

Ware Public Schools

Faculty Information Guide



2019-2020

It is the policy of the Ware Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, military service, union activity or genetics in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M.G.L. c. 71A and c. 76, s. 5.

Contents

Welcome Message from the Superintendent	4
SMK Principal Mrs. Pamela Iwasinski.....	5
WMS Principal Ms. KatieAnne DeMars.....	5
WJSHS Principal Mr. Eugene Rich.....	5
Mission Statement	6
504 Accommodations	6
Acceptable Use of Technology (See Appendix A)	6
Accountability Department.....	6
Add/Drop Courses	6
After School Busses.....	6
Assemblies	6
Athletic Department	7
Attendance.....	7
Building Codes, Access/Building Keys.....	7
Busses, Drop Off/Pick-Up	7
Central Office Staff.....	7
Class Attendance.....	8
Class Coverage	8
Classroom Procedures	8
Compensation from External Resources	9
Communication with Parents	9
Contracts	9
CORI Paperwork.....	9
Counseling and Behavioral Team Referrals	9
Course Reimbursements	9
Custodian Responsibilities.....	9
Detentions.....	10
Duties for Faculty	10
Early Release Days	10
Email Address.....	10
Emergency Procedures	11
Evaluations Procedures	11
Events Announcements	11
Faculty Absences Procedures	11
Faculty Copier.....	11
Faculty Emergency Card	11
Faculty Lunch Room, Lunch Purchases	11
Faculty Meetings.....	12
Faculty Parking Lot	12
Faculty Restrooms	12
Field Trips, Chaperones.....	12
Filing a Chapter 119, 51A, Massachusetts Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect	13
Reporting Statute	13
Fingerprinting.....	13
Fire Drill Procedures	14
Grades	14
Homeroom, Daily Attendance	14
IEP (Easy IEP) Training	14

iPass Training	14
Lock Downs	15
Map of Schools	15
MCAS testing	15
Money	15
Nurse Availability	15
Organization and Care of Classrooms	16
Other Types of Leave for Faculty	16
Parental Pick-Up	16
Personal Phone Calls, Faculty Cell Phone Use	16
Personal Use of Technology at Home	16
Professional Development Department, Workshops, Conferences off Campus	16
Report Cards	16
Responsibility of All Faculty Members	17
Safety Committee	17
School Committee Names and Meetings	17
School Day Hours	17
School Schedule Format	17
Starting Your Own Club or Activity	17
Student Assistance Team (S.A.T.)	18
Student Discipline Procedure (behavior), Code of Conduct	18
Student Illness/Injury	19
Student Passes	19
Supplies	19
Technology Department	19
Use of Facilities and Incident Report Forms	19
Visitors and Volunteers in School	19
Website Address	19
Appendix A: Acceptable Use of Technology	20
Appendix B: Cori Request Form	23
Appendix C: Background Checks-Fingerprinting Law	24
Appendix D: Bullying Policy	26
REPORTING, RESPONDING, AND INTERVENTION	28
RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF BULLYING OR RETALIATION	29
CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES TO BULLYING	34
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT	34
RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS	35

Welcome Message from the Superintendent

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the new school year! Hope the information found in this Faculty Guide will assist you with any questions you may have about Ware Public Schools. If you cannot locate the information you are searching for please stop by your principal's office for assistance with your inquiry.

The education of our students is forever evolving as we prepare them with the skills needed to be successful in this global society. In order for our students to obtain these skills, they must be in attendance on a daily basis to experience the many lessons they are exposed to throughout the day. Please make a commitment to building positive relationships with all of your students. Through these positive relationships students will find a place that they are comfortable within and want to attend daily. Remember one of the many qualities our district has to offer is that we are a small learning community where everyone knows your name.

Thanks for your assistance in ensuring that our students are given as many opportunities as possible to be academically successful.

Respectfully,
Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo
mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

SMK Principal Mrs. Pamela Iwasinski

Mrs. Iwasinski began her teaching career in the field of physical education & health at Ludlow High School. Most recently, Mrs. Iwasinski was Stanley M. Koziol's very own physical education teacher for two years. She has also spent her time as an athletic trainer for both Ludlow High School and Ware Jr. Sr. High School assisting athletes in preventing and rehabilitating injuries on and off the field.

Mrs. Iwasinski lives in her hometown of Ludlow, Massachusetts with her husband and three young children. She has obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Sports Medicine from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a Master's Degree in Education from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and her CAGS from Leslie University where she received her Elementary Administrator's License participating in the MESPA (Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association) certification program.

SMK Assistant-Principal: Kimberly Thompson

WMS Principal Ms. KatieAnne DeMars

Ms. DeMars holds an administrator license in both middle school and elementary school, a general science license 1-8, as well as a Master of Business Administration degree from Western New England University. As a certified administrator in Massachusetts, Ms. DeMars enjoys working with both educators and students, working together to explore the world and the many possibilities that it offers. Ms. DeMars is a 2014 Grinspoon Award Recipient for Excellence in Teaching.

WMS Assistant-Principal: Ms. April Huckaby

WJSHS Principal Mr. Eugene Rich

Mr. Rich has been working in the Ware Public School System for the past 19 years. During his tenure at the high school, he has served in a variety of teaching and administrative roles. Mr. Rich has taught in both the Business and Math Departments, guiding students in courses such as Accounting, Marketing, Personal Finance, Business Math, Algebra, and Geometry. In addition to instructing students in the classroom, he has also served the district as Director of Athletics (4 years), Dean of Students, Class Advisor, New Teacher Mentor and Union Representative.

WJSHS Assistant-Principal: Mr. Daniel Roy

Mission Statement

The Ware Public School District strives to work with parents and the wider community to educate all students in an environment that supports high academic achievement, instills respect and fosters civic responsibility. We believe that the ultimate goal of education is to support students as successful lifelong learners.

504 Accommodations

Each school has an adjustment counselor that is responsible for administering and following through of the 504 accommodations. At SMK - see Mrs. Karen Hill; at WMS - see Ms. Jacquie Jock; and at WJSHS - see Ms. Antonia Cardaropoli.

Acceptable Use of Technology (See Appendix A)

Accountability Department

Jan Yardley, Director of Curriculum and Accountability - located at the Middle School
yardley@ware.k12.ma.us

Add/Drop Courses

For WJSHS: During the school year, courses may be add/dropped, **under exceptional circumstances only**, if the principal, teacher, guidance counselor, and parent agree that it would be in the best interest of the student. The classroom teacher will assign a grade of “withdrawn” for the permanent record card. The parent/guardian must verify his/her consent to drop by submitting a written permission to the guidance counselor. Students will have five days at the beginning of the semester to change classes. All other requests must be granted by the Administration after the five-day add/drop period. Second semester changes will be made to accommodate 1st semester course failure.

After School Busses

Due to certain budgetary circumstances, there will be no late busses for students. If a student stays after school for whatever reason (detention, extra help, make up, etc.), he/she must supply the office with a signed note by a parent/guardian giving that student permission to do so. It is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to have a ride home arranged in advance by the student’s school’s designated pick-up time.

Assemblies

The auditorium is a community resource as well as a valuable school activity site and, as such, should be treated with respect. Teaching proper assembly behavior is critical to having a good activities/assembly program:

1. All students are to attend all-school assemblies.
2. Students are to report to the auditorium with their particular class and are to stay with that class.
3. Classes will be called to the auditorium in an orderly fashion. While waiting to be called, teachers should remind students to act in a mature fashion by:

- a. Showing respect for performers and guests whether they like the performance or not
 - b. Be responsible for behaving appropriately
 - c. Remain seated throughout the program
 - d. Keep feet and legs off chairs
4. Teachers will accompany their class to the auditorium, sit with them and take attendance. Rows should be filled from front to back with as many seats as possible filled in before starting a new row. All teachers are expected to attend and to help supervise all school-wide assemblies.
 5. At the conclusion of the program, students will be dismissed with the teacher and class they arrived with.

Athletic Department

Mr. Tom Shamgochian, Athletic Director; located at the Ware Junior Senior High School
tshamgochian@ware.k12.ma.us

Attendance

Absences can sometimes not be avoided. See your building principal about specific call-out procedures in the event you need to miss work.

Building Codes, Access/Building Keys

Each school has its own building code to gain access at all times, known only by custodial staff and administration. Each school does, however, have key cards available to teachers so that they may access the building during normal hours when school is open, but the door is locked. See your principal for information on this.

Busses, Drop Off/Pick-Up

Please refer to the Student Handbook to read all about the policies, rules, and regulations of the busses.

Campus Calendar

You may refer to the following link:

www.wareps.org and click on the calendar. Download the PDF of the calendar.

Central Office Staff

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo, Superintendent of Schools
Annette LeClair, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
Katie Rasys, Receptionist/Administrative Services and Support
Andy Paquette, Management Solutions President/Business Manager
Judy LaValley, Bookkeeper

Class Attendance

Every day, teachers are expected to take an accurate attendance count during homeroom. Teachers are further encouraged to take attendance every class period, and notify the office of any discrepancies. This will ensure 100% accuracy in the daily attendance, every day for records.

Class Coverage

Any and all requests to leave early need to be directed to your school principal.

Classroom Procedures

All teachers are to:

1. Keep an accurate hard copy of their daily attendance record for classes.
2. Give students who have been suspended the opportunity to complete any class work, including examinations, which were missed during the suspension period.
3. Students who are tardy to a class without proper permission will be noted tardy to class by the teacher and will receive the following, in succession:
 - a. Warning
 - b. Teacher detention
 - c. Office referral
4. Each unexcused tardy will result in disciplinary action to include warnings and/or detentions issued by the teacher. Chronic tardiness issues will be referred to administration.
5. Be in the classroom as each class arrives and assume responsibility for corridor decorum at the door, or while traveling to the next assignment.
6. Ensure that students do not play or use radios, including "walk-mans," cellular phones, or other electronic devices in the classrooms. No student should enter class with headgear, backpacks or inappropriate attire.
7. Start classes on time and be prepared.
8. Check desk tops and textbooks periodically regarding markings, damage, etc.
9. Food and open beverages, except water are not allowed in hallways or classrooms.
10. Train students to leave only at the teacher's dismissal, but plan work so that they may be dismissed on time.
11. Insist on proper respect due a teacher.
12. Classroom rules should be posted clearly.
13. Dismiss classes on time and insist upon orderly entrance and exit. Do not dismiss students before the end of the period. A bell will indicate the end of the period except for split periods. Students should not stand around the doorway of a classroom prior to the bell (bells are only applicable to WJSHS).
14. Ensure that a class of students is never left unattended. If you must leave the room due to some emergency, get someone to cover for you. The liability situation is such that if anything should occur in an unattended class, the law will not protect you.
15. Ensure that classes are not held outdoors unless approval of the administration has been received and the main office can still reach you at all times, via a radio or your cell phone. You must give them your number before leaving the building.
16. At any time a class is moved from their assigned location, **THE OFFICE MUST BE NOTIFIED! No exceptions!**

Compensation from External Resources

It is impermissible to accept compensation from any person or entity other than the School District for services rendered in school buildings or at school functions unless approved by Central Office or your building Administration.

Communication with Parents

Good communication between teachers and parents doesn't just happen. It requires special skills on your part—skills such as good listening techniques, tact, kindness, consideration, empathy, enthusiasm and an understanding of parent-child relationships. No matter how you interact with parents and the community at large, through conferences, telephone conversations, e-mail, written notes or reports, lobbying or fund-raising efforts, or working together in the classroom, good communication and interpersonal skills will enhance your efforts. Be positive! Parents enjoy positive communication. Most teachers only make contact when something goes wrong. Make sure if you give negatives you also give positives.

Contracts

All teachers will receive a copy of that contract upon return to school in August. If you do not receive a copy, please see your school's building representative. Any paraprofessionals that have questions regarding their contract see Shaunda Webber.

CORI Paperwork

You may refer to the district website listed below:

www.wareps.org under Staff and District Documents or refer to Appendix B

Counseling and Behavioral Team Referrals

A team will meet weekly to discuss students with emotional and behavioral concerns and determine interventions needed. Criteria and procedures for temporary placement in the alternative classroom will be distributed.

Course Reimbursements

As per the teachers' contract, all teachers will receive up to \$200 per graduate credit in reimbursement.

Custodian Responsibilities

Custodians have specific responsibilities as it relates to the cleanliness of floors, lockers, offices, classrooms, bathrooms, walls, dispensers, trash receptacles, mirrors, drinking fountains, lighting fixtures, and light switches, door knobs, and push and kick plates. See Chris Dymon or Bill Alderman for more information.

Detentions

TEACHER DETENTION

1. Teachers will give a twenty-four (24) hour written notice when assigning a detention.
2. Teachers will specify the date and length of time the detention is assigned.
3. Failure to serve a teacher detention will result in an office detention.
4. Students will not be allowed to postpone detentions without the teacher's approval and correspondence from parent or guardian.
5. Any student who fails to serve their detention will be referred to the Asst.Principal

OFFICE DETENTION

1. Twenty-four (24) hour written notice will be given for an office detention.
1. Grades 7-12 office detentions will be held on Tuesday through Thursday from 2:30-3:30pm. Grades 7-8 will be separate from grades 9-12.
2. Grades 4-6 office detentions will be held Tuesday & Thursday from 7:45-8:45am.
3. Students are to be in the detention room by the appropriate time, above.
4. Seats will be assigned by the supervising teacher.
5. Students are to have sufficient school work to do for the duration of the detention.
6. Students are to work silently and alone.
7. Uncooperative or disruptive students should be brought to the attention of administration.

Duties for Faculty

Duty listings will be available at the beginning of each year and may be updated to reflect changes throughout the year. Please see your principal.

