

2021-22 PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summation of policy statements covering public schools in St. Joseph County, Michigan

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

No person on the basis of race, color, height, weight, marital status, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, genetic information, or any other legally protected status will be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in these districts.

The Board of Education, the administration, and the staff will seek to take whatever rules and policy steps may be necessary to eliminate discrimination as described in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that protects people from sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination based upon disability, Section 201 Procedural Safeguards for Students with Disabilities Subject to Discipline, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and Age Compliance in all educational programs, curricular and extracurricular activities, and employment practices.

All students shall have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all academic and extracurricular activities and services and thus it will be a violation of policy for the district, board, administration, teachers, or other staff to discriminate against students in disciplinary actions, entitlement, and provision of services, selection of courses or programs, counseling services, physical education and athletics, treatments on the basis of marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

Likewise, no assistance, such as administrative or staff cooperation, faculty sponsorship, use of school facilities on school time, shall be provided to any non-school organization or individual who discriminates.

All employment decisions will be made in a non-discriminatory manner in relationship to recruitment, hiring, assignment, promotion, transfer, layoff, termination, reinstatement, job classification, salary, and fringe benefits.

In order to facilitate the evaluation of current practices, to investigate complaints, to answer inquiries, and to guide the implementation of compliance efforts, the following people have been appointed as the local Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Age Compliance Coordinators. All questions, requests for information or complaints relating to discrimination in the schools should be directed to the coordinator at the local districts.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Burr Oak	Kristina Owens	269-489-2213
Centreville	Stephanie Lemmer	269-467-5220
Colon	Penny Brockway	269-432-3231
Constantine	Jim Wiseley	269-435-8900
ISD	Teresa Belote	269-467-5400
Mendon	Leasa Griffith	269-496-8491
Nottawa	Jerome Wolff	269-467-7153
Sturgis	Art Ebert	269-659-1500
Three Rivers	Ron Moag	269-279-1100
White Pigeon	Jon Keyer	269-483-7676

	Title VI Civil Rights Coordinator	Title IX Sex Discrimination Coordinator	Section 504 Disability Discrimination Coordinator *	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator	Age Compliance Coordinator
Burr Oak	Kristina Owens	Cynthia Hernandez	Kristina Owens	Kristina Owens	Kristina Owens
Centreville	Stephanie Lemmer	Stephanie Lemmer	Stephanie Lemmer	Stephanie Lemmer	Stephanie Lemmer
Colon	Sherry Switzenberg	Penny Brockway	Dianne Wolford	Dianne Wolford	Sherry Switzenberg
Constantine	Jim Wiseley	Jim Wiseley Pat Breen	Suzanne Malone	Jim Wiseley	Jim Wiseley
Mendon	Leasa Griffith	Leasa Griffith	Robert Kretschman	Leasa Griffith	Leasa Griffith
Nottawa	Brenda Walls Bud Krawczak	Brenda Walls Bud Krawczak	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff	Brenda Walls Jerome Wolff
Sturgis	Nick Herblet Nicole Gittinger	Nick Herblet Nicole Gittinger	Nick Herblet Nicole Gittinger	Nick Herblet Nicole Gittinger	Nick Herblet Nicole Gittinger
Three Rivers	Blair Brindley Brian Leonard	Blair Brindley Brian Leonard	Melissa Frye	Melissa Frye	Ron Moag
White Pigeon	Jon Keyer	Eric Kistler	Shelly McBride	Shelly McBride	Jon Keyer
ISD/Pathfinder	Thomas Cameron Kelli Dechnik	Thomas Cameron Kelli Dechnik	Thomas Cameron Kelli Dechnik Deana Strudwick (students)	Thomas Cameron Kelli Dechnik Deana Strudwick (students)	Thomas Cameron Kelli Dechnik
* If you have a Section 504-qualified child with disabilities who does not attend a public school, please contact the ISD 504 Coordinator.					

VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY IN MICHIGAN

For more information, please go to www.michigan.gov/immunize
All doses of vaccines must be valid (correct spacing and ages) for school entry purposes.

VACCINE	AGES 4-6	AGES 7-18, including all 7 th graders
DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)	4 doses DTP or DTaP. One dose must be on or after 4 years of age.	4 doses diphtheria and tetanus or 3 doses if 1st dose is given at or after 1 year of age. 1 dose of Tdap at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 th grade or higher.
POLIO	4 doses. 3 doses if dose 3 was given at or after 4 years of age..	
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR)*	2 doses at or after 12 months of age.	
HEPATITIS B *	3 doses.	
MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE (MenACWY)	None	1 dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 th grade or higher.
VARICELLA (chickenpox) *	2 doses at or after 12 months of age or current lab immunity or history of varicella.	

* If the child has not received these vaccines, documented immunity is required. During disease outbreaks, incompletely vaccinated students may be excluded from school. Parents and guardians choosing to decline vaccines must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

According to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Board of Education of a school district may designate certain items of student records as directory information. This information may be released without receiving prior written consent of the parent or 18-year-old student, unless parent/student objects in writing. Each Board of Education has a procedure for:

- Maintenance of records.
- Amendment of educational records.
- Destruction of records.
- Student and parental access to records.
- Third-party access to student records.

SMOKING AREAS AND POLICY

Per Section 750.473 of the Michigan Penal Code, use of a tobacco product is prohibited on school property. This prohibition not only applies to the school building itself, but also to "a building, facility, or structure and other real estate owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by a school district".

"Use of a tobacco product" means any of the following: the carrying of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other lighted smoking device; inhaling or chewing of a tobacco product; and the placing of a tobacco product within a person's mouth.

A person who violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00.

The following districts have exercised the right to a smoke-free environment 24 hours per day:

- Burr Oak Community Schools
- Centreville Public Schools
- Colon Community Schools
- Constantine Public Schools
- Mendon Community Schools
- Nottawa Community School
- St. Joseph County ISD
- Sturgis Public Schools
- Three Rivers Community Schools
- White Pigeon Community Schools

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.

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FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced the household income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for free and reduced-price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The income guidelines are effective from now through June 30, 2022.

Children who are recipients of various programs such as Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or who are enrolled in Head Start, an at-risk afterschool center, or an emergency shelter automatically qualify for free meals. Households with incomes less than or equal to the following guidelines qualify for free or reduced-price meals:

Total Family Size	Income Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk		Income Scale for Reduced Price Meals	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	\$16,744	\$1,396	\$23,828	\$1,986
2	22,646	1,888	32,227	2,686
3	28,548	2,379	40,626	3,386
4	34,450	2,871	49,025	4,086
5	40,352	3,363	57,424	4,786
6	46,254	3,855	65,823	5,486
7	52,156	4,347	74,222	6,186
8	58,058	4,839	82,621	6,886
Each additional family member	+\$5,902	+\$492	+\$8,399	+\$700

Families should contact their school to find out whether it participates in these programs. Schools will provide a form for applying for free or reduced price meals. Only one application is required per household.

An application to a school can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income or documentation of current participation in Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced-price meals may be verified at any time.

Participating schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers, and family day care home sponsors accept applications for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the participant from eating the regular school or center-based meal, the school or center will make reasonable substitutions to meal and/or snacks for participants who are considered to have a disability or medical need that restricts their diet. This is done on a case-by-case basis. A doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school.

Under the provisions of the policy, the following representatives will review applications and determine eligibility:

Burr Oak – Patti Miller	Mendon – Lisa VanZoest
Centreville – Building Principals	Nottawa – Patti Miller
Colon – Barb Yearling	Sturgis – Patti Miller
Constantine – Diane Northrup	Three Rivers – George Siedis
ISD/Pathfinder Center – Ben Oakley	White Pigeon – Katherine Ferrell

An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied. This can be done by calling or writing the following officials:

Burr Oak	Kristina Owens	326 Eagle St., Burr Oak, MI 49030	269-489-2213
Centreville	Stephanie Lemmer	P. O. Box 158, Centreville, MI 49032	269-467-5220
Colon	Penny Brockway	400 Dallas St., Colon, MI 49040	269-432-3231
Constantine	Jim Wiseley	One Falcon Dr., Constantine, MI 49042	269-435-8900
ISD/Pathfinder	Teresa Belote	62445 Shimmel Rd., Centreville, MI 49032	269-467-5400
Mendon	Leasa Griffith	148 Kirby Rd., Mendon, MI 49072	269-496-8491
Nottawa	Jerome Wolff	26438 M-86, Sturgis, MI 49091	269-467-7153
Sturgis	Ray Sterling	107 W. West St., Sturgis, MI 49091	269-659-1503
Three Rivers	Blair Brindley	700 Sixth Ave., Three Rivers, MI 49093	269-279-1106
White Pigeon	Carrie Erlandson	410 East Prairie, White Pigeon, MI 49099	269-483-7676

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the federal relay service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

AHERA MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

As required in Act 440 of 1988, School Districts contracted with environmental contractors to perform routine inspections and write Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Plans. School Districts shall keep a copy of the plan in their administration office. The management plans shall be available during regular school business hours for review without cost or restrictions for inspection by representatives of EPA and the State, the public, including teachers, other school personnel, and their representatives and parents.

At least once each year, School Districts will notify in writing, parents, teachers, and employee organizations of any updates, changes, and the availability of the management plan.

Management plans shall be available for inspection without cost or restrictions to workers and/or contractors before work begins in any area of a school building.

PESTICIDES

As required in Section 324.8316 of the Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act:

- (1) At the beginning of each school year, school administrators shall notify parents/guardians of children attending that school that pesticides may be applied at that school throughout the school year.
- (2) School administrators shall notify parents/guardians at least 48 hours prior to any application of a pesticide at that school.
- (3) The notice described in Subsection (2) shall contain the following information: a statement that a pesticide will be applied, the target pest(s), approximate location of the application, date of the application, a contact person at the school, and a toll-free phone number for a national pesticide information center.
- (4) Note: in an emergency, a school may apply a pesticide without providing advance notice to parents/guardians. Promptly after the emergency pesticide application, the school shall notify the parents/guardians.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Individuals with Disabilities Act includes a child find mandate. It requires all school districts to identify, locate and evaluate children with disabilities. The Child Find mandate applies to all children who reside within the ISD, including children who attend private schools and public schools, migrant children, homeless children, and children who are wards of the state.

For more information about special education services, contact your Local School District Superintendent or:

Deana Strudwick, Executive Director of Special Education
St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (ISD)
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5400

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) OFFERINGS

Each year, the St. Joseph County Career & Technical Education Consortium offers CTE programs. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and training, and are offered under the guidance of certified CTE instructors and aides as well as community college teachers.

The following is a list of programs being offered this year:

Agriscience
Automotive Technologies
Computer Aided Design
Computer Coding and Gaming
Computer Networking
Construction Trades: Electrical, Plumbing & HVAC
Construction Trades: Residential Building
Graphic Design
Health Sciences
Manufacturing
Marketing
Teacher Academy
Welding Technologies

All CTE programs follow the districts' policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, height, weight or marital status in its programs, services and activities. In addition, arrangements can be made to ensure that the lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation.

For general information about these programs, contact:

Thomas Cameron, Director of Career and Technical Education
St. Joseph County ISD
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5407

Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies can be directed to either of these individuals:

Thomas Cameron, Director of Career and Technical Education
Kelli Dechnik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations, & HR
St. Joseph County ISD
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
(269) 467-5400

Specific questions regarding these policies should be directed to the superintendent of your school district.