

the necessary dress as described in the Worcester Technical High School supplement. The Administration enforces these requirements.

Every Student Succeeds Act

The Worcester Public Schools makes every effort to comply with the regulations and requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a federal law enacted in 2015. This legislation requires school district personnel to notify parents/guardians of a variety of issues regarding their children's education. Among them is a requirement to notify parents/guardians of students attending Title I schools of their right to know about the qualifications of the teachers and instructional assistants who work with their children.

In a Title I school, parents/guardians have the right to know the professional qualifications of classroom teachers who instruct their children. ESSA allows parents/guardians to ask for certain information about a student's classroom teacher and requires that the district provide the parents/guardians with the requested information in a timely manner if a parent/guardian asks for it. Specifically, parents/guardians have the right to ask for the following information about each of their children's classroom teachers in a Title I school:

- Whether the teacher has met the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) qualification 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 provisional status through which DESE qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether any instructional assistants or other paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and, if they do, their qualifications.

If parents/guardians would like to receive any of this information, they must contact the principal of their child(ren)'s Title I school.

In addition, districts are required to provide to each individual parent/guardian information on the child's level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the state academic assessments required under Title I and to notify parents/guardians in a timely manner when their child has been assigned, or has been taught four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable DESE certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

At the beginning of each school year, Title I schools must notify parents/guardians of each child that the parents may request and the school will provide in a timely manner information regarding any state or school policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA. Information on each mandated assessment is available on the Worcester Public Schools' website.

No later than thirty days after the beginning of the school year, each Title I school must inform parents/guardians of an English learner identified for participation or participating in a language instruction educational program of the reasons for placement; the child's level of English proficiency and academic achievement; and how the program will address the child's specific needs; and to provide parents/guardians with written guidance detailing the parental rights and options with regard to such a program.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Philosophy

It is the policy of the Worcester Public Schools to ensure fair and effective disciplinary practices. Every student has a right to an education in a safe, secure and supportive environment, and every teacher has a right to expect respectful, prepared students in his/her classroom.

A key aspect of a student's education is the acquisition of social and behavioral skills, since effective learning can only occur when students obey basic rules of conduct. This means that:

- Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that is in the best interest of the school and its students.
- Parents/guardians have a responsibility to develop positive attitudes toward study and behavior.
- Teachers have a responsibility to continue behavior development through teaching and discipline in the classroom.
- The Administration and the School Committee have a responsibility to support and maintain the enforcement of discipline within the school buildings.

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this handbook. Chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General Laws, known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation team to have special needs and whose program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Such provisions will also be made, when appropriate, for students with a disability who are receiving accommodations or related services under a 504 plan.

The Code of Conduct is based on a system of progressive discipline with a goal of limiting the use of long-term suspension as a consequence for student misconduct until other consequences have been considered, as appropriate. The administrator will exercise discretion in determining disciplinary consequences.

The administrator may utilize his/her discretion to significantly increase penalties in the cases of second and third offenses or for other factors. In determining the severity of the penalty or suspension, the appropriate administrator may consider all relevant facts, including but not limited to: 1) previous disciplinary record, 2) severity of disruption to the educational process, 3) degree of danger to self and/or others, 4) the degree to which the student is willing to change his/her inappropriate behavior and 5) whether alternative consequences are appropriate to re-engage the student in learning.