Early Release Days

Please refer to the District Calendar, located on Ware Public Schools website at www.wareps.org.

Email Address

first initial last name in full@ware.k12.ma.us Example: mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

Emergency Procedures

If a serious incident or emergency should occur within the classroom, the teacher should:

1. Immediately contact the Nurse's Office or Main Office by phone.
2. If, for any reason, the teacher is unable to make contact, the teacher should select a reliable student to send to the Nurse's Office with a clear message as to the nature of the emergency. Another student should also be sent to the Main Office.
3. Another student should be sent to the nearest occupied classroom for assistance should the teacher deem it necessary that support from another adult is needed immediately.
4. In case of an accident, a report must be filed in the office as soon as possible.

Evaluations Procedures

Teachers can refer to the contract for their evaluations procedures. All other faculty members are evaluated annually.

Events Announcements

Daily announcements are made during homeroom via the intercom system for all three schools. In addition, the middle school and high school can receive Channel 66 throughout the day for events and announcements.

Faculty Absences Procedures

Please see your respective building administrator about specific absence procedures in your building. If you will be out for more than one day, please indicate that. Faculty members are responsible for ensuring that lesson plans that are engaging and relevant are readily accessible to substitute teachers.

Faculty Copier

Faculty uses copiers located in the teachers' rooms. Use should be judicious and frugal. Teachers should never send students to the main office to ask for copies.

Faculty Emergency Card

Return your personal emergency card to the secretary in your school's office for your safety. Please make sure all personal contact information is up to date.

Faculty Lunch Room, Lunch Purchases

Please reference your school map for location of Faculty Lunch Room, and refer to pricing in the cafeteria. Each school has particular options and processes internal to them.

Faculty Meetings

During the school year, faculty meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, or as designated by your building principal, lasting up to one-hour after faculty dismissal. All faculty members are required to attend unless specifically excused by administration. It should be a rare exception that teachers need to be excused from these meetings.

Faculty Parking Lot

Faculty members for each school should park in designated areas, which are separate from areas where students (high school), central office administration, and visitors park. Please see your building principal for these designated areas.

Faculty Restrooms

Please reference your school map.

Field Trips, Chaperones

FIELD TRIPS

1. Complete the field trip request form at least two weeks in advance of the trip.
2. Obtain approval from the principal. Application is then sent to the Superintendent for final approval.
3. Make arrangements for transportation.
4. Obtain a signed parent consent form for each student two weeks prior to the trip, at the latest.
5. Prepare a roster of students and distribute it to each faculty member in their mailboxes one-week prior to the trip.
6. Inform the students that they are responsible for making up all work missed in their classes and that they are responsible for notifying their teachers of the impending trip.
7. Make arrangements with administration for a substitute teacher.
8. All chaperones must be approved in advance with a CORI check by Central Office prior to the trip.

Filing a Chapter 119, 51A, Massachusetts Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect

Reporting Statute

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, § 51A, any public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or family counselor, nurse, social worker, or member of certain other professions who in his/her professional capacity shall have reasonable cause to believe that a child under eighteen years of age is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse inflicted upon him/her which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare including sexual abuse, or from neglect, including malnutrition, shall **immediately** report such conditions to the Department of Social Services (DSS). School employees meet their responsibilities for reporting by informing the school principal. A written report to DSS must then be filed within 48 hours. The Ware Public Schools affirms its responsibility to provide for the safety and well-being of students. This responsibility extends to fully complying with the Massachusetts Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Statute, Chapter 119, Section 51A. It is expected then, that when any staff member in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to believe that a child under the age of eighteen years is suffering from the effects of any form of child abuse and neglect, that the staff member will report his/her concerns to the building principal for consideration of reporting to the Department of Social Services.

Fingerprinting

On January 10, 2013, Governor Patrick signed Chapter 459 of the Acts of 2012, "An Act Relative to Background Checks." Under this law, all employees in public schools must complete a Federal Background Check by way of fingerprint in addition to a CORI check. **All employees must complete this step as a condition of new or continued employment in the district.**

Unlike state CORI requests that has no associated fee, **individuals** will pay a fee to comply with this requirement. The cost is \$35 for non-licensed employees, and \$55 for DESE license-holders (including those with pending applications/license.)
(See Appendix C)

Fire Drill Procedures

All teachers need mapped-out primary and secondary routes of exit in case of fire. These routes should be clearly visible to the students at all times; posted on the wall next to the room's main exit door. The procedure to follow is:

1. Line students up calmly, quickly, and quietly. It is recommended that a responsible student stands first in line; and/or a paraprofessional, and the teacher last.
2. When leaving the room, lights should be turned off and the door and windows should be closed. Teachers need to take a *class roster* along with a *red/green card* with them outside.
3. Instruct the class which route to exit, primary or secondary. Calmly, quickly, and quietly exit the building to your school's "safety-zone." (Different parts to each building gather at different places outside. See your principal for clarification.)
4. Once outside, line up the class and take attendance. Using the red/green card, hold up the green side if all students are accounted for and the red side if any students are missing. Notify administration or sectional counters immediately if a student is missing! Continue holding the red/green card until the sectional counter or administration acknowledges you.

Grades

Keep accurate records of grades, either in a grade book or on iPass. Be able to provide evidence of how grades are determined, if requested or necessary. You will be asked to submit your formula for determining grades to the principal. Grade books or hard copies of computer kept grades, and plan books will be collected on the last day of school and returned in September.

Homeroom, Daily Attendance

1. Students should be in their seats by no later than 5-minutes after the official start of homeroom.
2. Submit attendance in iPass by the end of homeroom.
3. Homeroom ends at a specific time! Do not release students any earlier.

IEP (Easy IEP) Training

Refer to Jessica Bolduc, Director of Special Education

iPass Training

Refer to Mike Brown, Technology Director

Lock Downs

The following is the procedure each teacher should follow during a lockdown:

1. If safe to do so, quickly look for students and staff in the hallways. Gather them into the classroom if they appear not to be a threat. If it is not safe, please immediately proceed to step 2.
2. Close/Lock all classroom doors. Once the doors are closed and locked, nobody is allowed in or out until police or school officials unlock your classroom door. Upon unlocking the classroom door, police or school officials will give directions that should be followed. No exceptions!
3. Turn off all classroom lights, monitors and projectors.
4. Shut and secure all windows; then drop and close all window shades, blinds or curtains.
5. Place students in an area of your classroom where they would not be visible from your main, hallway classroom door. Students must not be allowed to sit on the floor. They should kneel with one knee on the floor or be standing provided they cannot be seen.
6. If possible, teachers should safely try to position themselves close to the door, but out of sight. Teachers should listen for sounds during the lockdown and be prepared to take preemptive measures.
7. Everyone in the room is to remain absolutely quiet for the duration of the lockdown. **Absolutely no movement should be taking place!** Do not answer the door; do not answer your phone, or make phone calls: nobody is allowed to even call the main office!

Map of Schools

Each school's main office will have maps of that school.

MCAS testing

Reference the district website to find out what test is being given and when.

