or need to review your child's account status.

Prices are as follows:

Fully Paid Meals		Reduced Meals	
Student Breakfast	$2.00	Student Breakfast	*Must Apply
Student Lunch	$3.00	Student Lunch	*Must Apply
Adult Lunch	$5.00		
Adult Breakfast	$3.00	All Extra Milk	$.75

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

A federal program for assistance with meals for economically needy children is available. Parents can fill out application online by visiting https://www2.myschoolapps.com . Applications must be approved before the first day of school for NEW STUDENTS. All RETURNING STUDENTS must complete an updated application within 10 days of the beginning of school. In the event an updated application is not received within the 10-day grace period, the student will lose their assistance and must pay for meals on the 11th day.

MEDIA CENTER

The goal of the Destin Elementary Media Center is to enable students to be effective users of ideas and information. Our media specialist provides access to information literacy by assisting students in book selection.

Our Media Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Books are loaned for a two-week period. PreK- D and Kindergarten students may check out one book at a time. All other students may check out two items for pleasure reading. Extra material for special assignments may be loaned upon request.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Internet provides exciting opportunities to expand learning for students and educators. However, with this opportunity comes the responsibility for appropriate use; therefore, the School Board of Okaloosa County has adopted an Internet Acceptable Use Policy that covers policy and procedural guidelines for accessing and using the Internet in Okaloosa County Schools. In order to use the Internet, each student and his or her legal guardian must read the Internet Acceptable Use Policy and sign the attached Internet Responsibility Contract (MIS 5251 Rev. 6/06).

CELL PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

Okaloosa County School District follows the state law that restricts cell phone use for students in kindergarten through 8th grade during the school day. Students can bring phones to school, but they must be turned off and kept out of sight. This policy aims to minimize distractions and enhance focus on learning.
Smart watches are considered electronic devices and are permitted only for telling time. They may not be used for communication, gaming, messaging, or any other functions during school hours.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Destin Elementary, along with all other schools in Okaloosa County, has a School Counselor who serves the many needs of our students, parents, and teachers. Parents and students are encouraged to utilize the opportunities available. Activities and counseling are offered to assist our school population in successful strategies for growth in the educational learning process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education activities, in accordance with state regulations for elementary schools, are provided under the direction of a qualified physical education teacher. Every child is required to participate unless physically handicapped or ill. The parent should send a note when a child is to be excused. A doctor's note is required if a child is not to participate in physical education classes for an extended period. As a safety precaution ***no flip-flops, high heels, or platform shoes*** are allowed during PE classes. Your student needs to bring tennis shoes to change into during PE class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MUSIC, AND RECESS

Students receive instruction aligned with the Florida State Standards in music, and physical education. Teachers take a twenty-minute recess time, which is supervised by the classroom teacher.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)

The Exceptional Student Education program is designed to assist students who qualify for the program. Our goal is to align school services with county, state, and federal policies incorporating Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for all ESE Students.

Students in ESE pre-school programs qualify for services through a district ESE department process. Kindergartners through fifth grade students qualify through a systematic referral process beginning with the classroom teacher. Additionally, the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) committee including the ESE teachers, psychologist, guidance counselor, and administration are involved. Parent participation and approval are essential for the continuation of the process. Specific criteria must be met to determine ESE eligibility.

Once a student is placed into the ESE program, they may be served in a variety of subjects and ways. Unique learning styles and needs determine a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Delivery may be rendered through a range of services including resource room, special classes, co-teaching, and/or consultation with an ESE teacher. Specific needs may be met through general classroom assistance, specialized instruction, alternative materials, and/or technology.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN/D (PK-D)

The PK-D Program is based on the philosophy that children's play is their work. We believe PK-D children gain success in developmentally appropriate, child-centered activities in a positive, culturally diverse environment. Active learning experiences and adult-child interactions aid children in developing skills, habits, and attitudes contributing to a successful life. Our family-centered program is strengthened by inclusive partnerships among the school family and community organizations.

TRESPASSING

No staff supervision is available on school grounds during non-school hours. Students loitering on school grounds may be deemed trespassing. Please, for your children's safety, instruct them to stay off school grounds when school is not in session and when they are not under immediate adult supervision. If your child is involved in an organized activity after school, he should be in an assigned area with an adult supervisor. Please note that skateboarding is not allowed on school grounds at any time.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend all extracurricular activities at Destin Elementary School.

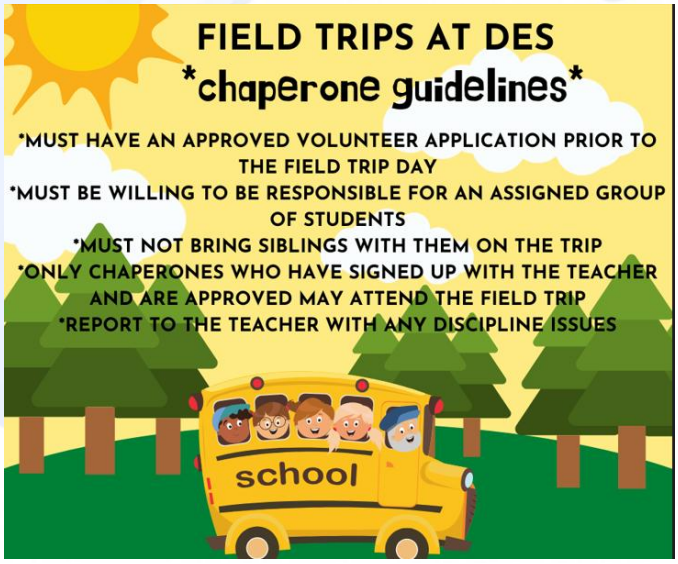
CELEBRATIONS

All parties, celebrations and other such events are coordinated and managed by the classroom teacher. Please contact the classroom teacher regarding any such planned activities. Parents who do not wish for their child to participate in these activities should notify the teacher early in the year. "Ballooning" and "costuming" are not permitted. In order for party invitations to be passed out at school, each child in the class must receive an invitation. **For the safety of the students with allergies, there will be no sharing of food or passing food out in the lunchroom.**

FIELD TRIPS

These adventures must be connected to areas of the curricula and should benefit students by reinforcing the B.E.S.T Standards. Field trips and excursions provide worthwhile experiences of educational value. A child will not be allowed to take a field trip without the written permission from the parent or guardian. **Permission slips are to be signed and must be returned to your child's teacher prior to the planned trip**. Parents with affidavits on file are asked to volunteer for these trips while following all guidelines of being an active chaperone for the field trip. Volunteer Forms are available online at https://www.okaloosaschools.com. All field trips going out of the county must be notarized. Students are requested to wear a class shirt on field trips for safety reasons. **Monies collected for field trips will not be refunded**.

Any legal guardian taking their child home directly from the field trip or immediately after returning to school must either complete a release form or sign-out the student in the front office. **Please be prepared to show photo ID.**



VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

We encourage parents to volunteer in our school. If you would like to volunteer, fill out application online. For the protection of our students, the Okaloosa County

School District requires **every** school volunteer to complete the Volunteer Application Process though the OCSD website https://www.okaloosaschools.com. A new Volunteer Affidavit form must be completed each year and allow two weeks for approval.

Many students function better when their parents are not present in the classroom. Should this apply to you, you may wish to volunteer in another classroom or some other area. We have many areas to consider. We appreciate your help.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The School Advisory Council (SAC) consists of faculty, staff, parents, and business partners from our community. There is School Advisory Council in each District school. Florida law requires the School Board to establish a SAC in every school. The three main objectives are:

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the school principal
2. Help in the development of the education program
3. Aid in the preparation and evaluation of School Performance Plan

The SAC meets as necessary to monitor the implementation of the School Performance Plan, which is based on 8 Florida state goals:

1. Communities and schools collaborate to prepare children and families for children's success in school.
2. Students graduated and are prepared to enter the work force and post-secondary education.
3. Students successfully compete at the highest levels nationally and internationally and are prepared to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decision.
4. School Boards provide a learning environment conducive to teaching and learning that includes sequential instruction in mathematics, reading, writing, and the social sciences.
5. Communities provide an environment that is drug free and protect students' health, safety, and civil rights.
6. The schools, districts, and state ensure professional teachers and staff.
7. Adult Floridians are literate and have the knowledge and skills needed to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
8. Communities, school boards, and schools provide opportunities for involving parents and guardians as active partners in achieving school improvement and education accountability.

For additional information concerning guidelines, scheduled meetings, agendas, and minutes can be found on the school's website. We invite you to be a part of SAC.

Members of the School Advisory Committee are elected; teachers elect teachers, educational support employees elect educational support employees and parents elect parents, with the Principal working as an integral part of the committee. The committee must have a minimum of 17 members with the maximum being 27

members. If you are interested in being a member of SAC, please contact Mrs. Brown. A new member vote will be held in August/September.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The goal of your Destin Elementary PTO is to enhance our children's learning experience through united efforts between all of our parents, teachers and administration.

We welcome and encourage participation in all events. Please remember fundraising events are necessary in order for us to provide family social gatherings, enrich educational elements at Destin Elementary, and provide for our teachers and staff.

Destin's Parent Teacher Organization has been supportive over the years. Our school has many extras that enhance the learning process and experiences for our children. Membership consists of all parents/guardians, teachers, and volunteers interested in supporting activities at Destin Elementary. All parents are encouraged to be active participants in the Destin PTO. We truly appreciate the moral and financial support by our PTO. Children respond more positively in an atmosphere where they are comfortable, also accomplished when parents are actively involved, benefitting everyone.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The Boys and Girls Club Child Care Program is a before and after school program provided for students registered at Destin Elementary School. The purpose of the program is to provide a safe nurturing environment for those students who are required to spend an extended part of their day away from home.

Hours of Operation

Before School:	7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.
After School:	2:55 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Registration

Pre-registration and pre-payment are mandatory. Parents/guardians may register or obtain information in the Child Care Office during the program.

Child Care Fees (*subject to change- Please refer to B&GC documents)

Before School	Contact Club
After School	Contact Club

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
ADHERES TO POLICY WHICH PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT IN THE EDUCATION OR WORK ENVIRONMENT

ADULTS - (6-28) EQUITY POLICY:
Harassment concerning an individual's race, color, sex, age, religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin, marital status, or disability is a form of misconduct which undermines the integrity of the employment relationship. Sexual harassment by an employee or volunteer or person with whom the district contracts for services toward another individual while under the jurisdiction of the district is strictly prohibited.

STUDENTS - (4-34) EQUITY POLICY:
It is the policy of the School Board of Okaloosa County to offer students the opportunity to participate in appropriate programs, services and activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, parenthood, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, or social and family background.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.
If an adult need to report an alleged violation of these policies, an informal Equity Complaint should be made to a principal or department director. If the situation cannot be resolved informally, a Formal Equity Grievance (MIS 5139, Rev. 10/00), in compliance with School Board Policy 6-29, should be directed to the Superintendent's designee listed below. Employees have the option of filing a grievance through appropriate Master Contract procedures in lieu of the Formal Equity Grievance.

Students should promptly report complaints pertaining to the Okaloosa School District's Equity Policy to a teacher, the principal, or to the principal's administrative designee in charge of the school's disciplinary office. The District's Equity Coordinator will be immediately notified by the school's administrative staff when a complaint is filed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEES:

Steve Chatman (850) 682-9002
Specialist, Director of Human Resources, Equity Office, and Title IX Coordinator
ChatmanS@OkaloosaSchools.com
Contact for information regarding Title IX and Equity Policies and Procedures. These policies are in accordance with the Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) and the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 and C.F.R. part 106, and other applicable law and rules.

Tracey Lamb (850) 833-3108
Director I, Student Intervention Services
202-A Hwy 85 N., Niceville, FL 32578
LambT@OkaloosaSchools.com

Kathy Ard (850) 833-3164
Director, ESE & Student Intervention Services
202-A Hwy 85 N., Niceville, FL 32578
Ardk@OkaloosaSchools.com
Judy Peacock (850) 833-5866

Program Director, ESE
202-A Hwy 85 N., Niceville, FL 32578
Judy.Peacock@Okaloosaschools.com

Teri Schroeder (850) 833-3108
Program Director, Section 504
202-A Hwy 85 N., Niceville, FL 32578
Teresa.Schroeder@OkaloosaSchools.com

Brian Humphrey (850) 689-7198
Specialist, Discipline & Athletics
202-A Hwy 85 N. Niceville, FL 32578
HumphreyBr@OkaloosaSchools.com

THIS POLICY IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT OF 1973 AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAW AND RULES

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

2024-2025 SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT — DESTIN ELEMENTARY (#0131)

REVENUES	School[1]	%	Okaloosa County School District	%	K-12 Education State of Florida	%
Federal	$ 543,306	6.40%	$ 38,480,579	11.31%	$ 5,215,084,332	14.89%
State/Local (excludes Lottery)	7,810,949	92.07%	301,450,700	88.58%	29,774,485,597	85.02%
Lottery	129,454	1.53%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Private	-	0.00%	378,798	0.11%	29,468,091	0.08%
Total	$ 8,483,709	100.00%	$ 340,310,077	100.00%	$ 35,019,038,020	100.00%

[1]Total school revenues should agree with the total school costs in the subsequent section.

K-12 OPERATING COSTS[2]	Per Full-Time Equivalent Student: SCHOOL AVERAGE	DISTRICT AVERAGE[3]	STATE AVERAGE[3]	TOTAL COSTS
Teachers/Teacher Assistants (Salaries/Benefits)	$ 6,104	$ 5,847	$ 6,199	$ 5,533,105
Substitute Teachers (Salaries/Benefits)[4]				
Other Instructional Personnel[5]	648	858	1,531	587,010
Contracted Instructional Services	279	516	484	253,248
School Administration	570	799	785	516,452
Materials/Supplies/Operating Capital Outlay	132	326	349	119,948
Food Service	443	534	752	401,218
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	877	1,109	1,442	795,065
Other School-Level Support Services	306	342	350	277,663
TOTAL SCHOOL COSTS[2]	$ 9,359	$ 10,331	$ 11,892	$ 8,483,709

[2]Capital expenditures for new schools are not included.

[3]Amounts reported for district and state reflect total school costs (direct and school-level indirect costs) for all levels of students, not costs by school type. District-level costs, such as costs for transportation and administration for the School District of Okaloosa County, totaled $12,424,732 or $441 per FTE.

[4]The cost of substitute teachers included in teachers' salaries and benefits and/or school-level support services as below

$ 113	$ 110	$ 102,038

[5]Includes some non-personal costs, such as costs for teacher training materials.

K-12 ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFORMATION Teachers/Teachers Aides (Salaries/Benefits):	Per Full-Time Equivalent Student: SCHOOL AVERAGE	DISTRICT AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	TOTAL COSTS[6]
Basic Programs	$ 5,020	$ 4,853	$ 5,017	$ 3,484,125
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	$ 7,464	$ 9,310	$ 9,916	$ 642,635
Exceptional Programs	$ 11,125	$ 6,655	$ 6,101	$ 1,406,345
Career Education Programs	$ -	$ 4,762	$ 5,085	$ -
Adult Programs[7]	Not FEFP Funded	Not FEFP Funded	Not FEFP Funded	Not FEFP Funded
Materials, Supplies, Operating Capital Outlay[8]:				
Textbooks	$ 76	$ 105	Not Available from State Data Base	$ 69,286
Computer Hardware & Software	$ 0	$ 55	Not Available from State Data Base	$ 147
Other Instructional Materials	$ 49	$ 135	Not Available from State Data Base	$ 44,625
Other Materials and Supplies	$ 6	$ 43	Not Available from State Data Base	$ 5,890
Library Media Materials	$ -	$ 3	Not Available from State Data Base	$ -

[6]The total cost of teachers/teacher assistants by program should agree to teachers/teacher assistants reported in the previous section.

[7]FTE is unavailalbe.

[8]The total cost of materials, supplies, and operating capital outlay should agree to materials, supplies and operating capital outlay reported in the previous section.

Note: This information became available on April 17, 2026, from the Florida Department of Education.