

AIDS Education

Students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11 are mandated by state law to receive instruction about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The instruction will be delivered through the health classes. Students in grades 7 and 8 will learn about AIDS through the science and Wellness classes. Students in grades 9 and 10 will learn about AIDS in the biology classes. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will also receive instruction about AIDS in the family and consumer sciences and health classes. If you object to your child receiving this instruction for any reason, please **notify the building principal in writing by Friday, January 6, 2012.**

Photographs and Videotapes of Students

The instructional staff and TV production students photograph and videotape numerous school activities throughout the school year. Also, photographers may take photographs of students in various activities or for honors and awards. Parents who do not wish to have their child photographed or videotaped should **notify the principal, in writing, of this request at the beginning of each school year.**

Progress Reports

Parents of students who have internet access may be able to view their children's progress, attendance, and homework on a daily basis at all times during the school year, through the use of Connellsville Area School District's parent portal. Parents of students who are new to the district (such as parents of kindergarten children) will receive log in information at the beginning of the school year. Parents of students who transfer into the district will also be provided with log in information once the child is registered as a student in the Connellsville Area School District.

However, parents of students who do not have internet access should contact the building principal so that a progress report will be mailed home to the parent at 4 ½ weeks into each grading period, with the exception of the 4th nine week grading period.

Student Assistance Program

The secondary schools have a Student Assistance Program (SAP) Team, which consists of trained team members to help students who may be experiencing personal difficulties, which may interfere with the student's educational performance. The SAP Team consists of the principal, nurse, guidance counselor, and several teachers. Parents, teachers, administrators,

and/or the student may make the referral to the SAP Team. Student assistance by the SAP Team will only occur with parent permission.

Homebound Instruction

Homebound instruction may be provided to students who are unable to attend school due to physical or emotional circumstances. Applications for Homebound Instruction are available from the principal. A certified physician or psychiatrist must authorize the application for homebound instruction. Once the completed application for homebound services is returned to the principal (and the request is approved by the principal), arrangements will be made for a district staff member to provide five hours of instruction each week during the prescribed homebound period, in the home of the student. It is the policy of the Connellsville Area School District that the student submits a new application for homebound instruction at the beginning of each nine week period, authorized by a physician or psychiatrist.

FERPA

The privacy rights of students and parents are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Parent Rights

A Parent has the right to inspect his/her child's record, may request changes and/or challenge information, may file complaints with regard to alleged violations. Educational records cannot be released without the written consent of the parent or eligible student.

A parent is defined as a natural parent, a legal guardian, or an individual acting as a parent of the student in the absence of the parent/guardian. Unless otherwise notified, the professional staff of Connellsville Area School District will presume that both parents of the student have the authority to review the student's records. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the guidance counselor/principal with evidence that there is a legally binding instrument or court order or state law, which governs the divorce, separation, or custody of the child.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

District Attendance and Discipline Policy handbooks are distributed to students on the first day of school. Student planners at the building level may also be distributed. A typical planner may include information with regard to: the school day, academic programs, available student

services, and specific policies and procedures at the building level related to discipline and school rules.

It is the student's responsibility to read and review all aspects of the handbook and/or planner in order to be aware of information, which may impact the student's educational experience. Parents and/or students should contact the principal with any questions pertaining to the information in the handbook or planner.

Types of Student Information

There are four different types of student information maintained by the school district: educational records, student directory information, personally identifiable information, and health records.

1. Educational Records

The Connellsville Area School District Board of School Directors and professional staff recognize the confidential nature of a student's educational record. A copy of the Connellsville Area School District Student Records Policy is available in the principal's office for review.

A student's file contains the following information: academic records, data from psychological reports, reports by guidance counselors, and evaluations by teachers and administrators.

2. Student Directory Information

Student directory information must be released by the school district to the U.S. Armed Services Recruitment. Information including the student's name, address, telephone number, date, place of birth, major field of study, participation in co-curricular activities, height, weight, attendance, and honors may be released. If you wish to restrict the release of your child's directory information to any agency, including the U.S. Armed Services, **notify the building principal in writing by Friday, January 6, 2012.**

3. Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information includes the student's social security number and photographs of the student.

4. Health Records

Health records include medical and dental forms, immunizations, emergency cards, and state required testing results.

Immunizations

Students who enter school for the first time in kindergarten or first grade must have the following vaccines:

- 4 doses of tetanus and diphtheria (1 dose each on or after the 4th birthday)
- 3 doses of polio
- 2 doses of measles (Rubeola)
- 2 doses of mumps
- 1 dose of German Measles (Rubella)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B or proven lab immunity
- 2 doses of varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine or lab immunity, or written documentation of the disease.

For immunization requirements at other grade levels, please contact your school nurse.

Children attending 7th grade in 2011-2012 need the following:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if 5 years has elapsed since the last tetanus immunization)
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Emergency Cards

Every Connellsville Area School District student will be given an emergency card, which will need to be completed by the parent/guardian. **The completed card needs to be returned to the school nurse during the first week of school.** During the school year, **if any information needs to be changed or updated on the emergency card, it is the parent's responsibility to notify the school nurse immediately.**

Record Disclosure

Requests for releases of student records must be made in the guidance office. In the event that the student withdraws from the Connellsville Area School District, the receiving school district will be provided with the student's records. In all other cases, educational records, health record, and personally identifiable information cannot and will not be disclosed or released without the parent's written consent. If the student is eighteen years of age or older, he/she would have to consent to the release/disclosure of his/her records. It also must be made clear to the parent/eligible student why the records need to be disclosed and the party to whom the disclosure is being made.

School Cancellation Procedures

In the event of a morning cancellation or delay of school due to inclement weather conditions, information will be announced by the local media during the 6:00 a.m. broadcasts:

- WMBS – Uniontown
- FROGGY – Brownsville
- KDKA – TV2, WTAE TV, and WPXI
- School District Cable Television Channel
- District Website

When the decision is made to close school the evening before a school day, announcements will be made no later than 11:00 p.m. Early dismissals will also be announced via the media listed above, with as much advance warning to parents as possible.

Parents are asked to refrain from phoning school offices, school officials, or the media since these phones must remain available for communications during an emergency.

McKinney Vento Act

Homelessness is the lack of permanent housing resulting from financial hardship, often extreme poverty or unstable living arrangements. Families and children find themselves homeless for many different reasons – loss of employment, fleeing domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, natural or other disasters. Homelessness can have a devastating impact on a child’s education and a child’s chance for success in school.

The McKinney Vento Act of 1987 is a comprehensive, federal law that seeks to address the educational needs of children who are homeless and provides funding to ensure that these children and youth have access to the full range of public education programs and services. It strives to ensure school success by eliminating the barriers that can prevent or delay a child’s continuing access to school and provides supports to promote academic achievement.

The law defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children whose families are doubled up and sharing housing because of economic hardship and children living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, and camping grounds because they lack adequate accommodations. Children living in transitional shelters or emergency shelters or who are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement are also considered “homeless.”

Please see your guidance counselor or principal if you or someone you know is homeless.