Money

Any money collected for school purposes should be deposited with the Treasurer of Student Activity Funds immediately. Money should be kept in the school safe and never in the classroom. High School see Karen Quinn; Middle School see Allison Kargol; and, SMK see Darcy Lohr.

Nurse Availability

There are three school nurses, who are building-based - Jennifer Knight is at SMK, Kris Buffington is at WMS and Jaime Miner is at the Junior/Senior High School. Schools are provided coverage based on the needs of the students.

Organization and Care of Classrooms

Teachers should leave their classrooms, each day, well organized and neat. All chairs should be put on top of the desks, so custodial staff has easier access to sweeping/cleaning the floors, and all large items (such as whole pieces of paper or pens/pencils, etc.) need to be thrown away or picked up and put somewhere in the room, as appropriate. When teachers leave their classroom, they must lock their door and close all windows. It is also recommended that when leaving each day, the window blinds are closed.

Other Types of Leave for Faculty

Religious, bereavement, professional, personal, etc.: descriptions and procedures can be found in your contract.

Parental Pick-Up

All students who are getting picked up early from school need to be signed out in the office. If parents/guardians are picking up students on time, they should wait in their cars in the parking lot (**not the bus lane**) for their child to be dismissed with everyone else. **Anyone who is picking their child up on time should not come into the office!**

Personal Phone Calls, Faculty Cell Phone Use

Faculty members are urged to refrain from making personal phone calls at school, including with your cell phone, while students are present. If a situation arises that becomes urgent to use the phone, please make sure your assignment is covered. Please see your principal for more information.

Personal Use of Technology at Home

There are no restrictions for teachers to use the e-mailing system or iPass from their home computer. However, all staff must sign the Acceptable Use Policy, located in the handbook, every year.

Professional Development Department, Workshops, Conferences off Campus

One contact hour equals one PDP. As an educator with a professional license you must earn PDPs in order to relicense. You are responsible for keeping track of your own PDPs. PDP certificates will be given out throughout the school year. Please visit the website to download the [Independent Professional Development Activity Proposal Form](#). Please contact Camille Richards @ crichards@ware.k12.ma.us if you have any questions regarding the format or using the form. Please fill out the form and have the activity approved by your building principal.

Report Cards

Students will receive report cards at the end of each quarter. Report cards should be signed by a parent/guardian and returned. Please refer to the Campus Calendar for those dates. In addition, students will receive a mid-quarter progress report, which resembles a report card, and will be sent home as well. The team may decide whether or not to require it signed and returned.

Responsibility of All Faculty Members

All faculty members must accept responsibilities incurred by the nature of their work. Teachers of youth must be examples to them. Qualities such as fairness, understanding, cooperation and leadership that teachers often exhibit, encourage youth to strive for maturity and seek responsibility. All teachers are to play an active role in the school. One crucial area is classroom management. Faculty should make clear to students those policies and procedures which are unique to every teacher's individual class. By specifying to students what is expected of them both academically and behaviorally, teachers reinforce their authority and encourage a positive commitment from their students.

Safety Committee

Please see the District Safety Coordinator or Principal in your building.

School Committee Names and Meetings

Please refer to the Ware Public Schools website for the 2018-2019 School Committee meetings. The school committee includes the following people:

1. Mr. Aaron Sawabi, Chair
2. Mr. Brian Winslow, Vice-Chair
3. Ms. Julie Slattery
4. Mr. Christopher Desjardins
5. Mr. Michael Foran

School Day Hours

All teachers are required to be at school 10 minutes before school and remain for 10 minutes after school (high school only). At WMS and SMK teachers are required to stay 15 minutes before and after. It is expected that faculty will be available to meet with their students, after the normal school day, for at least one hour per week.

- Junior/Senior High School: 8:00-2:25
- Middle School: 9:00-3:15
- SMK Elementary School: 9:00-3:15

School Schedule Format

Everyone will receive a school schedule in your building during Staff Orientation.

Starting Your Own Club or Activity

If you're interested in starting something new in your school, write up a proposal to be first viewed and approved by your principal. You will then need to submit it to the Superintendent to be approved. If final approval is given, anything sent home with students will still need to be viewed and approved by the principal.

Student Assistance Team (S.A.T.)

This team reviews academic progress concerns about students submitted by teachers (ask your assistant-principal where official SAT referral forms are) and look at interventions used by those teachers. The team will identify and track additional interventions and progress. Teachers with concerns about students having difficulty with speech, hearing, physical limitations, and academic progress/skill acquisition should refer those students to SAT. See your adjustment counselor for more information.

Student Discipline Procedure (behavior), Code of Conduct

The Discipline code at all schools exists to support an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning, to provide students with the opportunity to make responsible decisions, and to help students understand the consequences of their actions. The policies, rules, and penalties for most infractions are listed in the student handbook. The student handbook is not meant to provide an exhaustive list of the above, but it is meant to be representative of the types of rules and regulations. Students who violate school rules will be dealt with firmly and fairly, in accordance with the student handbook. To ensure the effectiveness of the school-wide discipline code, teachers must be familiar with all school rules and must enforce these rules whenever and wherever a violation occurs. When a student's behavior is in violation of school rules and when a teacher's intervention has proven ineffective, a referral to the office is appropriate. Referral forms are available from the office and should be submitted to the Assistant Principal as soon as possible. This will help ensure that prompt action can be taken on the matter. A disruptive student should be clearly warned once. For the next disruption during that period, immediately assign a consequence. If a student continues to disrupt during the same period call the main office in order to have the student removed by an administrator. Sending a student out of class to the office should be used as a last resort. If an administrator is not available, inform the office of the student's name and the nature of the problem. If a student is removed from your class, a phone call home should be made by the teacher within 24 hours. The next class period that the student attends should start with a clean slate (REFER TO DISCIP. MATRIX CHART). In incidents of cheating, including plagiarism, confiscate evidence and notify the Assistant Principal.

Student Illness/Injury

Any student who complains of feeling ill, who appears ill or who is injured, should be taken or sent to the nurse immediately. Students are not allowed to dismiss themselves from class or from school. The nurse or an administrator may dismiss a student for the day if deemed appropriate. In other cases the student may be allowed to rest for a time in the nurse's office and then return to class. No medication of any kind may be given to a student by a teacher (this includes aspirin). If a student brings medication from home, he/she must notify the nurse, who has the authority to dispense medication in school. If a serious incident or emergency should occur within the classroom, the teacher should:

1. Immediately contact the Nurse's Office or Main Office by phone.
2. If, for any reason, the teacher is unable to make contact, the teacher should select a reliable student to send to the Nurse's Office with a clear message as to the nature of the emergency. Another student should also be sent to the Main Office.
3. Another student should be sent to the nearest occupied classroom for assistance, should the teacher deem it necessary that support from another adult is needed immediately.
4. In case of an accident, a report must be filed in the office as soon as possible.

Student Passes

All students must have a clearly written pass present on them with purpose, time and signature of teacher at all times when not in class.

Supplies

If at any time you need your classroom supplies replenished, fill out a request form of what you need. You can find the forms in the main office of your school. If it is during class, and it is an emergency for the current lesson, call the office to make the request and send a reliable student to the office to retrieve the item(s). However, make sure you fill out a request form later.

Technology Department

Mr. Michael Brown, Technology Director and Mr. Daniel Auvine, Technology Support Specialist, are located at the High School.

For technical support, including repair requests, please visit:

<http://helpdesk.ware.k12.us>

Use of Facilities and Incident Report Forms

Both forms can be found in your school's main office. After filling out either one of these forms, they are to be given to an administrator. You may also find the Use of Facilities Form online at the school's website: www.wareps.org under District Documents.

Visitors and Volunteers in School

If any adult or non-student enters the school for any reason, they must sign in at the main office and wear a Visitor's badge. If a parent/guardian is volunteering for any reason, he/she first must be CORI checked by administration and have the paperwork on file. See Appendix B for the paperwork.

Website Address

www.wareps.org

Appendix A: Acceptable Use of Technology

NETWORK

1. To use the Ware Public School System's network to promote the exchange of information that furthers education and research, and to be consistent with the mission of the Ware Public School System.
2. To use the equipment and system in a manner that respects the rights and property of others and not to improperly access, misappropriate or misuse the files, data or information of others.
3. To use the Ware Public Schools network to communicate and exchange for professional development, for research and instruction, and any other activities which support and further the Ware Public Schools goals and objectives. All files and resources on the network are the property of the Town of Ware/Ware Public Schools.
4. To efficiently use the network resources to minimize interference with others.
5. Not to use any of the Ware Public Schools network for profit or commercial business use, personal (non-school based), political or religious purposes, illegal activity, or to send material that is offensive or objectionable to recipients.
6. Not to use programs that harasses other users or infiltrates a computing system and/or damages the software components.
7. It shall not be a violation of the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy for Network Administrators to access and review web sites or files or messages or other computerized information or data to verify use or access by students. Network Administrators are authorized to remove files, mail, materials or programs that violate this policy.
8. Computer logs showing internet activity and computer control sheets shall normally be maintained by the School District for a ninety (90) day period. After such time, those documents will normally be discarded. School Administrators and/or Network Administrators may elect to keep certain documents beyond the ninety (90) day period in the event they relate to an ongoing investigation or litigation (or potential litigation) or for other appropriate reasons.

SECURITY

1. To change passwords regularly, using combinations of letters and numbers, and avoiding Standard English words and names. Ware Public Schools 1 of 4 File: JICJ
2. Not to share the account with anyone or leave the account open or unattended. Users who provide their confidential password or account information to another or use another user's password or account shall be subject to disciplinary action on that basis and may also be held responsible for any improper activity conducted using his/her password.
3. Users will keep all accounts and passwords confidential and not accessible to others. All computer lab users must sign-in at each computer and print their name; time-in and timeout on the designated computer log sheets.

SOFTWARE

1. Not to install copyrighted software, shareware, games or files for use on school system computers or on personal equipment used for school access. Software installations can only be performed by authorized system administrators or designated school personnel.
2. Duplicating copyrighted software, files or information is prohibited.

HARDWARE

1. Vandalism will result in the cancellation of system privileges and will require restitution for costs associated with hardware, software and system restoration and may subject person(s) responsible to civil liability and/or criminal prosecution.
2. The use of portable school equipment and school laptops must be consistent with the conditions set forth in this policy. There shall be a record maintained by the main office at each school of all equipment which is authorized to be removed from the building and the person taking the equipment shall sign the log verifying the equipment taken, the purpose for removing the equipment from school grounds, the date and time of the removal and the date and time the equipment was returned. The Building Principal or designee shall sign the log confirming the authorization for the removal.

INTERNET SAFETY

1. The Ware Public Schools filters Internet content in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Ware Public Schools Internet filter is intended to restrict minors' access to inappropriate or harmful material. No filter is 100% effective.
2. The Internet filter(s) may be temporarily disabled by an authorized system administrator for use by a person to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes consistent with this policy. Reactivation of all filters will immediately follow said research. Prior to deactivation, written approval must be obtained from the building administrator.
3. Users are not to access any obscene, pornographic or otherwise inappropriate Internet and web material.
4. Users are not to subscribe or use listserv, bulletin boards, chat rooms, hot mail, web mail, instant messenger or any other form of electronic communications outside of those services approved by the school system. Ware Public Schools 2 of 4. File: JICJ
5. Any attempt to harm, alter, remove or destroy equipment, materials, data or programs is prohibited. "Hacking" and other unlawful online activities are prohibited.
6. Disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information are prohibited. Users are not to give out any personal information about themselves or others, e.g. name, address, phone numbers, passwords.
7. All internet access on school premises must connect through the school system's network and internet filter.

Recommended Practices for School and Home

1. Take precautions to prevent viruses on personal equipment and the Ware Public School System's equipment. Examples of good practice include:
 - maintain updated antivirus software
 - scan floppies and external media sources before access
 - open emails from trusted sources only
 - do not propagate chain letter emails
 - use discrimination when accessing list serves and websites
 - make back-up copies of documents which relate to school work or work for the district
2. If inappropriate information is mistakenly accessed, notify a teacher or school staff member immediately.
3. Monitor file directories and delete obsolete files. Misuse or damage to technology equipment, software, access, data and/or other technology equipment, property or resources, shall subject a user to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school. The user will also be liable for full restitution for any damage, including costs of materials and labor including the cost of restoration of any lost data. The student may also be subject to criminal prosecution. *Interpretation, application, and modification of this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy are within the sole discretion of the Ware Public School System. Any questions or issues regarding this policy should be directed to the Ware Public School System Administration. **Violation of any condition of use described here or in the Student/Parent Handbook shall be cause of disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for a student.***

Adoption Date: October 2, 1997

Revision Date/1st Reading: June 11, 2003

2nd Reading/Adoption Date: June 25, 2003

Revision Date/1st Reading and Adoption: August 31, 2005

Appendix B: Cori Request Form



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
239 West Street P.O. Box 240
Ware, MA 01082-0240

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo
Superintendent of Schools

Tel. 413-967-4271
Fax. 413-967-9580
E-Mail: mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

CORI REQUEST FORM

Ware Public Schools has been certified by the Criminal History Systems Board for access to all criminal case data including conviction, non-conviction and pending. As an applicant/employee for the position of _____, I understand that a criminal record check will be conducted for conviction, non-conviction and pending criminal case information only and that it will not necessarily disqualify me. The information below is correct to the best of my knowledge.

APPLICANT/EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE

DATE

APPLICANT/EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT BELOW)

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

MAIDEN NAME OR ALIAS (if applicable)

PLACE OF BIRTH

DATE OF BIRTH

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
(required)

ID Theft Index PIN
(if applicable)*

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME

CURRENT AND FORMER ADDRESSES: _____

SEX: _____ HEIGHT: ___ft. ___in. WEIGHT: _____ EYE COLOR: _____

STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER: (include state of issue) _____

A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT DRIVER'S LICENSE OR A FORM OF GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM.

REQUESTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE OF **CORI AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE**

DATE

*The CHSB Identify Theft Index PIN Number is to be completed by those applicants that have been issued an Identity Theft Index PIN Number by the CHSB. Certified agencies are required to provide all applicants the opportunity to include this information to ensure the accuracy of the CORI request process. All CORI request forms that include this field are required to be submitted to the CHSB via mail or by fax to 617-660-4614.

Appendix C: Background Checks-Fingerprinting Law



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
239 West Street P.O. Box 240
Ware, MA 01082-0240

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Tel. 413-967-4271
Fax. 413-967-9580

TO: All Employees of Ware Public Schools
From: Office of Superintendent of Schools
Re: Background Checks (Fingerprinting Law)

On January 10, 2013, Governor Patrick signed Chapter 459 of the Acts of 2012, "An Act Relative to Background Checks." Under this law, all employees in public schools must complete a Federal Background Check by way of fingerprint in addition to a CORI check. **All employees must complete this step as a condition of new or continued employment in the district.**

The Statewide Applicant Fingerprint Identification Services (SAFIS) MorphoTrust USA IndentoGO™ registration website is now available for employees to begin scheduling their own fingerprinting appointments. Please visit <http://www.identogo.com/FP/Massachusetts.aspx> to register

The SAFIS Registration Guide for Pre-K – 12th Grade Education (DESE) can be found on our website: www.wpschools.com. In addition, you can find a copy of SAFIS Form 004: How to change, Correct, or Update your National Criminal History Record Response; and a copy of the Acceptable Forms of ID document. Copies of these documents are available at the Superintendent's office upon request.

DURING REGISTRATION YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE WARE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DESE ORGANIZATION CODE (also called the Provider ID Number): 03090000. If you are working in one of our schools, please use the following codes which apply to the specific building that you work in:

Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School: 03090020
Ware Middle School: 03090305
Ware Jr. Sr. High School: 03090505

If you work in multiple buildings, please use the Main Organization Code: 03090000

(Substitutes, Student Teachers, and Subcontractors may provide up to 10 districts' organization codes to eliminate the need to pay the fee multiple times).

Unlike state CORI requests that has no associated fee, **individuals** will pay a fee to comply with this requirement. The cost is \$35 for non-licensed employees, and \$55 for DESE license-holders (including those with pending applications/license. Substitute teachers are school employees under the new law and therefore must submit their fingerprints for the state and national checks. If substitute teachers hold educator licenses issued under G.L. c. 71, § 38G, they will pay a fee of \$55; otherwise they will pay a fee of \$35.

At the completion of the fingerprint enrollment appointment, the MorphoTrust USA IndentoGO™ enrollment agent will give you a receipt. A copy of that receipt should be sent to the office of the Superintendent of Schools, at Central Office, as verification that you have completed the process. The receipt includes an OBTN number, so that your results may be tracked if they are completed but not received by the district. **Continued employment is contingent upon completion of the fingerprint identification background check.**

For more information please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/edu/2013newsupdates/frequentlyaskedquestionsregardingbackgroundchecks.html>

<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter459>

Appendix D: Bullying Policy

OVERVIEW

The civil rights of all school community members are guaranteed by law, and the protection of those rights is of utmost importance and priority to the Ware Public Schools. The District also prohibits bullying, cyber-bullying, and harassment of school community members for reasons related and unrelated to their race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability. The District will also not tolerate retaliation against persons who take action consistent with this Policy.

The Ware School District will endeavor to maintain learning and working environment free of bullying. Bullying of any type has no place in the Ware School District. The District will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including any form of bullying, cyber bullying, or retaliation, in our school buildings, on school grounds, or in school-related activities. We will investigate promptly all reports and complaints of bullying, cyber bullying, and retaliation, and take prompt action to end that behavior and restore the students' sense of safety. We will support this commitment in all aspects of our school community, including curricula, instructional programs, staff development, extracurricular activities, and parent or guardian involvement. The District will also not tolerate retaliation against persons who take action consistent with this Policy.

DEFINITIONS

Aggressor: a student or member of the school staff who engages in bullying, cyber bullying, or retaliation.

Bullying: the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Examples of bullying include but are not exclusive to:

- Intimidation, either physical or psychological.
- Threats of any kind stated or implied.
- Assaults on students and staff, including those that are verbal, physical, psychological and emotional.
- Attacks on student property.

Cyber-bullying: bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages, text messages, cell phone, or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

Harassment: willfully and maliciously engaging in a knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person, which seriously alarms that person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. The conduct or acts described in this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, conduct or acts conducted defined under bullying or cyber-bullying

Electronic Harassment: Use of telephone or other electronic communication to contact another person, or causing a person to be telephoned or contacted by electronic communication, repeatedly, for the sole purpose of harassing, annoying or molesting the person or the person's family, whether or not conversation ensues, or whoever telephones or contacts a person repeatedly by electronic communication and uses indecent or obscene language to the person. For purposes of this section, "electronic communication" shall include, but not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system, or any other similar activity defined under bullying or cyber-bullying.

Hostile environment: a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the student's education.

Retaliation: any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

School ground: property on which a school building or facility is located or property that is owned, leased or used by a school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school, or collaborative school for a school-sponsored activity, function, program, instruction or training.

Stalking: (1) willfully and maliciously engaging in a knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person which seriously alarms or annoys that person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and (2) making a threat with the intent to place the person in imminent fear of death or bodily injury, The conduct, acts or threats described in this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, conduct, acts or threats conducted by mail or by use of a telephonic or telecommunication device or electronic communication device including, but not limited to, any other similar activity defined under bullying, cyber-bullying, or harassment.

Target: a student against whom bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, stalking, or retaliation has been perpetrated.

SCOPE OF PROHIBITION OF BULLYING

Bullying shall be prohibited: (i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district or school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or

programs.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited.

REPORTING, RESPONDING, AND INTERVENTION

OVERVIEW

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall oversee the development and maintenance of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated as needed.

The School Committee expects administrators and supervisors to make it clear to students and staff that bullying in the school building, on school grounds, on the bus or school sanctioned transportation or at school-sponsored functions will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action (refer to most current approved student handbook).

The Principal or Assistant Principal will be responsible for handling all verbal and written complaints alleging harassment, including bullying except when a reported bullying incident involves the principal or the assistant principal as the alleged aggressor. In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for investigating the report, and other steps necessary to implement the Plan, including addressing the safety of the alleged victim. If the Superintendent is the alleged aggressor, the School Committee, or its designee shall be responsible for investigating the report, and other steps necessary to implement the Plan, including addressing the safety of the alleged victim.

Within two school days, the Ware School District will reasonably investigate, notify parents, and respond to the allegations of harassment, including bullying. Instances of harassment and/or bullying will be reported to the appropriate state and/or federal agencies in accordance with state and/or federal law. Mediation will be offered to students and/or parents.

School personnel will be instructed not to tolerate and to immediately report harassment, hazing or bullying, as defined by this policy, by any student or personnel, or any third party who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaged in activities, including extracurricular activities, on school property or at school related services, activities or events.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law

REPORTING BULLYING OR RETALIATION

Reports of bullying or retaliation may be made by staff, students, parents or guardians, or others, and may be oral or written. Oral reports made to a staff member shall be recorded in writing. A school or district staff member is required to report to the principal or designee or to the superintendent or designee when the principal or assistant principal is the alleged aggressor or to the school committee or designee when the superintendent is the alleged aggressor, any instance of bullying or retaliation the staff member becomes aware of or witnesses. Reports made by students, parents or guardians, or other individuals who are not school or district staff members, may be made anonymously. The school or district will make a variety of reporting resources available to the school community including, but not limited to, an Incident Reporting Form, a dedicated mailing address, and an e-mail address.

Administrative guidelines and procedures for reporting bullying or retaliation, for notification to others, and for investigations are reflected in the “Ware Public School Bullying Incident Reporting Form (See JICFB-R Bullying Incident Reporting Form). Although use of an Incident Reporting Form is not required by the target as a condition of making a report, the Principal or Assistance Principal is required to complete the form on behalf of the target as part of their response and process. A completed form is required for the process to be effective. The school or district will: 1) include a copy of the Incident Reporting Form in the beginning of the year packets for students and parents or guardians; 2) make it available in the school’s main office, the counseling office, the school nurse’s office, and other locations determined by the principal or designee; and 3) post the Incident Reporting Form on the school’s web site. The Incident Reporting Form will be made available in the most prevalent language(s) of origin of students and parents or guardians.

At the beginning of each school year, the school or district will provide the school community, including but not limited to, educators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities, paraprofessionals, administrators, staff, students, and parents or guardians, with written notice of its policies for reporting acts of bullying and retaliation. A description of the reporting procedures and resources, including the name and contact information of the principal or designee, and the superintendent or designee when the principal or the assistant principal is the alleged aggressor, will be incorporated in student and staff handbooks, on the school or district website, and in information about the Plan that is made available to parents or guardians.

Reporting by Staff: A staff member will report to the principal or designee, or to the superintendent or designee when the principal or the assistant principal is the alleged aggressor, or to the school committee or designee when the superintendent is the alleged aggressor, when he/she witnesses or becomes aware of conduct that may be bullying or retaliation. The requirement to report to the principal or designee does not limit the authority of the staff member to respond to behavioral or disciplinary incidents consistent with school or district policies and procedures for behavior management and discipline.

Reporting by Students, Parents or Guardians, and Others: The school or district expects students, parents or guardians, and others who witness or become aware of an instance of bullying or retaliation involving a student to report it to the principal or designee, or to the superintendent or designee when the principal or the assistant principal is the alleged aggressor, or to the school committee or designee when the superintendent is the alleged aggressor. Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Students, parents or guardians, and others may request assistance from a staff member to complete a written report. Students will be provided practical, safe, private and age-appropriate ways to report and discuss an incident of bullying with a staff member, or with the principal or designee, or to the superintendent or designee when the principal or the assistant principal is the alleged aggressor, or to the school committee or designee when the superintendent is the alleged aggressor.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school’s obligations under law.

RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF BULLYING OR RETALIATION

General Obligations to Notify Parents of Guardians of Target

Regardless of whether the aggressor is a student or a staff member, a notification to the parents or guardians of the target is required as follows:

- 1) Immediately upon the administration being notified of a potential bullying incident, the administration should acknowledge the allegation by sending the Bullying or Retaliation Incident Acknowledgment Letter. See Exhibit A below for sample template.
- 2) Immediately upon the administration's completion of its investigation of the bullying incident, the administration should document its findings by sending the Bullying or Retaliation Investigation Finding letter. See Exhibit B below for sample template.

WHEN THE AGGRESSOR IS A STUDENT

Safety

Before fully investigating the allegations of bullying or retaliation, the principal or designee will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. Responses to promote safety may include, but not be limited to, ordering interim disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct, creating a personal safety plan; pre-determining seating arrangements for the target and/or the aggressor in the classroom, at lunch, or on the bus; identifying a staff member who will act as a "safe person" for the target; and altering the aggressor's schedule and access to the target. The principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during the course of and after the investigation, as necessary.

The principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies under the Student Code of Conduct for protecting from bullying or retaliation a student who has reported bullying or retaliation, a student who has witnessed bullying or retaliation, a student who provides information during an investigation, or a student who has reliable information about a reported act of bullying or retaliation.

Obligations to Notify Others

1. Notice to parents or guardians. Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the student aggressor of this, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.
2. Notice to Another School or District. If the reported incident involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private special education day or residential school, or collaborative school, the principal or designee first informed of the incident will promptly notify by telephone the principal or designee of the other school(s) of the incident so that each school may take appropriate action. All communications will be in accordance with state and federal privacy laws and regulations, and 603 CMR
3. Notice to Law Enforcement. At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, including after an investigation, if the principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the principal will notify the local law enforcement agency and the school resource officer. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 49.00 and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency. Also, if an incident occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in school, the principal or designee shall contact the local law enforcement agency if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the student aggressor.

In making this determination, the principal will, consistent with the Plan and with applicable school or district policies and procedures, consult with the school resource officer, if any, and other individuals the principal or designee deems appropriate.

Investigation

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The principal or designee (or whoever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged student aggressor, target, and witnesses of the importance of the investigation, their obligation to be truthful and that retaliation against someone who reports bullying or provides information during a bullying investigation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with school or district policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Determination

The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or student aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or

guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a “stay away” order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

WHEN THE AGRESSOR IS A STAFF MEMBER

Safety

Before fully investigating the allegations of bullying or retaliation, the principal or designee will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. Responses to promote safety may include, but not be limited to, placing a staff member on paid administrative leave or immediate unpaid suspension, creating a personal safety plan; identifying a staff member who will act as a “safe person” for the target; and altering the aggressor’s schedule and access to the target. The principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during the course of and after the investigation, as necessary.

The principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a student who has reported bullying or retaliation, a student who has witnessed bullying or retaliation, a student who provides information during an investigation, or a student who has reliable information about a reported act of bullying or retaliation.

Obligations to Notify Others

1. Notice to parents or guardians. Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.
2. Notice to staff member. Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the staff member will be promptly notified.
3. Notice to Another School or District. If the reported incident involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private special education day or residential school, or collaborative school, the principal or designee first informed of the incident will promptly notify by telephone the principal or designee of the other school(s) of the incident so that each school may take appropriate action. All communications will be in accordance with state and federal privacy laws and regulations, and 603 CMR
4. Notice to Law Enforcement. At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, including after an investigation, if the principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the principal will notify the local law enforcement agency and the school resource officer. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 49.00 and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency.

In making this determination, the principal will, consistent with the Plan and with applicable school or district policies and procedures, consult with the school resource officer, if any, and other individuals the principal or designee deems appropriate.

Investigation

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation, the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The principal or designee (or whoever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses of the importance of the investigation, their obligation to be truthful and that retaliation against someone who reports bullying or provides information during a bullying investigation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. Interviews of the alleged staff aggressor will be conducted by administration. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with school or district policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Determinations

The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target as well as the staff aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of personnel records, the principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES TO BULLYING

Teaching Appropriate Behavior Through Skills-building. Upon the principal or designee determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the law requires that the school or district use a range of responses that balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O(d)(v). Skill-building approaches that the principal or designee may consider include:

- offering individualized skill-building sessions based on the school's/district's anti-bullying curricula;
- providing relevant educational activities for individual students or groups of students, in consultation with guidance counselors and other appropriate school personnel;
- implementing a range of academic and nonacademic positive behavioral supports to help students understand pro-social ways to achieve their goals;
- meeting with parents and guardians to engage parental support and to reinforce the anti-bullying curricula and social skills building activities at home;
- adopting behavioral plans to include a focus on developing specific social skills; and
- making a referral for evaluation.

Taking Disciplinary Action: If the principal or designee decides that disciplinary action is appropriate, the disciplinary action will be determined on the basis of facts found by the principal or designee, including the nature of the conduct, the age of the student(s) involved, and the need to balance accountability with the teaching of appropriate behavior. Discipline will be consistent with the Plan and with the school's or district's code of conduct.

Discipline procedures for students with disabilities are governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), which should be read in cooperation with state laws regarding student discipline.

If the principal or designee determines that a student knowingly made a false allegation of bullying or retaliation, that student may be subject to disciplinary action.

Promoting Safety for the Target and Others: The principal or designee will consider what adjustments, if any, are needed in the school environment to enhance the target's sense of safety and that of others as well. One strategy that the principal or designee may use is to increase adult supervision at transition times and in locations where bullying is known to have occurred or is likely to occur.

Within a reasonable period of time following the determination and the ordering of remedial and/or disciplinary action, the principal or designee will contact the target to determine whether there has been a recurrence of the prohibited conduct and whether additional supportive measures are needed. If so, the principal or designee will work with appropriate school staff to implement them immediately.

TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

Annual training shall be provided for school staff and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

PUBLICATION AND NOTICE

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms. Annual written notice of the

bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff and bullying of students by school staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the Ware Public Schools website.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS

Consistent with state and federal laws, and the policies of the school or district, no person shall be discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town or in obtaining the advantages, privilege and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. Nothing in the Plan prevents the school or district from taking action to remediate discrimination or harassment based on a person's membership in a legally protected category under local, state, or federal law, or school or district policies.

In addition, nothing in the Plan is designed or intended to limit the authority of the school or district to take disciplinary action or other action under M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H, 37H¹/₂, 37H³/₄, M.G.L. c. 71, §§41 and 42, M.G.L. c 76 § 5, or other applicable laws, or local school or district policies, or collective bargaining agreements, in response to violent, harmful, or disruptive behavior, regardless of whether the Plan covers the behavior.

REFERENCES Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

LEGAL REF: Title VII, Section 703, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended Federal Regulation 74676 issued by EEO Commission Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010, 603 CMR 26.00 MGL 71:370 MGL 265:43, 43A MGL 268:13B MGL 269:14A

Adoption Date: August 15, 2007
Revision Date: June 3, 2018
Last Date Reviewed: May 30, 2018

Exhibit A: Bullying or Retaliation Incident Acknowledgment



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Education
Jessica R. Bolduc
Director of Special Education
jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us

P.O. Box 240 Ware, Mass. 01082-0240

Tel. 413-967-4271
Fax. 413-967-9580

**BULLYING OR RETALIATION
INCIDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

On (insert date) I was notified that a potential bullying or retaliation incident had occurred. Our procedures for responding to an alleged bullying or retaliation incident involves conducting an investigation which includes interviewing known or suspected involved parties and/or witnesses, reviewing any past incidents where the alleged aggressor previously engaged in bullying or retaliation, and reviewing if the alleged victim had previously been a victim of bullying or retaliation. As this process initiates, I would like to gather as much information as early in the process as possible so administration involved in the investigation is well informed of the nature of the incident.

If you have not done so already, please schedule a meeting with me to begin information gathering, or to schedule a follow-up meeting if you have additional information. Our procedures utilize the enclosed form as a guideline to ensure we have obtained and documented necessary preliminary information to conduct a thorough investigation. Please contact my office at (413) 976-_____.

Sincerely,

Principal,

It is the policy of the Ware Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, military service, union activity or genetics in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M.G.L. c. 71A and c. 76, s. 5.

Note

1. It is required that the Bullying or Retaliation Incident Acknowledgment be issued to the parent along with a copy of the Pre-Investigation section (section 1, "I. Report," of the 3 sections) of the "Bullying Prevention And Intervention Incident Reporting Form". See [JICFB-R Bullying Incident Reporting](#) below.
2. If the parent has
 - a. Not yet completed the [JICFB-R Bullying Incident Reporting](#) form (section 1, "I. Report," of the 3 sections), send a blank form.
 - b. Previously completed the form, include a copy of the completed form; or if applicable, reference in the body of the letter that the school is in receipt of the completed form.

Exhibit B: Bullying or Retaliation Investigation Finding



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Education
Jessica R. Bolduc
Director of Special Education
jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us

P.O. Box 240 Ware, Mass. 01082-0240

Tel. 413-967-4271
Fax. 413-967-9580

BULLYING OR RETALIATION INVESTIGATION FINDING

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

On (insert date) I was notified that a potential bullying or retaliation incident had occurred. Our procedures for responding to an alleged bullying or retaliation incident involves conducting an investigation which includes interviewing known or suspected involved parties and/or witnesses, reviewing any past incidents where the alleged aggressor previously engaged in bullying or retaliation, and reviewing if the alleged victim had previously been a victim of bullying or retaliation. I conducted my investigation in accordance with the district's procedures and have made a determination that in this case the alleged bully or retaliation (did/didn't) meet the definition of bullying or retaliation under Chapter 71 Section 370. Please note that a finding that the incident did not meet the definition of bullying under Chapter 71 Section 370 does not preclude the district from taking action against students that engage in activity which violates the school's code of conduct.

IF BULLYING FOUND

I will be taking action to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. These actions include (loss of privileges, disciplinary action, community service, education regarding bullying and/or retaliation, and/or other _____).

IF BULLYING NOT FOUND

I will be taking action to prevent further violation of the school's code of conduct. These actions include (loss of privileges, disciplinary action, community service, education regarding bullying and/or retaliation, and/or other _____).

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting with me to discuss my findings, please contact my office at (413) 976-_____.

Sincerely,

Principal,