



Jose L. Carrion, Superintendent of Schools
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September 17, 2019

Dear WCSD Community:

As a request and a courtesy to our WCSD families, this is a special September Update Newsletter with a reminder about two items:

- Immunization/Vaccination
- Security Update

Immunization/Vaccination

All students are required to receive the full course of immunizations. The only allowable exemption is for valid medical reasons, which must be accompanied by a note from the child's physician stating the exact nature of the medical exemption. As of tomorrow, September 18, 2019, any student who has not started a course of immunization or submitted a medical exemption from a physician will not be able to attend school on Thursday, September 19, 2019. In addition, please refer to the [Catch-up Immunization Schedule](#) from the New York State Department of Health. If you intend to keep your child enrolled in school, the [Superintendent's September Newsletter](#) indicates what you must do to comply with the Immunization Law.

As a school district we treasure the families who have said goodbye to us and will no longer be in attendance in our schools beginning Thursday, September 19, 2019. While your child may no longer be enrolled in the District, you may have specific questions that may require further clarification.

If you intend to homeschool your child and are not familiar with the process, please visit our website at the link below (a picture of the webpage has also been provided), for additional information:

<https://www.wappingersschools.org/Page/186>

Home Schooling

Homeschooling - also called home education or home school - is the education of children at home, typically by parents or guardians, rather than in a public or private school. Prior to the introduction of compulsory school attendance laws in the 19th century, most childhood education worldwide occurred within the family or community, with only a small portion of the population attending schools or employing tutors. Currently, the majority of children in developed nations receive their formal education at a public institution.

Homeschooling is an option for parents who wish to provide their children with a different learning environment than exists in public schools. It is also an alternative for those families who are unable, for practical or personal reasons, to comply with the regulations of a public school.

Homeschooling may refer to instruction in the home under the supervision of correspondence schools or umbrella schools. A curriculum-free philosophy of homeschooling may be called unschooling, a term coined in 1977 by American educator John Holt in his magazine *Growing Without Schooling*.

<http://www.nyhen.org/RegsSum.htm>

For the students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504, we would prefer that you continue to call the Office of Special Education and Student Support Services with specific questions related to students who require additional services related to their IEP. If you have these specific questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call the Director of Special Education, Ms. Karen Smith, and she will be able to answer you directly or provide you with the appropriate contact information for the Assistant Director for Special Education who will be able to help.

Parents of students who will no longer be enrolled have recently inquired about Regents Exams and maintaining an aligned curriculum. Although we are not able to provide you with a prescribed curriculum for your child, please note that our individual school webpages have updated information from our teachers' courses of studies.

For many of our WCSD families who have already left our schools and/or will not be in attendance on Thursday, September 19, 2019, we wish you continued success and understand that this not only about homeschooling your student but about wanting to provide your child with the best opportunities for success.

If you have additional questions regarding any of the following items, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail the following Senior Staff administrators:

- Dr. Cardwell, Curriculum and Instruction
- Mr. Richard Zipp, Special Education or other related services
- Mr. Daren Lolkema, Enrollment for in-district WCSD schools
- Ms. Kristen Crandall, Transportation Services

Security

You also received information regarding our Security Vestibules. Please note that they are all on their way to completion. We want to reassure all families that while these are being completed, our schools still maintain a one-way entry (single point of access). The front doors at all schools remain locked and the same practice is still being implemented to allow for parents and visitors to enter our school buildings.

We have had questions wondering if the front doors have been compromised. Please understand that by no means have they been compromised. Our school monitors and security staff continue to follow protocol and ensure that if a person does not have valid ID, they are not able to enter into the building.

Once the security vestibules at the schools have been fully completed, we will be sure to share this information with you as well as information about protocols that will have to change slightly from our current practices.

We are grateful for all of the work that continues to happen for the safety of our schools through the Smart Schools Bond Act, the Capital Improvement Committee, and the District-wide and School Safety/Security Teams.

Sincerely,
José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools