

LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Back to School Newsletter



Welcome Back to the 2026–2027 School Year!

Dear Lockport City School District Families,

On behalf of the Lockport City School District Board of Education, our faculty, staff, and administration, I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we begin the 2026–2027 school year. I sincerely hope you and your family enjoyed a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer filled with opportunities to rest, recharge, and create lasting memories.



As we prepare to welcome our students and staff back to school on **Wednesday, September 2**, there is a tremendous sense of excitement throughout our district. The beginning of a new school year always brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, build new relationships, and celebrate the many successes that lie ahead. We cannot wait to see our classrooms once again filled with the energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity of our students.

This school year, we remain firmly committed to the vision outlined in our 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, which serves as our roadmap for continuous improvement and student success. Together, we will continue our work in five key priority areas:

- **Supporting the Whole Child** by ensuring every student has the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral supports needed to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.
- **Building and Maintaining a Strong Foundation for Academic Excellence** by providing high-quality instruction, rigorous learning opportunities, and innovative educational experiences that prepare students for future success.
- **Creating Welcoming and Affirming Environments** where every student, family, and staff member feels respected, valued, safe, and connected to our school community.
- **Maximizing Our Facilities** to create learning environments that are efficient, modern, safe, and prepared to meet the needs of today's learners and tomorrow's opportunities.
- **Empowering and Investing in Our People** by supporting our outstanding educators and staff, recognizing that when we invest in our people, we create the best possible experiences and outcomes for our students.

While our strategic plan guides our work, our greatest strength continues to be the partnerships we share with our families. I encourage every parent and caregiver to stay actively engaged throughout the school year. Build strong relationships with your child's Principal, Assistant Principal, teachers, counselors, and school staff. Attend school events, parent conferences, concerts, athletic competitions, and family activities whenever possible. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference and helps create a strong support system that enables every child to succeed.

At the Lockport City School District, we believe every student deserves to feel welcomed, affirmed, challenged, and supported. Our commitment extends beyond academics—we strive to create schools where students develop confidence, character, leadership, and a true sense of belonging.

Our district motto, "We are lions. We all belong" is more than a slogan; it reflects who we are as a school community. It reminds us that every student matters, every family is valued, and every staff member plays an important role in helping our children reach their fullest potential. Together, we are building a community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, contribute, and succeed.

As another exciting school year begins, I wish all of our students, families, faculty, and staff a year filled with learning, achievement, friendship, and unforgettable experiences. Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support of the Lockport City School District. To our students—our Lions—we encourage you to dream big, work hard, be kind to one another, and take pride in all that you do. We are excited to watch you grow, achieve, and lead throughout the year.

Welcome back, Lions! Let's make the 2026–2027 school year our best yet.

Warm regards,
Dr. Mathis Calvin III
Superintendent of Schools



FALL 2026

In this Issue:

Important Numbers and Dates

Who's Who of LCSD Leadership?

LCSD Schools Earn Top Honors in Buffalo Business First Rankings

Three Years of Progress: Strategic Planning in Action Continued

Notification of Rights

Guidelines for Student Behavior

Tips for Back to School Mental Health

Student Health Information

Guidelines for Attendance

Student Use of Electronic Information Systems

Guidelines for Sexual Harassment

Community Eligibility Program Overview

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Leslie R. Tobin, President
6990 Northview Drive.....(716) 807-1223

Alex Lamont, Vice President
17 Wilson Parkway.....(716) 622-7578

Greg J. Newman, Jr., Secretary
259 Continental Drive.....(347) 268-3179

Tracy Caruso
5498 Hallmark Lane.....(716) 946-4734

Thomas J. Gray
14 Haines Street.....(716) 531-6647

Boy Petersen
6579 Royal Parkway S.....716-465-5264

Sterling Pierce, Jr.
117 Vine Street.....(716) 423-4778

Joseph Runfola II
5913 Collins Drive.....(716) 628-6213

Nicole Zugelder
13 Kingston Circle.....(716) 982-5368

HOURS OF OPERATION

District Office

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Lockport High School

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Lockport High School West

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Aaron Mossell Junior High School

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Emmet Belknap Intermediate School

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Elementary Schools

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

DAILY HOURS FOR SCHOOL

Lockport High School

7:40 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Lockport High School West

7:40 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Aaron Mossell Junior High School

8:06 a.m. – 2:42 p.m.

Emmet Belknap Intermediate School

8:40 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Elementary Schools

9:20 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Athletic Office.....(716) 478-4474
Business Office.....(716) 478-4828
Educational Services Office.....(716) 478-4836
Human Resources Office.....(716) 478-4820
School Facilities Office.....(716) 478-4601
School Lunch Office.....(716) 478-4805
Special Education Office.....(716) 478-4825
Student Services Office.....(716) 478-4623
Superintendent Office.....(716) 478-4838
Transportation Office.....(716) 478-4837

Lockport District Office

130 Beattie Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone:.....(716) 478-4800/4811
Fax:.....(716) 478-4832

John Pound Early Childhood Center

51 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone:.....(716) 478-4751

Lockport Public Library

23 East Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone:.....(716) 433-5935
Fax:.....(716) 439-0198

KINDERGARTEN MEET & GREET

September 1 from 4-5 p.m.

For students and their families entering kindergarten at Anna Merritt, Charles Upson George Southard, and Roy B. Kelley

OPEN HOUSES

September 28:

Lockport High School West - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 24:

Charles Upson Elementary - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

September 30:

Aaron Mossell Junior HS - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

October 1:

Lockport High School - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

October 6:

George Southard Elementary - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

October 7:

Anna Merritt Elementary - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

October 8:

Roy B. Kelley Elementary - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

October 22:

Emmet Belknap Intermediate - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

August 31 - September 1:

Superintendent's Conference Day - Faculty & Staff Only

September 1:

Kindergarten Meet and Greet (K Only)

September 2:

Opening Day of School - Early Dismissal (K Only)

September 7:

Labor Day - No School

October 12:

Indigenous Peoples'/Columbus Day - No School

November 3:

Superintendent's Conference Day - Faculty & Staff Only

November 6:

15-Minute Early Release Drill Grades K-12

November 11:

Veterans Day Observed

November 24:

Report Card Marking Day - Early Dismissal K-6

November 25-27:

Thanksgiving Recess - No School

December 10-11:

Parent Teacher Conference Day - Early Dismissal K-6

December 23- January 1:

Winter Recess - No School



SCAN HERE

Lion Bytes is our monthly newsletter with event recaps and an inside look at what's happening across our schools and classrooms.



SCAN HERE

Check out more events online.

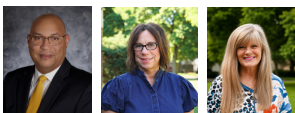


WHO'S WHO OF LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Every great school starts with great people. Across the Lockport City School District, our leadership team is committed to creating safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environments where every student can succeed.

As we kick off a new school year, we'd like to introduce you to the faces behind the leadership. We encourage you to get to know them as they're partners in your child's educational journey and are always here to help make your family's experience at LCSD a positive one.

DISTRICT OFFICE



Dr. Mathis Calvin, III
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa M. Schrader
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

TBD
Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Management Services

Marianne Currie-Hall
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction



Amanda Bennett
Director of Student Services

Melissa Bundrock
Assistant Director of Curriculum

Russell J. Buckley
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Community
Partnerships, and Special Projects

David Celotto
Director of School Facilities and Operations

Aliscia Krecisz
Assistant Director of Human Resources

Michael Sobieraski
Director of Physical Education, Athletics, and
Health & Wellness

Erik Vohwinkel
Director of Special Education

Jason Zuba
Director of Technology, Data and Assessment

LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL



Dawn Wylke, Principal
Heather McClain, Assistant Principal
Anthony Molinaro, Assistant Principal
Michael Pickreign, Assistant Principal

Lockport High School
250 Lincoln Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4450/4501
Fax: (716) 478-4498

LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL WEST



Dr. Bernadette Smith, Principal

**Lockport High School West at
Charlotte Cross**
319 West Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4625/4626
Fax: (716) 478-4634/4517

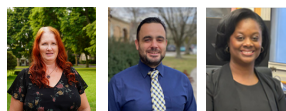
AARON MOSSELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Tom Lyons, Interim Principal
Liz Corieri, Interim Assistant Principal
Jason Madden, Assistant Principal

160 Passaic Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4700/4702
Fax: (716) 478-4705

EMMET BELKNAP INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Dr. Kathleen Bailey DiVito, Principal
Joseph Baynes, Assistant Principal
Melicia Edwards, Assistant Principal

491 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4550/4551
Fax: (716) 478-4535

ANNA MERRITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Patricia McMahon, Principal
Elizabeth Smorol, Assistant Principal

389 Green Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4725/4726
Fax: (716) 478-4730

CHARLES UPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Deanna Schmitt, Principal
Andrew Harrington, Assistant Principal

28 Harding Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4400/4402
Fax: (716) 439-6857

GEORGE SOUTHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Michael Hiller, Principal
Shawn Murray, Assistant Principal

6385 Locust Street Extension, Lockport, NY
14094
Phone: (716) 478-4770/4771
Fax: (716) 478-4775

ROY B. KELLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Jennifer Gilson, Principal
Amanda Schaus, Assistant Principal

610 E. High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 478-4670/4671
Fax: (716) 478-4685

LCSD SCHOOLS EARN TOP HONORS IN BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST RANKINGS



Department
of Health

WATER SAFETY



Three Lockport City School District schools have been recognized among the top-performing schools in Western New York in the latest Buffalo Business First School Rankings, highlighting the district's continued commitment to academic excellence and student success. George Southard Elementary School, Roy B. Kelley Elementary School, and Lockport High School were all recognized for their outstanding performance.

Among the 53 elementary schools ranked across Western New York, George Southard Elementary School placed #40, while Roy B. Kelley Elementary School earned the #51 ranking. Both schools were also recognized among the top elementary schools in Niagara County, ranking fifth and sixth, respectively. The rankings highlighted each school's strengths in areas including diversity and teaching.

Lockport High School was ranked #16 among the 40 high schools recognized across Western New York and earned the distinction of being the #1 public high school in Niagara County. The school also received an overall grade of A, along with A- ratings in Diversity, Sports, and Resources & Facilities.

While the rankings celebrate academic achievement, they also reflect something even greater—the dedication of the people who make Lockport schools exceptional every day.

From classrooms and cafeterias to buses, offices, athletic fields, and every department in between, the success of LCSD is built on the collective efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators who work each day to create supportive learning environments where students can thrive.

These recognitions are a testament to the district's shared commitment to providing students with high-quality educational opportunities and fostering school communities where every student feels supported, challenged, and valued.

Congratulations to the students, staff, and families of George Southard Elementary School, Roy B. Kelley Elementary School, and Lockport High School on this outstanding achievement. Together, these honors reflect the strength of the entire Lockport City School District and the bright future that continues to be built for our students.

Tips For Everyone

- Always swim with someone else and keep an eye on each other.
- Pay extra attention to your children around water.
- Consider your health. Medical conditions like a seizure disorder or heart condition can put people at greater risk of drowning.
- Avoid water that is greater than chest deep if you can't swim.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs if you plan to swim.
- Don't dive into water less than eight feet deep or of unknown depth.
- Pay attention to the weather and never swim during storms or lightning.
- The safest place to swim is at a public beach or at a pool with lifeguards.

Know the Signs of Drowning

Each year, hundreds of New Yorkers drown. It can happen to anyone, anywhere there is water. Drowning occurs quickly and silently. Someone drowning may appear to be splashing or waving when they are struggling to stay afloat.

Reduce your risk. Learn basic swimming skills. Consider taking a CPR class. Rescue breathing, first aid, and calling 911 could save a life.

Keep Kids Safe

Kids and teens have the greatest risk of drowning. Always keep little ones within arm's reach, even in the shallow end. Lifeguards and life jackets don't take the place of close adult supervision. Make sure your pool has a secure enclosure that makes it inaccessible to children.

Stay Healthy

Germs can spread through water. Avoid getting sick by not swallowing water, and rinsing off before and after you swim. Never swim in cloudy or discolored water. Stay out of the water if you are sick with diarrhea, or if you have open cuts or wounds. Don't pee or poop in the water. Take children on frequent bathroom breaks.

When Boating

Always follow safe boating practices and wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved (I-III label) life jacket. Air-filled swimming aids, like water wings and floats, should never be used.

More Information

www.health.ny.gov/SwimSafe

WE ARE LIONS. WE ALL BELONG.



ONE VISION. HUNDREDS OF ACTIONS.

Every initiative. Every investment. Every improvement.
All working toward the same five priorities. All connected.

The Journey



Three Years by the Numbers

- 5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
- 18+ SMART GOALS
- 40+ ACTION STEPS COMPLETED
- 8 SCHOOLS WORKING TOGETHER
- 1,100+ OF STAFF MEMBERS INVOLVED
- 4,000+ OF STUDENTS IMPACTED

Hundreds of Actions

- Family Empowerment Center
- Resource Map
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Early Intervention Systems
- Mental Health Support
- Free Meals
- Attendance Initiatives

WHOLE CHILD SUPPORT

Expand support systems so every student can thrive socially, emotionally, and physically.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Strengthen high-quality instruction and learning opportunities for every student, every day.

PEOPLE & CULTURE

Invest in our people so they feel supported, empowered, and inspired to grow.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

WELCOMING & AFFIRMING SCHOOLS

Create inclusive, supportive environments where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered.

FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGY

Modernize our facilities and leverage innovative technology to enhance learning and operations.

- Professional Learning
- New Employee Mentoring
- Onboarding Support
- Leadership Development
- Positive & Supportive Workplace Culture

- AI & Innovation Planning
- Website Redesign
- Student Leadership & Voice
- ParentSquare Communication Platform
- Facilities Planning
- Esports

- Family Engagement Opportunities
- Diversity & Belonging Initiatives
- My Brother's Keeper
- Unity Fest & Cultural Celebrations
- Access Support
- Community Partnerships

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

Notification Of Rights Under The Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians, or Eligible Student:

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents/legal guardians and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as “eligible students”) the following rights:

The right to inspect and review the student’s education records (including disciplinary records) within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents/Legal guardians or eligible students should submit to the Building Principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents/legal guardians or eligible student of the time and place where records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parents/legal guardians or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents/Legal guardians or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the Principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents/legal guardians or eligible student, the District will notify the parents/legal guardians or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents/legal guardians or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or parents/legal guardians or a student serving in an official committee, such as disciplinary, attendance or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for the purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.

You have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The office that administers FERPA is: *Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, DC 20202.*

Notification of Directory Information

In addition to the rights outlined above, FERPA also gives the school district the option of designating certain categories of student information as “directory information”. Directory information includes a student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, grade level, participation in sports and activities, weight and height (if a member of an athletic team), dates of attendance, honors, degrees, and awards, photograph, and electronic mail address. We are required to release this information to U.S. military recruiters unless a parent/legal guardian writes to the Principal requesting that we do not.

You may object to the release of any or all of this “directory information”; however, you must do so in writing within 10 business days of receiving this notice. If we do not receive a written objection, we will be authorized to release this information without your consent. Any objections to the release of directory information must be sent to the building principal.

Student Privacy

Parents/legal guardians or students over age 18 have the right to refuse the release of student directory information. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) defines student directory information as any of the following – name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, grade level, participation in sports and activities, weight and height, dates of attendance, honors, degrees and awards, email address and photograph. See policies 7241 and 7241 E1 on the District website.

The Dignity for All Students Act

The Dignity for All Students Act took effect on July 1, 2012, and was established with the intent to provide a school environment free of discrimination and harassment. Identified in the legislation are those individuals who are subjected to intimidation or abuse based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex, or any other classification protected by law.

The District Dignity for All Students Act Coordinator is: Russell Buckley & Lisa Schrader

The Building Dignity for All Students Act Coordinators are:

- Anna Merritt Elementary School: Patricia McMahon, Elizabeth Smorol, & Erin Faggiano
- Charles A. Upson Elementary School: Adrienne Adams & Deanna Schmitt, Andrew Harrington
- George Southard Elementary School: Michael Hiller, Shawn Murray, & Alex Bowman
- Roy B. Kelley Elementary School: Amanda Schaus, Andrew Murphy, Kirstie O’Grady
- Emmet Belknap Intermediate School: Joseph Baynes, Melicia Edwards, Isabella Zaleski
- Aaron Mossell Junior High School: Elizabeth Corieri, Thomas Lyons, Jason Madden
- Lockport High School: Heather McClain, Anthony Molinaro, & Michael Pickreign
- Lockport High School West: Nicole Clare & William Morello, Jr.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS CONTINUED

All parents/legal guardians of each student attending a school receiving Title I funds may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. This information will include:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other temporary status through which state qualification or licensing criteria has been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field or discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Individuals seeking this information should do so by contacting the Human Resources Office of the Lockport City School District, 130 Beattie Avenue, 716-478-4826.

Disclosure of APPR/Teacher Certification

Upon request, parents/legal guardians have the right to review and receive the final quality ratings and composite effectiveness scores of individual principals and teachers of their children. See policy 6130 and form 6130 E1 on the District website. The District is required to provide to parents/legal guardians, upon request, specific information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. See policy 6212 on the District website.

Annual Asbestos Notification

According to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), all schools both public and private in the United States are to inform you of the presence of asbestos in school buildings. Our building(s) have asbestos in various locations and we are managing the asbestos containing materials to insure the health and welfare of the students, staff, and visitors/contractors. Be assured that there is no situation that poses a health risk at this time and the District conducts periodic surveillance and maintenance of the material such that the chances of a fiber release are low. Our Asbestos Management Plan, which contains detailed information, is available for your review in the Lockport City School District garage at North Park Annex 400 Corinthia Street, Lockport, NY 14094.

Annual Pesticide Notice

New York State Education Law Section 409-H effective July 1, 2001, requires all public schools to provide written notice to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the year. The Lockport City School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relations, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour notification of certain pesticide applications.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those within 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please mail a letter to David Celotto, Lockport City School District pesticide representative at 400 Corinthia Street, Lockport, NY 14094. It should include your name, address, daytime and evening phone numbers, and the building you wish to be notified for.

Idling School Bus Notice

Each driver of a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or contracted for by the Lockport City School District shall turn off the engine of the bus or vehicle while such vehicle is parked or standing on school grounds or in front of or adjacent to any school.

The idling of a school bus or vehicle engine may be permitted to the extent necessary to achieve the following purposes:

- For mechanical work; or

- To maintain an appropriate temperature for passenger comfort; or
- In emergency evacuations where necessary operate wheelchair lifts.

Are You or is Someone You Know Homeless?

If you live in any of the following situations:

- In an emergency or transitional shelter.
- In a motel, hotel, trailer park, campground, abandoned in a hospital, or awaiting foster care.
- In a car, park, public place, bus or train station, or in an abandoned building.
- Doubled up with a relative or friend.

As a migratory child in any of the above conditions, you have rights and protections under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Individuals seeking additional information may contact District Homeless Liaison Amanda Bennett at 716-478-4623.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Lockport City School District does not discriminate against any student, employee, or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, gender identity, age or disability, or any other classification protected by law. This policy of nondiscrimination includes access by students to educational and vocational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and student activities; as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement, and/or termination. Concerns regarding possible violation of this policy should be addressed to Russell Buckley, District Civil Rights Compliance Officer, 57 Canal St, Lockport, NY 14094 Phone Number: 716-478-4862.

Section 504

The Lockport City School District does not discriminate against students or employees in programs or activities. Individuals protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are those who: have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Examples of "major life activities" include (but are not limited to) caring of one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, speaking, hearing, breathing, learning, or working. The District 504 Compliance Officer is Amanda Bennett at abennett@lockportschools.net. Feel free to contact the District Compliance Officer at 716-478-4623 with general questions regarding identification, evaluation, services, district procedures, and/or complaints of disability discrimination. Individual building principals and school psychologists are also able to respond to general questions. School building staff can efficiently address specific concerns/questions regarding your child as the district compliance officer does not attend or schedule every Section 504 Committee meeting.

Notice of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendments (PPRA)
The Lockport City School District only permits surveys to be administered to our students when they have been carefully reviewed so as not to offend parents/legal guardians or segments of our community. In addition, LCSD will conform to all requirements of law. PPRA requires schools to notify parents/legal guardians and obtain consent or allow them to opt their child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents/legal guardians
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or family
- Sex, behavior, or attitudes
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of others with whom students have close family relationships
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers
- Religious practice, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/legal guardians
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility
- This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys") and certain physical exams and screenings.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS CONTINUED

Drug-Free Workplace

Lockport City School District is a drug-free workplace. Persons found to be in illegal use or possession of such drugs will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Graduation Information

The District allows any student with a disability to participate in the graduation ceremony of their high school graduating class and all related graduation activities if the student:

- Has earned a local diploma.
- Met the eligibility criteria for a Skills or Achievement or Career Development and Occupational Studies credential, AND
- Has an Individual Education Plan that prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four academic years after entering high school.

The Superintendent will consider any recommendation of the student's Committee on Special Education as well as the student's own expressed preference regarding participation; as a student with a disability may decline to participate in any or all graduation-related activities.

Refer to district policy 7220 for additional information.

Wellness

The Lockport City School District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and the ability to learn by fostering healthy eating and physical activity. The District seeks to ensure all of its students obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food selections and enjoy life-long physical activity. Parents/Legal guardians are encouraged to send in only healthy, packaged treats for classroom celebrations. The District will provide opportunities for every student to participate in physical education and to be involved in physical activities each week. The District will participate to the maximum extent possible in available federal school meal programs. The District will engage in relationships with community partners in support of its wellness policy. Refer to policy 5661 on the District website for additional information.

Transportation

The Lockport City School District contracts with STA/Ridge Road Express for student transportation. Students meeting either district or state eligibility guidelines will be transported to and from school. If you have any questions, please contact the following offices:

- Bus route questions?
 - Call Becky at (716) 246-4265
 - Call Jim at (716) 608-9617
 - Call Same at (716) 353-7515
- Driver complaints call (716) 246-4265
- Special Education (IEP) call (716) 478-4825
- Student Eligibility, call (716) 478-4837
- Discipline concerns, call your child's building principal

Stopfinder Mobile App is available for free, allowing parents to monitor the location of their child's bus. Information can be found on the District's website www.lockportschools.org/transportation.

Student Dismissal Precautions

No student may be released from school to anyone other than a parent, legal guardian or Child Protective Services personnel and law enforcement officers pursuant to law, unless the name of the individual seeking release of the student appears on a list provided by the parent or legal guardian.

A student may be released to either parent unless a custodial parent supplies the building principal with a certified copy of a court order or divorce decree to the contrary. Parents are urged to make appointments with physicians, dentists, special tutors, etc., after school hours. If a request for early dismissal is necessary, the parent or guardian must send a note to the school, in advance, listing the date, time, and reason for the release. Children will not be allowed to leave school without the note and will be released only in the care of the parent or legal guardian, unless otherwise noted.

Child Find

The Lockport City School District as directed by Education Law Section 200.2 must locate, identify and evaluate all non-public private elementary and secondary students with disabilities, including religious-school children. If your child attends a non-public private school and you suspect they are a child with a disability, please contact the Director of Special Education at 478-4809.

Child Abuse Hotline

Section 407 of New York State Education Law requires every school district in New York State to post the toll-free number operated by the New York State Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. That number is: 1-800-342-3720.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The next three pages contain portions of the Lockport City School District's "Code of Conduct". Parents/Legal guardians and students should read the information below thoroughly and discuss it together. Complete copies of the Code of Conduct are available in all school district buildings and can be accessed on the District's web page. All students in grades 7-12 have a student planner/agenda that also lists all school expectations and consequences. Parents/Legal guardians are expected to review the agendas with their children.

Student Dress Code

All students are expected to be well groomed and appropriately dressed based on the event or activity. We take pride in the appearance of our students. Student dress shall in no way be so extreme as to be distracting or disruptive and/or unsafe to the educational process of the school. The following will be considered as examples of unacceptable dress for students and may not be all-inclusive of unacceptable dress:

- Messages and/or images on clothing, face coverings, jewelry, and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, vulgarity, or gang related activity, or that reflects adversely upon persons because of their race or ethnic group.
- Wearing of blankets or sunglasses indoors (unless prescription glasses with transition lenses)
- Clothing is considered too short or too loose-fitting if it does not fully cover undergarments or private body parts. See-through garments are prohibited.
- Head coverings for religious, medical, or disability related reasons and head scarves, beads, and other hair accessories that do not cover ears or hide headphones or earbuds are authorized as long as the student's face is visible, and it does not interfere with instruction or student safety. Hair adornments may be worn provided that they are secured and do not present a safety hazard to the student or others around the student. To promote safety and to allow for student identification, hoods are not permitted. Hats or headgear may only be worn during extracurricular activities outside of the regular instructional day.
- Unsafe footwear as determined by building administration and/or the school nurse.
 - Slippers are prohibited for all students in the district.
 - Backless shoes are prohibited for grades K-4.
- Wearing of a scent that has an adverse impact on others.
- Military or trap jacket vests (vests with numerous pockets on both the front and/or the back of the clothing).

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTINUED

- Facemasks that cover more than the nose and mouth area and prevent the individual from being easily identified. Masks designed to be worn for medical reasons are acceptable.
- Loose hanging objects that pose a safety hazard or disruptive influence, (i.e.-chains, key holders, etc.).
- Wearing backpacks or similar carryall containers between classes for grades K-8.
- Coats, heavy jackets, and similar outdoor garments are generally not to be worn in classrooms or other instructional settings except as authorized for specific circumstances.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Refusal to comply with a request to cover up or to remove the offensive item shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further restorative and/or discipline action up to and including out-of-school suspension. Exceptions to the dress code will be made for religious or medical reasons with proper documentation. These requests will be reviewed by a case-by-case basis by the Principal for determination.

Prohibited Student Conduct

District personnel, who interact with students, are expected to use restorative action prior to or in conjunction with disciplinary action when necessary and regularly reinforce the student's ability to grow in self-discipline. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules, will be required to accept the consequences of their conduct. Students may be subject to restorative and/or disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, as determined by an administrator on a case-by-case basis when they:

A. Engage in any on campus or off campus conduct that is disruptive/negatively impacts or constitutes, causes, or interferes with or promotes distraction from or disruption of the school environment/educational process or undermines health or safety. This includes actions that violate classroom management plans and building-level expectations for maintaining a safe and secure learning environment.

Examples of this conduct include, but are not limited to:

*Chronic acts of disruptive behavior by any student (including those suspected of a disability) may result in the development of a Functional Behavioral Assessment and/or Behavioral Intervention Plan and may result in a superintendent's hearing.

- Unsafe behavior.
- Making disruptive noise; which includes but not limited to the use of electronic speakers on school district property, on school sponsored transportation, or during school sponsored functions, unless otherwise given prior consent from a school administrator.
- Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- Engaging in any willful act with malicious intent or intent to deceive or instigating, which disrupts the normal operation of the school. This includes incidents or behaviors of causing a false alarm or bomb threat.
- Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend without the permission from the administrator in charge of the building. Students who have been suspended from school are not permitted in any school building or at any school sponsored event without the permission from their assigned administrator(s).
- Failing to comply with the directions of teachers, administrators or other school employees in charge of students, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
- Lateness for or leaving school without permission;
- Students are expected to maintain regular attendance at school. In order to address chronic absenteeism, students who are absent for more than half of their scheduled school day, will not be able to participate in extracurricular events, whether as a participant or spectator. (Exceptions: Absences due to a verified medical appointment or extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by school administration.

- Truancy to class.
- Truancy to any form of detention.
- Harassment/Bullying/Cyberbullying includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at a person or group that are intended to be ridiculing or demeaning and/or which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm. (See district policy 7315)
- The use of technology to record, document, and/or disseminate information about an individual without their consent, with malicious intent or intent to deceive is prohibited (including falsely reporting incidents or behaviors and videotaping or audiotaping incidents of misbehavior in a school building or at a school sponsored event). The Lockport City School District will, however, continue to use technology to investigate inappropriate use of technology and shall report cyber-crime and cooperate with authorities to support investigations related to improper use of personal and/or District technology. (See district policies 7316, 8271)
 - Using any electronic, communication, or recording device (including but not limited to cameras, video cameras, tape recorders, cell phones, iPod, iPad, smart wearables, smartphones, web-enabled devices of any kind, or other mobile computing devices to capture, record, and/or transmit words or sounds and/or images of any student, staff member, or other person, unless expressly approved by a school administrator or other authorized school official).
 - Using an electronic communication device to capture, record, and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual is prohibited, unless expressly approved by a school administrator or other authorized school official.
 - Regardless of authorization, it is never permissible to use such devices in lavatories, locker rooms, shower facilities, changing areas, or any other area where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.
 - Authorized possession of an electronic or communication device at school or during the course of any school-related activity is a privilege that may be forfeited, relinquished, or rescinded if the student fails to comply with the provisions of this Code of Conduct.
- Computer/electronic communication misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, electronic devices, communication devices, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the Acceptable Use Policy. Authorized possession of an electronic or communications device at school or during the course of any school-related activity is a privilege that may be forfeited, relinquished, or rescinded if the student fails to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct.
- Using an electronic communication device (or threatening to do so) in a way that might reasonably cause a person to feel threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, and intimidated. Authorized possession of an electronic or other communications device at school or during the course of any school-related activity is a privilege that may be forfeited, relinquished, or rescinded if the student fails to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct.
- Any act that attempts to bypass District security, firewalls, or access protected information through the use of technology or otherwise, or any attempt to introduce any unauthorized computer program to the network such as a computer virus.
- Unauthorized display, use, or carrying of personal electronic or communication devices, including but not limited to cell phones, iPod, smartphones, iPad, headphones, AirPods, earphones, smart wearables, other mobile computing devices, digital or other cameras, telephone paging devices, web-enabled devices of any kind, tablets, and/or electronic readers. Any display, use, or carrying of an electronic communication device is prohibited unless expressly authorized by policy or expressly approved by a school administrator or other authorized school official. Authorized possession of an electronic or communications device at school or during the course of any school-related activity is a privilege that may be forfeited, relinquished, or rescinded if the student fails to comply with the provisions of this Code of Conduct.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTINUED

- Lying to school personnel.
 - Stealing the property of other students, school personnel, or other persons lawfully on school property.
 - Selling, using, or possessing obscene material.
 - Possessing or smoking a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or using/possessing chewing or smokeless tobacco, liquid nicotine, electronic nicotine, lookalike cigarette, vaporizer, a vaping delivery system, inhalator device, dabpen or any other device that enables usage of an electronic cigarette. (See district policy 5640)
 - Possessing, consuming, selling, transferring, distributing, or exchanging alcohol in any form, or illegal or unauthorized substances (Ex. marijuana), or being under the influence of either. Illegal or unauthorized drugs include, but are not limited to inhalants, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, opioids, heroin, steroids, lookalike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as designer or synthetic drugs. Also, drug paraphernalia materials (Ex: pipes, bowls, scales, rolling papers, containers, storage devices, or any other items).
 - Unauthorized possession, use, sale, dissemination, exchange, or sharing of prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs without expressed permission from a school authority. All orders for prescription and/or over-the-counter medication must be administered through the health office by a school official.
 - Defamation, which includes making false statements that harm the reputation of that person/group.
 - Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, age, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religious practices, sex, gender identity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and any other classification protected by law as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
 - Acts of sexual harassment as defined in the district's sexual harassment policy, including indecent exposure of private body parts (see district policy 6121 & 7551).
 - In accordance with school district policies, individual and/or gang-related bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyberbullying. "Hazing", refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Examples of hazing are, but are not limited to 1) Subtle Hazing (deception, silence periods, deprivation of privileges, social isolating, and name calling); 2) Harassment Hazing (verbal abuse, threats or implied threats, wearing embarrassing or humiliating attire, or performing personal services to be expected to harass others); or 3) Violent Hazing (forces or coerced alcohol or other drug consumption; beating, paddling, or other forms of assault; branding; forced or coerced ingestion of vile substances or concoctions; burning; water intoxication; expecting abuse or mistreatment of animals; public nudity; illegal activity; bondage; exposure to cold weather or extreme heat without appropriate protection).
 - Using vulgar or abusive language or gestures, cursing or swearing, or displaying gang-related insignia.
 - Initiating a report of a fire, bomb threat, or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
 - Gambling and gaming (including, but not limited to: gambling or gaming via the internet).
 - Signs of excessive physical affection that are inappropriate for school
 - Subjecting any other student(s), school personnel, or any other person to danger by engaging in conduct that creates a risk of injury or harm.
 - Attempting to sabotage or intentionally circumvent security measures.
 - Wearing or spraying of any strong scents.
 - Inappropriate use of the District/Local Law Enforcement Tip Line.
 - Team or club group chats, regardless of who initiated them, include behavior or language that would violate the District or Athletic Code of Conduct.
 - In adherence to the NYS Legislature and Governor Hochul's cell phone ban from bell to bell, students shall turn off their cell phone and internet enabled device upon entering the school premises and securely store them in their lockers or designated storage locations, remaining without access until dismissal. Prohibited internet-enabled devices include, but are not limited to, personally owned laptops, iPads, cell phones, smart watches, Meta glasses, earbuds, and headphones. 37s
 - Students are prohibited from obstructing or refusing a search of their bags, belongings, or pockets by an authorized school official when there is reasonable suspicion that they possess an illegal or prohibited item in school. The obstruction or refusal of such search shall be considered purposeful insubordination which constitutes a Tier 2 behavior under the District's Code of Conduct. (See district policy 7330)
 - Students are not authorized to sell items on campus without prior approval from school administration. Any unauthorized selling or solicitation is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. All student sales must be conducted in accordance with school policies and with proper authorization.
- B. Engage in conduct that is violent, as defined in the NYS SSEC system. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:**
- * (Repeated acts of physical or verbal aggression by any students (including those suspected of a disability) and may result in the development of a Functional Behavioral Assessment and/or Behavioral Intervention Plan and may lead to a superintendent's hearing.)
- Committing an act such as hitting, kicking, punching, spitting biting, stabbing, and scratching upon any school employee student or upon other persons lawfully on school property.
 - Possessing a weapon.
 - Displaying any item that resembles or appears to be a weapon.
 - Threatening to use any weapon.
 - Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of any district employee or any person on school property.
 - Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
 - Engaging in harassing conduct, verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for their physical well-being.
 - Possessing any ammunition (or any look-alike objects resembling ammunition) of any kind, whether used or unused and whether spent or unspent, including but not limited to, bullets, shells, shell casings, rounds, explosives, arrows, or other projectiles et. al.
- C. Engage in conduct that discriminates/harasses or bullies as defined in the Dignity for All Students Act on any school property or during school sponsored functions, including transportation to and from school and school events. Such examples include but are NOT limited to: (See district policies 3420, 7550, 7553)**
- Name calling.
 - Telling an inappropriate joke.
 - Making ethnic slurs.
- D. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus (See policy 7340)**
- It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on District buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers, and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting, harassment, and discrimination will not be tolerated. Students waiting for buses when not on school property are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the District's "code". The District will comply with additional reporting requirements outlined in the DASA regulations.
- E. Engage in any form of academic misconduct (See district policy 7315)**
- Plagiarism (as defined in Section II "Definitions," herein), cheating, and dishonesty violate academic integrity and defeat the purpose for learning. There is no distinction between parties either offering or accepting improper assistance. This includes homework, in-class assignments, testing, and research papers. This may include, but is NOT limited to:

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTINUED

- Use of cell phones
- Text messaging
- Electronic cut and paste, such as, during an online assessment
- Crib notes, Spark Notes, or other websites where a student can share or retrieve plagiarized answers for their work
- Sharing answers
- Use of iPods, MP3 players, earbuds, and/or other electronic devices
- Talking during testing
- Use of stray or smudge marks on tests
- Nonverbal signals
- Misuse of calculators and/or other technology
- Obtaining answers from instructors
- Use of any artificial intelligence services (i.e. Chat GPT) to complete academic assignments without first receiving the expressed consent from the required teacher or administrator. It is the role of educators to teach how artificial intelligence services should be used responsibly and ethically for school assignments.

Any students who plagiarize, cheat, and are dishonest will be subject to the following consequences at the discretion of the teacher and/or administrator:

- 0% on the assignment and notification to parents/legal guardians
- Verbal notification to parents/legal guardians
- Written notification to parents/legal guardians
- Making up the assignment/test at a later date
- Other disciplinary action may occur, which could include detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension or a Superintendent's Hearing.

Reporting Violations

Any person aware of a violation of the Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, and any underlying Lockport City School District policies and procedures should notify the appropriate internal personnel immediately as an expectation of the Code of Conduct. All individuals are expected to report any violations of the Code of Conduct, District policy, or District procedures. Individuals may be subject to a consequence for not reporting violations. Notification of local law enforcement will be determined based on the violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school.

If any school staff member has reason to believe that a current student is likely to engage in conduct that would cause serious physical harm to themselves or others, they should report the concern to the building administrator. The building administrator or other school official may then file an application in the supreme court of the county in which the student resides for an extreme risk protection order. The decision to issue this order rests with the court and the determination will be based on probable cause (<https://www2.nycourts.gov/erpo>).

The District will not tolerate any retaliation against an individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying or discrimination.

A copy of the entire student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures is available in each school building or can be accessed on the District's web page at <http://www.lockportschools.org>.

Guidelines for Special Education

A student with a disability is expected to follow the rules and procedures set forth in the Code of Conduct. However the school recognizes that certain disabilities require procedures and action which may be altered from those which are normally followed. Under such circumstances, school personnel will work with parents/legal guardians and the Committee on Special Education to determine whether the student's behavior is an element of, or related to, the student's disability.

The New York State Public Health Law and New York State Education Department require immunization compliance and specific health screening in school annually. The purpose of this notice is to summarize these requirements.

TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH

We are committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of every student. Our dedicated team of school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other student support professionals work together to ensure students have the resources they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

As students transition back to school, families can also play an important role in supporting their emotional well-being. Here are some helpful tips, inspired by the Youth Mental Health First Aid curriculum, to help students start the school year feeling confident, connected, and prepared.



Tips For Parents & Caregivers

Check In Often

Start conversations by asking how your child is feeling about the new school year. Listen without judgment and create a safe space for them to share.

Offer Reassurance

Acknowledge your child's feelings and remind them that it's okay to feel nervous. Let them know they're supported.

Help Them Prepare

Small routines like packing backpacks, choosing clothes, or making lunches the night before can reduce stress and build confidence.

Establish Healthy Routines

Gradually return to school bedtimes and morning schedules before the first day to help ease the transition.

Lead by Example

Children notice how adults respond to change. Model healthy coping skills, self-care, and a positive attitude.

Tips For Students

Take Care of Your Body

Eat healthy meals and snacks, stay hydrated, and get plenty of sleep. A healthy body helps support a healthy mind.

Make Time for What You Love

Balance school with activities that bring you joy, whether it's sports, music, reading, art, or spending time with family and friends.

Find Ways to Relax

When you're feeling overwhelmed, take a break. Listen to music, go for a walk, read a book, practice deep breathing, or try yoga.

Help Others

Volunteering or doing something kind for someone else can boost your mood and help you feel connected.

Ask for Help

You don't have to handle everything on your own. Talk to a trusted adult, teacher, counselor, family member, or friend whenever you need support.

By incorporating these strategies, we can work together to ensure that our students feel supported and ready to take on the challenges of the new school year. Let's prioritize mental health and create a positive, nurturing environment for all.

STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

Immunizations

New York State Public Health Law 2164 requires certain immunizations for school attendance. A copy of your child's immunizations is required for attendance in school. Immunizations are available from your physician or free of charge from the Niagara County Health Department by appointment (Phone: 716-439-7430). Please submit proof of your child's immunizations to the school nurse. Students are not allowed to attend school after a specific time without acceptable proof of required immunizations. Please contact your child's school nurse for assistance.

Due to New York State Requirements, all students in grades 7-12 must receive the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine.

Health Screenings

New York State Education Law requires that a physical examination be completed for every student in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades, and for every new entrant to a school from out of the District. Each examination shall include a calculation of the student's Body Mass Index (BMI) and weight status category. We encourage your physician to examine your child. If this is not possible, the District will make arrangements to complete a physical, which will be conducted by one of the school physicians, during scheduled school time.

In compliance with New York State guidelines students are screened for vision, hearing, height and weight, BMI, weight status category, and scoliosis. Health screening is performed individually with regard to every student's privacy and comfort. The Lockport City School District will participate in a survey dictated by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to Public Health Law in relation to students' BMI and weight status category. New York State Department of Health will utilize the data collected to develop a report on childhood obesity and obesity related diseases. You may refuse to have any portion of the health screening performed. Refusal should be indicated in writing to your child's Principal. If the school nurse identifies any problems with the health screening you will receive notification in writing. Should this occur we ask that you have your physician evaluate the problem, complete the notification and return it to the school nurse.

Dental Health Certificates

New York State Education Law requests that a dental examination be completed for every student in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades, and for every new entrant to a school from out of the District.

A duly licensed dentist authorized to practice in New York State shall sign dental health certificates. Each certificate shall describe the dental health condition of the student when the examination is made and shall state whether the student is in a fit condition of dental health to permit his/her attendance in school. Dental health evaluations may be conducted within 12 months from the start of a school year. If you need assistance with identifying a dentist, a complete listing of local area dentists is available from the Eighth District Dental Society of Western New York. Their website may be found at www.8thdistrictdental.org or by telephone (716) 995-6300.



Health Screening Forms

Forms may be obtained from your child's school nurse or on our District website www.lockportschools.org under "Wellness."

Head Injuries and Concussion Policy

The Lockport City School District, in compliance with current NYS regulations and guidelines, has developed policies and procedures regarding head injuries and concussions in children.

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that is caused by a blow to the head or body, a fall, or another injury that jars or shakes the brain inside the skull. Concussion results in a myriad of physical, cognitive, emotional, and/or sleep-related symptoms that may or may not involve a loss of consciousness. The duration of symptoms is variable and may last from several minutes to days, weeks, months, or years.

The Lockport City School District has a multidisciplinary concussion management team. Aligned with best practices for students and current regulations, our District has policies, procedures, and return-to-play protocols pertaining to concussions. Highlights include:

- Any student who is suspected of having a concussion will be immediately removed from any athletic activity (recess, gym class, or sports) and remain out of athletic activities until evaluated and cleared to return to activity by a physician following District policy and procedure.
- Physical Education, nursing, and coaching personnel have received training regarding the management of head injuries and concussions, in compliance with current regulations.

Prompt recognition, intervention, removal from activities, and referral of the individual with a concussion are desired outcomes of these regulations.

Health personnel will assist students, families, and staff with monitoring the student's progress and return to school activities.

Information related to concussions may be found on our District website at <http://www.lockportschools.org>.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Student Attendance Policy

Parents/Guardians and students should be aware of the attendance policy adopted by the Board of Education. The policy reflects the belief that consistent school attendance has an effect on academic success and school completion. Complete copies of the policy are on the District website.

Determination of Absences, Tardiness and Early Departures

Excused absences are due to personal medical/illness, death in the family, religious observance, court appearances, personal or family business, educational/school related activity, and other such reasons as approved by the Board of Education. All others will be considered unexcused. Students will be recorded as "unexcused" until a written note or phone call is received from a legal guardian.

Student Attendance/Course Credit

Upon returning to school, it will be the student's responsibility to consult with the teacher about making up missed work during a time to be determined by the teacher. If an absence is determined to be unexcused, arrangements will be made for missed assignments to be completed in an alternative setting.

STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Acceptable Use Policy

The Board of Education will provide student access to various electronic information systems through the District's computer system ("DCS" hereafter) consisting of software, hardware, computer networks, and electronic communication systems. This may include access to systems such as electronic mail, internet, or intranet services. It may include the opportunity for some students to have independent access to the District systems from their home or other remote locations. All use of District systems, including independent use of school premises, shall be subject to this policy and accompanying regulations. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research and consistent with the goals and purposes of the Lockport City School District. One purpose of this policy is to provide notice to students and s/guardians that, unlike most traditional instructional or library media materials, the District information systems will allow students access to external computer systems not controlled by the School District where it is impossible for the District to screen or review all of the available materials. Some of the available materials may be deemed unsuitable by s/guardians for student use or access. This policy is intended to establish general guidelines for acceptable student use. s/guardians of students must be willing to share the responsibility to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use of the District's systems to their children.

Standards of Acceptable Use

Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to the use of the District systems. This policy does not attempt to articulate all required and/or acceptable uses of the District systems; nor is it the intention of this policy to define all inappropriate usage. Administrative regulations will further define general guidelines of appropriate student conduct and use as well as prescribed behavior. Lockport City School District students shall also adhere to the laws, policies, and rules governing electronic systems including, but not limited to, copyright laws, rights of software publishers, license agreements, and student rights of privacy created by federal and state law. Students who engage in unacceptable use may lose privileged access to District equipment and systems in accordance with applicable due process procedures, and may be subject to further discipline under the District's school conduct and discipline policy and the District Code of Conduct. These regulations apply to the student use of technology on campus and off campus as technology is provided by the District for use at home. The District reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys property (physical and/or intellectual) of the District. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against the parents/guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys District property pursuant to General Obligations Law Section 3-112. Student data files and other electronic storage areas are considered to be school district property, subject to control and inspection. The Superintendent of Schools or their designee may access all such files and communications without prior notice to ensure system integrity and that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations. Students SHOULD NOT expect that information stored on District systems will be private.

Notification/Authorization

The District's Acceptable Use Policy and Regulations is made available to parents/guardians and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and students' obligations when accessing the District information systems at www.lockportschools.org or by request to the Director of Technology, Assessment, and Data. Student access to the District information systems will automatically be provided unless the parent/guardian has submitted written notification to the District that such access be limited. Should a parent/guardian wish to deny access to or use of the District's computerized information systems (beyond what is required instructionally) they must do so in writing and may contact the building directly. The process by which parents/guardians may submit a written request to deny or rescind student use of the District information systems is in accordance with the law, Commissioner's Regulations and or District policies and procedures. Regulations have been established as necessary to implement the terms of policy.

Use of Cameras

Security cameras are being utilized on district property for the safety and protection of the school community. The District uses Closed Caption television (CCTV) cameras at all entryways and throughout our buildings. CCTV cameras capture video that is not broadcast anywhere, but rather stored on local servers for up to 60 days for security use. After 60 days all video footage is deleted from our systems unless it is being used or archived for legal or investigative purposes.

Cell Phone Policy

This policy is in response to statewide requirements recently enacted by Governor Kathy Hochul. These requirements apply to all public schools, charter schools, and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State. See district policy 7312 for more information.



GUIDELINES FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

What Is Sexual Harassment?

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute harassment on the basis of sex when;

- Submission of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment or success in a classroom
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or educational/academic decisions affecting such individuals
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or school environment.
- Sexual Harassment can happen once or many times.
- School district officials are legally responsible for investigating and taking steps to prevent sexual harassment.
- Some forms of sexual harassment are also crimes.

Prohibited Conduct

Sexual harassment can be verbal, non-verbal, or physical. Examples of such conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal abuse or ridicule, including innuendos, stories, and jokes that are sexual in nature and/or gender-related. This might include inappropriate sex-oriented comments on appearance, including dress or physical features.
- Direct or indirect threats or bribes for unwanted sexual activity.
- Asking or commenting about a person's sexual activities.
- Unwelcome and unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, physical acts such as assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching, or any physical interference with normal work or movement.
- Displaying or distributing pornographic or other sexually explicit materials such as magazines, pictures, internet material, cartoons, etc.
- The use of profanity and/or other obscenities that is sexually suggestive or degrading in nature.
- Unwelcome staring, leering, or gesturing, which is sexually suggestive in nature.
- Unwelcome and/or offensive public displays of sexual/physical affection.
- Clothing that reflects sexually obscene and/or sexually explicit messages slogans, or pictures.
- Engaging in sexual conduct with an individual who is unable to consent due to his/her age, use of drugs or alcohol, intellectual disability, or other disability.
- Any other unwelcome and unwanted sexually oriented and/or gender-based behavior, which is sexually demeaning, belittling, intimidating, or perpetrates sexual stereotypes and attitudes.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

Any District personnel, student, or volunteer who has been subjected to behavior that may constitute sexual harassment is encouraged to report such behavior to a supervisor, manager, District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer, or a District Title IX Officer (using Exhibit 6121E found on the District website). Anyone who witnesses or becomes aware of potential instances of sexual harassment should report such behavior to a supervisor, manager, the District Civil Rights Compliance Officer or a District Title IX Officer. Reports of sexual harassment may be made verbally or in writing. A form for submission of a written complaint is attached to the policy as an exhibit (6121E), and all District personnel, students, or volunteers who are reporting sexual harassment on behalf of other District personnel, student, or volunteer should use the complaint form and note that it is on another person's behalf.

Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment. Complaints of retaliation may be directed to the Civil Rights Compliance Officer. In the event the Civil Rights Compliance Officer is the alleged offender, the report will be directed to another Civil Rights Compliance Officer or to the Superintendent. Where appropriate, follow-up inquiries will be made to ensure that sexual harassment has not returned and that all involved in the investigation have not suffered retaliation.

Complaint and Investigation of Sexual Harassment

All complaints or information about suspected sexual harassment would be investigated by the District Civil Rights Compliance Officer or a District Title IX Officer in consultation with the Superintendent, whether that information was reported in verbal or written form. Investigations will be conducted in a timely manner, and will be confidential to the extent possible. An investigation of any complaint, information, or knowledge of suspected sexual harassment will be prompt and thorough and should be completed within 30 days. All persons involved, including complainants, witnesses, and alleged perpetrators will be afforded due process to protect their rights to a fair and impartial investigation.

Any District personnel, student or volunteer may be required to cooperate as needed in an investigation of suspected sexual harassment. District personnel or students who participate in any investigation will not be retaliated against.

The Lockport City School District has a Title IX Officer to investigate serious incidents. If you believe that you are the victim of sexual harassment, report it to the Title IX Officer:

Mr. Russell Buckley
Phone: (716) 478-4862
Email: rbuckley@lockportschools.net
57 Canal Street, Lockport, NY

Dr. Bernadette Smith
Phone: (716) 478-4625
Email: bsmith@lockportschools.net
319 West Avenue, Lockport, NY



WE ARE

WE ALL

LIONS. BELONG.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Lockport City School District has once again been approved for the Community Eligibility Program designation that will **allow every student attending a Lockport City School to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch daily regardless of their family income.**

How to Apply/Receive Meals

There is no formal application to receive these meals. Breakfast for grades 2-6 will be served in your child's classroom. Students in grades K-1 will receive and eat their breakfast in the cafeteria. Students in grades 7-8 will obtain their breakfast through either a breakfast kiosk located within the building or from the cafeteria or in their classroom. Students in grades 9-12 can obtain their free breakfast from the high school cafeteria or a breakfast kiosk located within the building and then take it to their homeroom or eat in the cafeteria. One free lunch per student will be provided in each school cafeteria. Student's wishing to purchase a second meal or ala carte items can do so.

All breakfast and lunch meals will meet USDA nutritional guidelines.

Verification Form

Each family will be asked to fill out a one-page verification application in September confirming they are a District resident and that their child is enrolled in one of our buildings. This is needed to receive grant funds. The form can be found on line at lockportschools.org/freefood.

Established **Second Meal Prices**

Breakfast

Elementary \$.85 Intermediate \$.85
Junior High \$1.10 High School/LHSW \$1.10

Lunch

Elementary \$1.20 Intermediate \$1.20
Junior High \$1.45 High School/LHSW \$1.45

Community Eligibility Parent Letter

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:

**Breakfast/Lunch Menus can be found on our district website.
Go to www.lockportschools.org/menus**

We are pleased to inform you that Lockport City School District will be implementing a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

What does this mean for your child(ren) attending the school(s) identified above?

All students enrolled in the Lockport City School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2026-2027 school year. No further action is required by you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application. We do, however, kindly request that you please complete the application online at lockportschools.org/freefood, as it benefits the district through grant funding.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at (716) 478-4828.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442;
or email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





Lockport City School District
130 Beattie Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094

Non Profit
US Postage
Paid
Permit #1242
Buffalo, NY

Board of Education

Leslie R. Tobin, President
Alex Lamont, Vice President
Gregory J. Newman, Jr., Secretary
Tracy Caruso, Trustee
Thomas Gray, Trustee
Boy Petersen, Trustee
Sterling Pierce, Jr., Trustee
Joseph Runfola II, Trustee
Nicole Zugelder, Trustee

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mathis Calvin, III

Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Lisa M. Schrader

**Acting Assistant Superintendent for
Finance & Management Services**

TBD

**Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction**

Marianne Currie-Hall

Check your email for information about ParentSquare, the new school communication platform which will replace "Rooms."



ParentSquare



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION, MADE EASIER.



**PARENT
SQUARE**



LCSD WEBSITE



**LCSD FAMILY
EMPOWERMENT
CENTER**



**LCSD FAMILY
RESOURCES**



**LCSD
FACEBOOK**



**LCSD
INSTAGRAM**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lockport City School District is a diverse community committed to fostering a sense of belonging and creating opportunities for continuous growth for all. We provide extensive learning experiences while ensuring a safe environment. With lion pride, we prepare our students for their future, support our staff, and partner with our community.