

EXHIBIT

A

May 27, 2008

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Joyce Williams, Superintendent
Wilkes County Schools
313 A North Alexander Ave.
Washington, GA 30673

Mr. Ricky Callaway, Chairman
Wilkes County Board of Education
313 A North Alexander Ave.
Washington, GA 30673

Mr. Steve Echols, Principal
Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School
304 Gordon St.
Washington, GA 30673

Dear Ms. Williams, Mr. Echols, and Mr. Callaway:

The National Women's Law Center represents several students at Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School ("WWCHS"). On behalf of our clients, we write to bring to your attention a number of policies and practices at WWCHS that we believe violate the rights and unlawfully limit the educational opportunities of pregnant and parenting students in Wilkes County. We request that the problems be remedied without delay.

I. Title IX

As you are no doubt aware, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") provides in relevant part:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). Title IX applies to all programs and activities at federally funded educational institutions, including WWCHS, and requires that all such programs and activities be made free of discrimination on the basis of sex. Classifications based on pregnancy are a form of sex discrimination and Title IX's implementing regulations make explicit that schools may not exclude pregnant or parenting students from any educational program or otherwise discriminate against them. Moreover, the regulations expressly prohibit "apply[ing] any rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status which treats students differently on the basis of sex." 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(a). The regulations also provide other requirements to ensure the equitable treatment of pregnant and parenting students.

As a result of concerns raised by our clients, as well as other individuals, we have undertaken an investigation into WWCHS's compliance with its Title IX obligations related to pregnant and parenting students. The findings of this investigation to date indicate that the school is not in compliance with Title IX and its implementing regulations regarding pregnant and parenting students. The following are just a few examples of some of the problems we have identified to date.

A. Hospital homebound instruction policy

The regulations implementing Title IX expressly state:

A recipient shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disability with respect to any medical or hospital benefit, service, plan or policy which such recipient administers, operates, offers, or participates in with respect to students admitted to the recipient's educational program or activity.

34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(4). WWCHS's policy in the 2007-08 Student Handbook, a copy of which is attached, states:

If a student is going to miss several days in a row or has a medical condition that may cause the student to miss frequently, the parent may apply for hospital homebound services through the counselor. If approved, the student will be served by a teacher a minimum of three hours a week. Time missed from school while on hospital homebound will not be counted as absences. Normal pregnancy is not an acceptable reason for hospital homebound.

This policy violates Title IX on its face because it deems students who must miss school as a result of normal pregnancy ineligible for hospital homebound instruction.

B. Exclusion of girls who have been pregnant from extracurricular activities

The regulations implementing Title IX state:

A recipient shall not discriminate against any student, or exclude any students from its education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom, unless the student requests voluntarily to participate in a separate portion of the program or activity of the recipient.

34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(1). WWCHS officials have informed girls who have been pregnant that they are ineligible for homecoming court and senior superlative elections because of their pregnancies. This exclusion of students from an extracurricular activity

and from recognition along with their peers because of pregnancy is a violation of Title IX. *See Chipman v. Grant County Sch. Dist.*, 30 F. Supp. 2d 975, 976 (E.D. Ky. 1998) (“pregnancy...cannot be the basis for automatic denial of the right to participate in any public school activity”).

Additionally, it is our understanding that WWCHS has considered boys known to have fathered children eligible for homecoming court. A school violates Title IX when it treats mothers differently than fathers. *See Pfeiffer v. Marion Ctr. Area Sch. Dist.*, 917 F.2d 779, 785-86 (3d Cir. 1990) (testimony that a male student was not dismissed from National Honor Society after fathering a child was relevant to whether the school violated Title IX by dismissing a female student from National Honor Society because she was pregnant); 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(a) (“[a] recipient shall not apply any rule concerning a student’s actual or potential parental, family, or marital status which treats students differently on the basis of sex”).

C. Treatment of absences following childbirth

The regulations implementing Title IX state:

In the case of a recipient which does not maintain a leave policy for its students, or in the case of a student who does not otherwise qualify for leave under such a policy, a recipient shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom as a justification for a leave of absence for so long a period of time as is deemed medically necessary by the student’s physician, at the conclusion of which the student shall be reinstated to the status which she held when the leave began.

34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(5). Our understanding is that WWCHS students who have babies are required to return to school one week after giving birth. Students are told that if they fail to return one week after giving birth, they will lose credits. Moreover, the week that is missed is considered an unexcused absence, and teachers are instructed not to allow students to make up any work that is missed. Students have failed classes as a result of the time they missed when giving birth. This practice is blatantly inconsistent with the requirements of Title IX.

II. Equal Protection

WWCHS’ treatment of pregnant and parenting girls also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as Art. I, § 1, paragraph 2 of the Georgia state constitution. There can be no “exceedingly persuasive justification” for this discrimination. *See United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515, 531 (1996).

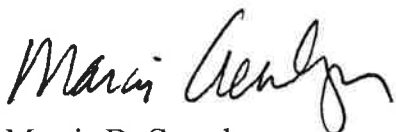
* * *

The Wilkes County School Board has a duty to ensure that students are not discriminated against on the basis of their sex, including on the basis of pregnancy and parenting status. However, given the information that we have gathered thus far, it appears that WWCHS is not meeting its obligations under the law. This situation must be remedied, and the violations described above addressed, on an immediate basis.

Independent of applicable legal requirements, WWCHS would be well-served by taking steps to support pregnant and parenting students to ensure that they are able to stay in school. Forty-one percent of female high school students in Georgia fail to complete high school with a standard diploma in four years, and one nationwide survey found that nearly one in two female dropouts cited pregnancy and parenting responsibilities as a factor in their decisions to drop out. Therefore, supporting pregnant and parenting students is an effective way to reduce the high school dropout rate.

In order to promote compliance with the law without having to pursue litigation, we would like to offer the Wilkes County Schools the opportunity to enter into discussions promptly to reach a settlement agreement addressing these issues at WWCHS. However, we underscore the urgency of addressing this matter, and commencing discussions, immediately given the serious harm being suffered by students because of these policies. Accordingly, we would appreciate your getting back to us no later than June 9, 2008 about how the Wilkes County Schools intend to proceed. You can reach us at (202) 588-5180.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Marcia D. Greenberger
Co-President

Sincerely,



Jocelyn Samuels
Vice President, Education and Employment

Enclosure

2. Death or serious illness in immediate family
3. Religious holiday
4. Governmental mandate (subpoena to court)
5. Serving as a congressional page

Other reasons will be accepted; however, the student will receive an unexcused absence. Examples: Mom needed me at home. I had to take brothers and sisters to work. I had to help Grandma. Mom did not get up. These are understandable, but it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student's primary effort is to attend school.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, count in determining attendance. The student may not miss more than 5 days (excused or unexcused). Each day a student is absent, the parent will be notified by Edulink Automated Dialer. After a student misses three days, a letter will be sent home advising the parent that the student is in jeopardy of losing credit if he or she exceeds 5 days. When the student misses 5 or more days, a letter will be sent home denying the student credit. The parent may appeal this decision to the principal within 5 days of receiving a letter denying credit.

Appeals are sometimes granted if the student has no unexcused absences and the parent presents in writing unusual or unforeseen reasons that the student violated the attendance policy.

Hospital Homebound:

If a student is going to miss several days in a row or has a medical condition that may cause the student to miss frequently, the parent may apply for hospital homebound services through the counselor. If approved, the student will be served by a teacher a minimum of three hours a week. Time missed from school while on hospital homebound will not be counted as absences. Normal pregnancy is not an acceptable reason for hospital homebound. Hospital homebound forms may be acquired from the counselor's office. The parent must apply and be accepted for the hospital-homebound status.

Obtaining admittance slips

It is the student's responsibility to secure an admittance slip within two days of the absence and have all teachers sign. At this time the student must obtain from the teacher any work that was missed.

EXHIBIT

B

September 30, 2009

Via Email policy@doe.k12.ga.us and U.S. Mail

Rules Comments
Policy Division
Georgia Department of Education
2053 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Proposed New Rule 160-4-2-.31 Hospital/Homebound Services

Dear Policy Division:

The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that engages in litigation, advocacy, and public education to protect and advance the progress of women and girls at work, in school, and in virtually every aspect of their lives. Among other things, we advocate on behalf of pregnant and parenting students and work to ensure that recipients of federal educational funds comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the State Board of Education's proposed repeal of Rule 160-4-2-.31 Hospital/Homebound Instruction and adoption in its place of a new Rule 160-4-2-.31 entitled "Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services."

As a policy matter, independent of applicable legal requirements, the Georgia Department of Education and the community it serves would benefit from taking steps to encourage Georgia high schools to support their pregnant and parenting students. Georgia has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country for girls, as only 61.9 percent of female high school students in Georgia finish with a standard diploma in four years.¹ And a nationwide survey conducted by the Gates Foundation found that nearly half of female dropouts cited becoming a parent as a factor in their decisions to drop out.² Furthermore, the consequences of dropping out are even worse for women than for men – females who do not graduate are more likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed, to earn lower wages, and to lack access to health insurance coverage, and as a result are more likely to need to rely on public support programs to support

¹ EPE Research Center, *Diplomas Count 2009: Broader Horizons: The Challenge of College Readiness for All Students*, Education Week, June 2009, available at http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/dc/2009/33sos_gains.pdf.

² Peter D. Hart Research Associates, *Gates Foundation Dropouts Survey*, (Sep./Oct. 2005). In the same survey, those who left school to care for a family member or because they became a parent, more than any other group of dropouts, were "most likely to say they would have worked harder if their schools had demanded more of them and provided the necessary support." Bridgeland et al., *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts* 6 (Civic Enterprises, 2006).

themselves and their families.³ Therefore, providing the support necessary for pregnant and parenting students to stay in school – including by offering HHB Services where appropriate and where provided to other students who are temporarily unable to attend school – will help to improve graduation rates in Georgia and to bring Georgia’s students one step closer to economic security.

I. The proposed rule makes it clear that students who are pregnant or have related medical conditions can no longer be excluded on that basis from eligibility for Hospital/Homebound Services.

Title IX provides that “[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). The law applies to all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or childbirth. Indeed, the regulations implementing Title IX expressly state:

A recipient shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disability with respect to any medical or hospital benefit, service, plan or policy which such recipient administers, operates, offers, or participates in with respect to students admitted to the recipient’s educational program or activity.

34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(4). Accordingly, it is a violation of federal law for Georgia’s public school system to discriminate against pregnant and parenting students.

The Center applauds the Board’s proposed repeal of the language excluding pregnancy as an eligible condition for the HHB services offered to students who miss school for extended periods of time, as that provision failed to comply with Title IX. Because Title IX requires that pregnant and parenting students be given equal access to education programs and activities, the exclusion of pregnancy from eligibility for HHB services constitutes unlawful sex discrimination.

The Board’s proposed language for the new rule makes it clear that HHB services can no longer be denied to students based on pregnancy-related absences, and that the eligibility criteria apply equally to all students who seek such services. It eliminates the discriminatory language above and in its place provides that “[s]tudents with absences due to pregnancy; related medical conditions, services, or treatment; childbirth; and recovery therefrom are eligible for HHB services.”

However, other provisions of the Proposed Rule raise concerns regarding students’ access to HHB services. In the comments that follow, we identify these concerns and propose recommendations to make the Proposed Rule consistent with the requirements of federal law and to ensure that all eligible students can benefit from the HHB services offered.

³ See, e.g., National Women’s Law Center, *When Girls Don’t Graduate, We All Fail: A Call to Improve High School Graduation Rates for Girls* (2007), available at www.nwlc.org/dropout.

II. HHB services should be available to a student for as long as the student’s physician deems it medically necessary for the student to be absent from school.

Although the proposed language of the Rule states that HHB services will be offered to eligible students on an intermittent, long-term, or temporary basis, we nonetheless have serious concerns that the Proposed Rule will not provide an appropriate amount of time for HHB services, consistent with Title IX. To begin with, the Rule states that qualifying students will be eligible for HHB services “for a length of time as determined by the [Educational Service Plan],” defined in the Proposed Rule as “an individual plan . . . developed by the local school team, to include a school reentry procedure.” In other words, the Proposed Rule leaves the determination of the length of time HHB services will be provided to the discretion of a local school team, which could permit school officials to apply the policy in a discriminatory fashion on account of a student’s pregnancy. But Title IX requires that schools excuse absences for students with pregnancy-related conditions for as long as the student’s doctor deems it to be medically necessary. 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(5). Thus, to ensure that the Proposed Rule is consistent with Title IX, we recommend that HHB services be made available to a student who is absent from school for pregnancy-related reasons for as long as that student’s physician determines that she must be out of school. It is critical that pregnant and parenting students receive assistance to keep up with their school work while they are absent from school. Without this assistance, many pregnant and parenting students will fall behind and some will drop out of school completely.

Additionally, the rule should provide more guidance as to what factors must be considered by the local school team in developing an Educational Service Plan, to ensure that plan is responsive to a student’s particular circumstances. For instance, the definition should make it clear that the Educational Service Plan must be tailored to meet the best interests of each individual eligible student, taking into consideration input from the student, the student’s parents or guardians (if applicable), and the student’s medical provider.

III. The proposed student eligibility criteria should be modified to ensure equal access to HHB services by all students.

As it currently stands, the Proposed Rule would unfairly exclude many pregnant and parenting students from access to HHB services. Below we explain this and offer alternative language that would help to prevent such exclusion.

a. Minimum number of absences required

The Proposed Rule states that HHB services shall be made available to students who are “anticipated to be absent for a minimum of ten consecutive school days per year” (for non-chronic health conditions). *See* Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31(2)(a)2. While there is no provision that explicitly provides for academic assistance to students who miss school for fewer than ten school days, LEAs are required to provide academic support and counseling to address the needs of at-risk students, including pregnant students, regardless of whether they are eligible for HHB services. *See* Board Rule 160-4-8-.1 (Student Support Services). Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31 therefore should reference Rule 160-4-8-.1, to clarify that students who do not qualify for HHB services may still be eligible for support services under Rule 160-4-8-.1.

b. Parent/guardian authorization

The proposed eligibility requirements also provide that the student's parent or guardian must sign a "parental agreement" regarding HHB policies and procedures and parental cooperation, unless the student is designated as an emancipated minor or is 18 years of age or older. *See* Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31(2)(a)3. But this overbroad requirement will serve as a barrier to the full participation of pregnant and parenting students in HHB services. Unfortunately, many pregnant and parenting teens lack the emotional and/or financial support of their parents. It is not uncommon for pregnant teens to be expelled from their homes by their parents or guardians who disapprove of the youth's pregnancy, refuse to tolerate the presence of an additional child in the home, or are financially unable to care for the grandchild. Others who left home before they got pregnant often want to return home but cannot, as conditions in the home such as abuse or drug addiction present risks to their own safety and that of their children. For all of these students, also known as homeless or "unaccompanied" pregnant/parenting youth, *see* McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6), the Proposed Rule would impose a real burden by tying access to HHB services to parent or guardian authorization. Therefore, we suggest that the Proposed Rule be amended to make clear that, in the event that a student alienated from her parent or guardian is neither emancipated nor 18 years of age or older, the student may bypass the parent/guardian authorization. The Rule should provide that in such cases, the approval for HHB services may be obtained from an authorized adult at the student's school, such as a guidance counselor, social worker, school nurse, or "Graduation Coach."

In addition, we note that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires Georgia to ensure that "homeless youths and youths separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services" and demonstrate that "the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in schools in the State." 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1). The Act further requires that each LEA have a liaison who will ensure that "homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency." 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6). To ensure that all homeless youth have equal access to HHB services, Georgia should include the aforementioned procedure for bypassing the authorization requirement in Rule 160-4-2-.31(2)(a)3.

IV. Other definitions in the proposed rule should be revised so eligible students are not wrongfully excluded.

Certain definitions in the Proposed Rule place inappropriate limitations on who may receive HHB services, and should be modified as suggested below.

a. Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services: The Proposed Rule states that HHB services are for eligible students whose confinement at home or in a health care facility prevent normal school attendance "based upon certification of need by the licensed physician or licensed psychiatrist who is treating the student for the presenting diagnosis." It is unclear from the Proposed Rule what a "certification of need" is. If it is anything other than the "completed medical referral form signed by a licensed physician or licensed psychiatrist who is currently treating the student" as provided in subsection (2)(a)4 of the Proposed Rule, then the certification

requirement creates an unnecessary additional burden on students seeking HHB services. The definition of “Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services” therefore should be revised to read, in relevant part, “based upon a completed medical referral form by a licensed physician or mental health care provider who is treating the student for the presenting diagnosis, as outlined in subsection (2)(a)4 of this Rule.”

Additionally, to ensure that the Proposed Rule does not hinder the very individuals it is supposed to help, the Board should include a provision stating that a representative from the LEA or the school must assist students with the application process for HHB services, if the students request such help, and that students must be made aware that such help is available. The lengthy process of demonstrating student eligibility and then initiating HHB services may overwhelm some students at a time when they are most in need of support and guidance.

b. Licensed Psychiatrist: The Proposed Rule refers to a “licensed psychiatrist” as the only individual who may complete a medical referral form for a student suffering from a psychiatric and/or emotional condition, *see* Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31(2)(a)4, and defines “Licensed Psychiatrist” as “a person licensed to practice medicine under state law . . . and trained to practice in the science of treating mental diseases to assess the student’s psychiatric and/or emotional condition for which student is referred.” Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31(1)(h). In many cases, the students most in need of HHB services will not have health insurance or access to the services of a (likely very expensive) licensed psychiatrist. Therefore, the term “licensed psychiatrist” should be replaced by “mental health care provider” and the definition should include individuals such as psychologists, licensed social workers, mental health clinic staff, and other health care providers capable of diagnosing a mental health condition. This is of particular concern for pregnant and parenting students as some may experience post-partum depression following childbirth that could prevent them from returning to school when they otherwise would.

c. Temporary HHB Service: The Proposed Rule defines this term as “HHB instruction and other services for eligible students who have a medically diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition, which confines the student to home or hospital” for a certain defined period of time. Because the inclusion of the qualification “physical or psychiatric condition” in the definition may inadvertently exclude students who should be eligible for such services but do not have a health condition that squarely fits within the parameters of physical or psychiatric condition, we recommend that the definition be revised to read: “HHB instruction and other services for eligible students who have a medically diagnosed health condition, which confines the student to home or hospital”

V. The HIPAA release requirement creates an unnecessary hurdle and should be omitted.

Proposed Rule 160-4-2-.31(3)(a) states that an LEA may require the parent, guardian, emancipated minor or student who is 18 years of age or older to provide a signed release of HIPAA-protected medical information, authorizing the licensed medical provider who is treating the student “to provide all requested records related to the condition related to the request for HHB services to the LEA and to discuss the student’s situation and the need for HHB services with the school team.” The requirement of a HIPAA release is unnecessary and this provision

should be stricken from the Proposed Rule in its entirety. There is no need for an LEA to review the underlying medical records of a student requesting HHB services; the medical provider's signed "medical referral form" requesting HHB services (which, according to the Proposed Rule, must contain a description of the medical condition requiring the student to be absent for an extended period) should suffice as proof of the student's need for HHB services. Eliminating this requirement also would spare schools the added burden of securely storing protected health information in order to protect students' privacy.

VI. The Proposed Rule should include a non-discrimination provision.

Finally, we urge the Board to adopt the following additional provision making clear its intention to prevent all discrimination against pregnant and parenting students. The Board should include in the revised rule a statement demonstrating its commitment to gender equality and Title IX compliance. We suggest the following language:

- 1) No student shall be discriminated against because of his or her actual or potential marital or parental status.
 - a. Pregnancy shall be treated as any other temporary disability.
 - b. Pregnancy or parenthood shall not be considered cause for dismissal or exclusion from any program or activity.
 - c. Participation in special programs provided for pregnant students or students who are parents shall be at the student's option.
 - d. LEAs shall eliminate administrative and programmatic barriers to school attendance and school completion by pregnant students or students who are parents.

See, e.g., 23 IL Admin. Code § 200.50(e); 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(4).

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Rule. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our suggested revisions, please contact Lara Kaufmann at (202) 588-5180 or lkaufmann@nwlc.org. Thank you for your attention to these important issues and for your efforts to ensure the success of all of Georgia's students.

Sincerely,



Fatima Goss Graves
Vice President for Education and Employment



Lara S. Kaufmann
Senior Counsel

EXHIBIT

C

Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School
1182 Tignall Rd.
Washington, Georgia 30673
(706) 678-2426 678-2628 (Fax)

Mark Ward, Principal

Robert Wheeler, Assistant Principal

Don Bridges, Counselor

Date: **March 28, 2014**

Student Name: Mikela Seals

Dear Parent & WWCHS Student:

As explained in the WWCHS Student Handbook that each student receives, “**A student must be present 85 days in each class.**” (pages 11-12 of the WWCHS Student Handbook). This letter notifies you that the above-mentioned student has at least 5 days of unexcused or unverified class absences this current semester. Students who miss more than five days per semester are in danger of receiving NO CREDIT for the classes they are taking.

If you feel there are extenuating circumstances as to why this student has violated the attendance policy, you have 5 working days from the date of this letter to **write a letter of appeal to the Principal**. Appeals must be in writing and all supporting documents that verify why the student was marked as unexcused/unverified should be attached. If we do not receive your letter and supporting documents, the student automatically will not receive credit for courses taken this semester in which he/she has received 5 or more unexcused/unverified absences.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at the high school at 706- 678-2426.

Sincerely,

Mark Ward

Mark Ward

EXHIBIT

D

We recognize the individuality of students and staff at Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School but believe balance must be achieved and maintained between personal and cultural expectations. This includes providing an integrated curriculum that will enable individuals to be balanced, tolerant, and well-adjusted citizens within their physical, social and spiritual environments.

Realizing the comprehensiveness of our philosophy, we actively seek the cooperation of the home and our total community in achieving our goals.

I. Administrative Office and Attendance

The administrative offices are available to students who need to conduct official business. These offices are not for loitering or socializing. Students are permitted to transact business with the offices before or after school or during their lunch period.

All students sent to the office for disciplinary reasons are to report directly to the receptionist or secretary and turn in the accompanying misconduct report before being seated. Students given misconduct reports at the end of a class are to report to the office prior to going to the next class period. Students failing to report to the office after they have been given a misconduct report are subject to further disciplinary action.

A. Attendance

In accordance with Wilkes County Board of Education Attendance Protocol, a student is required to attend school a minimum of 85 days during a semester. Attendance at the school is kept period by period. A student must be present 85 days in each class. **A student is counted absent from class if they miss more than 15 minutes of any class.** A student who misses less than 15 minutes of class is counted tardy.

B. Absences by Students from School

An absence is defined as missing 15 or more minutes from any class. In accordance with Georgia Law, excused admittance slips will be issued for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness/doctor's appointment
2. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others
3. Death or serious illness in immediate family
4. Religious holiday
5. Governmental mandate (subpoena to court)
6. Serving as a congressional page

7. Family being deployed or returning from military service
8. Registering to vote
9. Other reasons as outlined in the Wilkes County Attendance Protocol

Other reasons will be accepted; however, the student will receive an unexcused absence. Examples: Mom needed me at home. I had to take brothers and sisters to work. I had to help Grandma. Mom did not get up. These are understandable, but it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student's primary effort is to attend school.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, count in determining attendance. The student may not miss more than 5 days (excused or unexcused) per semester. The student is in jeopardy of losing credit if he/she misses more than 5 days. Parents will be notified of each day a student is absent. When the student misses 5 or more days, a letter will be sent home denying the student credit. The parent may appeal this decision to the principal within 5 days of receiving a letter denying credit.

Appeals are sometimes granted if the student has no unexcused absences and the parent presents in writing unusual or unforeseen reasons that the student violated the attendance policy.

Hospital Homebound:

If a student is going to miss several days in a row or has a medical condition that may cause the student to miss frequently, the parent may apply for hospital homebound services through the counselor. If approved, the student will be served by a teacher a minimum of three hours a week. Time missed from school while on hospital homebound will not be counted as absences. Hospital homebound forms may be acquired from the counselor's office. The parent must apply and be accepted for the hospital-homebound status.

Obtaining admittance slips

It is the student's responsibility to secure an admittance slip within two days of the absence and have all teachers sign. At this time the student must obtain from the teacher any work that was missed.

Students may come to the office before school starts 7:45 - 8:00 to obtain an admittance slip. Failing to obtain an admittance slip through the office will result in the absence being counted as unexcused. After the two days, excuses will not be accepted, and the absence will be recorded as unexcused.










Students with unexcused absences will not make up missed assignments or tests.

EXHIBIT

E

PowerSchool

Navigation










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-  School Information

Grade History: Seals, Mikelia Channetta

There are no term grade records for the selected term.

PowerSchool

Navigation

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Meeting Attendance History: Seals, Mikelia Channetta

Not enrolled in any classes for the current term.

Legend

Attendance Codes: Blank=Present | UNV=Unverified | HOS=Hospital/Homebound | CAR=Car Trouble | DTH=Death in Family | EXC=Excused | FLD=Field Trip | GOV=Government Mandate | ISS=In School Suspension | LFT=Left Early | DOC=Doctor's Appt | OSS=Out of School Suspension | APP=Prior Approval | REL=Religious Holiday | ILL=Illness | TDE=Excused Tardy | TDU=Unexcused Tardy | TDC=Tardy- Car | WD=Withdrawn | UNX=Unexcused Absence |

Grades and Attendance

 My Calendars School Information

District Code

ZNJB



GET IT ON

Google play

Attendance By Class

| Attendance By Class | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|--------|----|----|----|----------|---------|
| Exp | Last Week | | | | | This Week | | | | | Course | S2 | E2 | Y1 | Absences | Tardies |
| | M | T | W | H | F | M | T | W | H | F | | | | | | |
| Attendance Totals | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | | |

Current Simple GPA (S2):

Show dropped classes also

Legend

Attendance Codes: Blank=Present | UNV=Unverified | HOS=Hospital/Homebound | CAR=Car Trouble | DTH=Death in Family | EXC=Excused | FLD=Field Trip | GOV=Government Mandate | ISS=In School Suspension | LFT=Left Early | DOC=Doctor's Appt | OSS=Out of School Suspension | APP=Prior Approval | REL=Religious Holiday | ILL=Illness | TDE=Excused Tardy | TDU=Unexcused Tardy | TDC=Tardy- Car | WD=Withdrawn | UNX=Unexcused Absence |

Citizenship Codes: H=Honorable | S=Satisfactory | N=Needs to improve | U=Unsatisfactory |

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2014-2015 Course Requests: Seals, Mikelia Channetta


There are no course requests for this student.

EXHIBIT

F

PowerSchool

Parent Sign In

 This account has been disabled.
Contact your school directly for assistance.

Username

sealsmikelia

Password

••••

[Having trouble signing in?](#)

Sign In

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EXHIBIT

G

In responding to student attendance issues, the school system shall comply with all requirements of state law, State Board of Education rule, and the Student Attendance Protocol that has been developed by the county's Student Attendance Protocol Committee.

Excused Absences

It is the policy of the Board to excuse students from school for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A student whose parent is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five school days per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to such parent's deployment or during such parent's leave.

The Board authorizes high school administrators to allow for eligible students a period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.

The principal may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

Grades and Absences

Final course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.

EXHIBIT

H

PREGNANT/MARRIED/UNWED PARENTS

Date: 2/17/2009

The Wilkes County Board of Education is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for all students in the district as long as they can profit from attendance and their conduct is compatible with the welfare of the group.

Under this guiding philosophy, the Board believes that married and/or pregnant students have the same privileges and carry the same responsibilities as other students and sets forth the following provisions:

1. The staff shall advise students strongly against marriage until after completion of their high school education. It shall be pointed out to the students that marriage is a very serious and important step in life and should not be taken lightly and without due consideration of the added responsibilities it imposes on both parties. A solid foundation upon which a successful marriage can be built includes, among other things, some degree of financial independence, a home of one's own, and freedom from the constant concern and dependence upon parents. Students in high school will find it difficult, if not impossible, to possess these important factors for a successful, early marriage. The added responsibilities of marriage will make it difficult to gain the full educational benefits of the total school program.
2. Married students are asked to report their marriage to their guidance counselor so that school records can be kept up-to-date and accurate.
3. Pregnant students are asked to notify their guidance counselor, homeroom teacher or administrator as soon as the condition has been established.

(see next page)

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4. In the event of pregnancy, students may elect any one of the following procedures concerning their education:
 - a. If the pregnant student wishes to remain in school, approval from the student's doctor must be obtained. The doctor's statement should advise that attendance at

school and participation in the regular school program will have no adverse effects on the student's health. When the condition of pregnancy reaches a state of development where the nature of school activities is considered to be hazardous to the student's health and welfare, and, after a conference with the student's guidance counselor, the principal will notify in writing the student and her doctor of this situation. The responsibility for her continuance in school will then rest with the student and her doctor.

- b. If the pregnant student chooses to leave school and not continue her education, every effort will be made to reinstate her the following year.
- c. Hospital homebound (HHB) will be provided for pregnancies if doctor requests HHB Services be provided for a period beyond the ten-day absence period. These details must be worked out through the school administration on a case-by-case basis.

A student's marital status will not affect a student's eligibility for participation in educational or extracurricular, including athletic, programs. Pregnancy shall affect a student's participation in such activities as stated in 4a above.

CROSS REF.: IDDC - Homebound Instruction
LEGAL REF.: O.C.G.A., 20-2-133; 20-2-150; Section 86-40,
Title IX Regulations

ADOPTED: 1/1/76
REVISED: 12/4/87
REVISED: 2/17/09

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION