



Every student needs a skill

2025-26

Student & Parent Handbook

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Romeoville, IL 60446
www.wilco.k12.il.us



Phone Number
(815)838-6941



Table of Contents

Wilco Mission & Vision Statement	3
Contact Information	3
Daily Schedule & Student Services	4
Attendance	5
Home and Hospital Instruction	7
Inclement Weather - School Closing	8
Student Dress	9
Grades	10
Daily Procedures	10
Electronic Devices	15
School Visitation Rights	17
Sex Offender Notification Law	18
Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment	19
Bullying Prevention and Response Plan	21
Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, Boundary Violations	25
Student Behavior	32
Medical Considerations	42
Student Records	45
Academic Honesty	49
Conduct Code for Extracurricular Participants	53
Notice of Nondiscrimination	60
Discipline of Students with Disabilities	61
Dual Credit	62
Cosmetology	62
Student Privacy Protections	63
Electronic Network Acceptable Use Agreement	66
Computer and Internet Terms and Conditions	67
Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology	71
Employee Ethics, Code of Professional Conduct, and Conflict of Interest	73
Wilco Administration & Board of Control	75

Welcome to Wilco!

WILCO Area Career Center is the result of a cooperative agreement among the high schools of Bolingbrook, Lemont, Plainfield Central, Plainfield North, Plainfield South, Plainfield East, Reed-Custer, Romeoville, and Wilmington. Students from Lockport High School also attend the Center. By joining together in a centralized facility, the participating schools offer students a variety of quality career and technical education programs in a cost-effective manner.

Wilco serves a dual purpose. First, it prepares students to enter the labor market with beginning occupational skills and/or prepares them for advanced occupational training in two- and four-year colleges, business, and technical/trade skills. Second, it helps meet the increasing needs of area commerce and industry for skilled personnel.

Although Wilco is physically separated from the participating high schools, it is an extension of each school. Therefore, it is important that students at Wilco maintain identity and loyalty to their home schools while at Wilco.

Message from the Executive Director

I encourage each student who attends Wilco to take full advantage of the opportunities he/she will have this school year. Our goal is to provide each student with the skills, motivation, and knowledge necessary to be successful after high school and for many years to come. To ensure this, we encourage students to view learning as a life-long process that will lead them onward to a new career and upward to unlimited possibilities. I encourage parents and students to see this year as a partnership. Each of us has a role to ensure the greatest outcomes possible. Good attendance, participation, and study habits go a long way to making this a great experience. The teachers at Wilco are dedicated to providing a safe and stimulating learning environment. Finally, I, myself, believe each student who walks through the doors of Wilco is unique and has the ability to achieve. Welcome to Wilco Area Career Center and have a great year.

-Dr. Elizabeth Kaufman

Wilco Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop skill sets that provide a pathway to college and career readiness.

Wilco Vision Statement

Wilco students are college and career-ready when they:

- Explore and refine career goals
 - Embrace diversity and inclusion
 - Problem solve, collaborate, and enhance 21st-century workplace skills
 - Engage in rigorous, purposeful, authentic learning
 - Obtain academic and technical skills
 - Leverage technology for learning and employment
 - Connect with business and community partners
 - Earn dual credit, industry credentials, and/or certificates
 - Identify and pursue postsecondary training and employment opportunities
-

Contact Information

Except for major holidays, Wilco Area Career Center is open between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays during the regular school term. The telephone number for Wilco is (815) 838-6941. Teachers can be reached from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. and 2:25 to 3:00 p.m. Administration may be reached by phone throughout the school day. Faculty and staff can also be reached via email. A complete listing of email addresses is available at www.wilco.k12.il.us. Individual conferences or classroom visits should be prearranged with the instructor.

Daily Schedule

Students, except those in Cosmetology, Barbering, Nail Technology, ACE, AET, AIM, CCC, and Heavy Equipment, will attend Wilco during one of the following sessions:

1st 7:50 to 9:50 a.m.

2nd 9:53 to 11:50 a.m.

3rd 12:26 to 2:00 p.m.

The sessions attended depend on when the home school sends students and the specific session in which a course may be offered. Unless enrollment warrants, not all courses are provided each session.



Student Services

Resource, tutoring, and placement services are available at Wilco with the following regulations for all students:

- All students must have a pass from their instructor before signing into Student Services.
- All students must personally sign in when they arrive and indicate their assignment.
- All students must sign out when they leave Student Services.
- All property within Student Services must be respected. Students will be held responsible for any damages.

Attendance

Attendance at Wilco is viewed as preparation for the workplace. Excessive absence in the workforce is a major reason for dismissal. Students are evaluated on participation in their programs, which requires regular attendance. Wilco will send a warning letter home to notify students and parents that five days of school have been missed. After the tenth absence, a parent conference may be required, with an attendance contract being issued. Continued absences may result in the student being dropped from Wilco and receiving a failing grade. The only absences not included in the policy are those covered by a doctor's note, court document, or notification/verification of a death in the family.

There are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include: illness (including up to 5 days per school year for mental or behavioral health of the student), attendance at a verified medical or therapeutic appointment (including a victim services provider), observance of a religious holiday or event, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the school board of control, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety, attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS, attend a civic event, or other reason as approved by the building principal. For students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, an excused absence includes the fulfillment of a parenting responsibility and addressing circumstances resulting from domestic or sexual violence. Students eligible to vote are also excused for up to two hours to vote in a primary, special, or general election.

Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Control, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment. A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school.

Students who are excused from school will be given a reasonable timeframe to make up missed homework and classwork assignments.

All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the building principal.

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence.

In the event of any absence, the student's parent/guardian is required to call the school at (815) 838-6941 before 8:00 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of a student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent/guardian explaining the reason

for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent/guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

Diagnostic Procedures for Identifying Student Absences and Support Services to Truant or Chronically Truant Students

State law requires every school district to collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families, encourage the habit of daily attendance, and promote success. This review must include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center.

Furthermore, State law provides that school districts are encouraged to provide a system of support to students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels with strategies and are also encouraged to make resources available to families such as those available through the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Framework to support and engage students and their families to encourage heightened school engagement and improved daily school attendance.

"Chronic absence" means absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, and out-of-school suspensions.

The School and District use the following diagnostic procedures for identifying the causes of unexcused student absences: Interviews with the student, his or her parent/guardian and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problems.

Supportive services to truant or chronically truant students include: parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community services.

If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent/guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

- Excused absence: Students may make up work for credit but will have one day for every day absent from class plus one day to submit it.
- Unexcused absence: No credit for course work missed.
- Tardy to class: If a student is not in class by the late/second bell, the student will be considered tardy. The teacher will notify administration with a possible detention issued.
- School events: Students may be required to attend assemblies, field trips, and meetings at their home schools. Absence due to a school event is not factored into their Wilco absences.
- Suspensions: Students who are not in school because of disciplinary action may submit work in accordance with the excused absence policy.

Home and Hospital Instruction

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.

Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, the fulfillment of parenting obligations related to the health of the child, or health and safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence will be provided home instruction under the following circumstances:

Before the birth of the child when the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction.

For up to three months after the child's birth or a miscarriage.

When a student must care for his or her ill child if:

The child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse informs the school, in writing, that the child has a serious health condition that would require the student to be absent from school for two or more consecutive weeks; and

The student or the student's parent/guardian informs the school, in writing, that the student needs to care for the child during this period.

The student must treat physical or mental health complications or address safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence when a health care provider or an employee of the student's domestic or sexual violence organization informs the school in writing that the care is needed by the student and will cause the student's absence from school for two or more consecutive weeks.

The school may reassess home instruction provided to a student under No. 3 or No. 4 every two months to determine the student's continuing need for home instruction.

Periodic conferences will be held between appropriate school personnel, parent(s)/guardian(s), and hospital staff to coordinate coursework and facilitate a student's return to school.

For information on home or hospital instruction, contact Student Services at 815-838-6941.

Tuancy

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Tuancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district.

Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are considered chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources from their home high schools aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline
- Removal from Wilco Area Career Center

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).

Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

Inclement Weather - School Closing

When school must close due to any emergency, including weather, the following procedures will be utilized. An announcement will be made as soon as all Superintendents have been reached by the Director. Information regarding the closing of school will be broadcasted on WJOL (1340 AM), a local radio station. If no announcement is made by radio, it can be assumed that school is open. Parents will be reached through our automated call system. If the home school is closed, students will not be expected to attend the center.

Student Dress

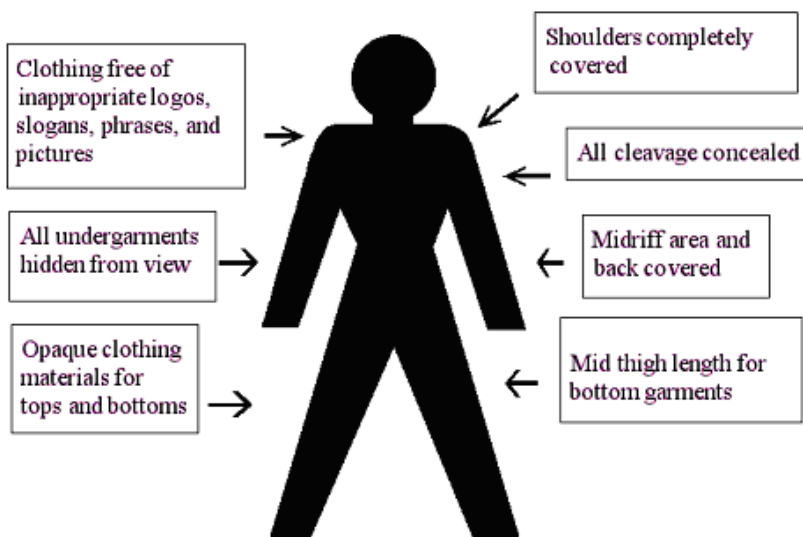
Wilco requires appropriate attire at all times. Students are required to be covered from top of the shoulder to mid-thigh. Leggings/tights are not considered acceptable attire and must be worn with items that reach mid-thigh. Pants should be worn at the waist at all times.

Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well-fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school-sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, coats, bandannas, sweat bands, and sunglasses may not be worn in the building during the school day.
- Hair styles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted in the shop, laboratories, or during class.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the Administration will make the final decision.

General Guidelines for Program Areas:

- Health and safety standards must be maintained at all times.
- Clothing or appearance cannot disrupt the educational environment.
- Clothing must meet appropriate program safety requirements.
- Students may be required to purchase specific clothing items depending on the program in which they enroll.



Grades

A grade from Wilco Area Career Center will be part of the student's home school report card and reflects participation, acquisition of knowledge, and actual job skills performed. Credit is awarded by the home school in accordance to their curriculum guide.

The grade scale at Wilco is as follows:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and lower	F

Progress Reports

Progress reports are sent to parents through the home school according to their schedule. Progress reports are cumulative through the semester. In addition, Wilco instructors may issue progress reports for students who are receiving a 'D' or 'F,' dropping more than a letter grade, and/or are

experiencing attendance problems. The Wilco progress reports are mailed to the parent and the high school guidance counselor.

Use of Instructional Materials

Wilco provides students with instructional technology, including the Internet. Use of any instructional material or any instructional technology in any manner other than its intended use will be considered a serious offense. This could result in a recommendation for disciplinary consequences, including removal from Wilco.

Daily Procedures

Arrival at Wilco Area Career Center

Upon arrival at Wilco, students may utilize the restrooms, water fountains, and vending machines. Students may not disrupt the classes that are in session. Consequently, students are asked to remain in the front halls until the bell rings. When the first bell rings, students should proceed to class.

Departure from Wilco Area Career Center

Students will be dismissed from class when the bell rings. During the third session, students will be instructed when their school is scheduled to depart. Students should not leave class early.

Hall Passes

Students must have a hall pass in their possession at all times that they are in the halls during the class session. All hall passes are good for 5 minutes only. Disciplinary action may range from a warning and inclusion on the 'No Pass List' to an Out-of-Building suspension.

School Property

Students should treat school property and equipment with respect. Items should not be removed from Wilco without an instructor's written permission. Personal belongings are the student's responsibility and should be kept in a secure and proper place. Wilco is not responsible for damaged or lost student property.

Missed Bus Procedures

Students who miss the bus back to their home school should report to the main office. Students who miss the bus to Wilco should report to the Dean's office at their school.

Buses

Transportation daily to the Center is provided by the feeder districts' transportation departments. Wilco Area Career Center provides field trip bus transportation to students periodically throughout the year.

Students must...

- Display their ID cards upon request;
- Obey the bus driver;
- Remain seated while the bus is moving; and
- Keep all material inside the bus including: head, arms, legs, hands, and feet inside the bus.

Students who ride the Center's activity bus to extra-curricular activities are expected to conform to the prescribed school bus rules as posted on the activity bus. Students are expected to carry their ID while on the bus. Students who fail to observe these rules will, upon the complaint of the driver, be issued detentions, assigned seats, or be removed from the bus for a period of time. Chronic misconduct may result in permanent loss of the privilege to use the school bus at the discretion of the board. Students should be aware that removal from the bus may occur on the first violation if the situation so warrants.

Bus rules include but are not limited to the following:

- Do not leave your seat while the bus is in motion.
- No profanity or sexual comments.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- No intimidation of other students.
- School problems will stay at school.
- No spitting.
- No throwing litter or other objects out the window.

- There will be no hanging outside the window.
- No smoking, lighters, or matches allowed.
- No unnecessary noise or rude comments.
- Do not do anything that distracts the driver.
- Bus driver can assign seats for the entire school year.

Students may talk but must do so quietly. When a student causes damage to a bus, the student and his/her parents or guardians are held responsible. A student may have bus privileges suspended for up to ten days by administration or longer at the discretion of the Board of Education. A student who becomes a serious or chronic disciplinary problem will have bus privileges revoked for the remainder of a semester, for the balance of the school year, or may receive further disciplinary action as outlined in the Discipline Section of this Student Handbook. Bus drivers have the authority to refer a student to the Assistant Director or home school personnel. Parents will be notified.

Student Driving

Every student is required to ride the bus provided by the home high school. Exceptions to this policy are rare and can be made **ONLY** with advance approval from the home school, parents and Wilco. A driving pass must be issued by the main office before any student is allowed to drive. Students must produce evidence of a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Cars must be parked in the spaces indicated. A student with permission to drive to or from Wilco may not give rides to another student at any time unless a passenger permit is issued. Violation of this policy will result in the loss of driving privileges. Wilco reserves the right to inspect any car on its property.

Furthermore, any unauthorized vehicle is at risk of being towed at the owner's expense.



Field Trips

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline.

All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;

- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

Use of Tobacco/Smoking

Smoking or the use of tobacco in any form is not permitted in the building or on the grounds of Wilco. Possession of tobacco will result in disciplinary consequences. Furthermore, possession of tobacco by a person under 18 years of age is also an ordinance violation in the Village of Romeoville and is punishable by a fine/arrest. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products is not permitted. In addition, possession or use of a lighter or matches will result in disciplinary action.

Student Safety

Creating a safe work environment is a primary focus of Wilco. At no time should a student participate in an activity that might pose a danger to herself/himself or others. Students need to follow classroom safety rules at all times including but not limited to the wearing of protective safety glasses, appropriate shoes, and other items of clothing as established by the instructor; behaving appropriately in the shops; and conducting themselves professionally in the halls.

Disruptive Classroom Behavior

When a student disrupts the educational environment, such as by talking or by sleeping, the following interventions may take place:

1st Offense - Teacher/Student Conference

2nd Offense -Teacher/Parent Conference.

3rd Offense - Dean referral, after school assignment or Saturday detention – parent contact.

4th Offense - Dean referral, Saturday Assignment, or control center assignment, teacher and dean conference – parent contact, student final contract.

5th Offense - Control center, final contract, if student is failing at this point he/she may be dropped from class – parent contact.

Firearms, Knives, Brass Knuckles & Other Objects Used or Attempted to Be Used to Cause Harm

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year:

(1) A firearm. For the purposes of this Section, “firearm” means any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis. (2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look alike” of any firearm as defined above the expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Electronic Devices

Students may not use or possess electronic paging devices or two-way radios on school property at any time, unless the Building Principal and/or Executive Director specifically grants permission.

Personal radios, CD/DVD players, MP3 players, iPods, televisions and electronic games are disruptive to the educational process and are NOT allowed at Wilco. If any of these items are used during instructional time, they will be confiscated. The parent/guardian will be asked to come to Wilco to pick up the item. Wilco is not responsible should any of the above items are lost, stolen or damaged.

Electronic study aids may be used during the school day if:

- Use of the device is provided in the student's IEP, or
- Permission is received from the student's teacher.

Examples of electronic devices that are used as study aids include tape recorders, palm pilots, iPads and laptop computers.

Examples of electronic devices that are not used as study aids include: hand-held electronic games (e.g., GameBoy), CD players, MP3 players, AM/FM radios, smartphones and cellular telephones.

The Center is not responsible for the loss or theft of any electronic device brought to school.

Phone calls

Students are discouraged from placing phone calls during class time. During an emergency, students are permitted, with prior approval, to use a phone in the main office.

Cell/Camera Phones

The possession and use of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices, other than paging devices and two-way radios, are subject to the following rules:

They must be kept out of sight and in an inconspicuous location, such as a backpack, purse, or locker.

They must be turned off during the regular school day unless the supervising teacher grants permission for them to be used or if needed during an emergency.

They may not be used in any manner that will cause disruption to the educational environment or will otherwise violate student conduct rules.



Violence Prevention

Providing a safe learning environment, the Career Center encourages students to report aggressive acts. If you have knowledge of a weapon threat, you can report it to staff at Wilco, your home school, or anonymously report it to the Violence Prevention Hotline at 1-866-SPEAK-UP.

Food or Drink

Food and drink are available for purchase through vending machines with water fountains available at various locations throughout the building. Occasionally, the culinary arts students will have food items available for purchase. Students may purchase the items and return to class. Students should not loiter in the front hall with food and/or drink. Instructors may designate areas within the class where food and drinks are permitted. Breaks at Wilco are a privilege and may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Students may not go on break unsupervised.

Inappropriate Language, Gesture, and Material

A student while on school property, on a school bus, or at any school sponsored activity shall not use obscene, suggestive, or highly disrespectful language or gestures. The student shall not possess or distribute profane, obscene, or suggestive material. Also, the student shall not possess clothing or material that represents cults, gangs, or related activities or use graffiti or inappropriate gestures.

Use of Controlled Substances or Marijuana

Possession, consumption, or distribution of any controlled substance, marijuana or look-alike drugs are not permitted at Wilco Area Career Center at any time. Medical marijuana use by students at school is prohibited. Furthermore, students may not be in possession of any associated paraphernalia. Compliance with this standard of conduct is mandatory.

Any student found to be a possessor, consumer, or distributor of any controlled substance or marijuana is subject to disciplinary action, home school expulsion, and/or police report or arrest.

School Visitation Rights

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, by providing a photo id, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a visitor lanyard and clearly identify themselves as a guest and place the lanyard on/or around their neck so it is clearly visible. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

No person on school property or at a school event shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or municipal, local or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.

10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied Illinois' Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and district policies.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized district employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other district policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or district employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the district or a school function.

Any person who engages in prohibited conduct may be ejected from or denied admission to school property in accordance with State law. The person may also be subject to being denied admission to school athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year.

Sex Offender Notification Law

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

Information about sex offenders or violent offenders against youth is available to the public on the Illinois State Police (ISP) website. The ISP website contains the following:

Illinois Sex Offender Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/Disclaimer>

Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important Center goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender orientation, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or marital parenting status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, or at school sponsored or school sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School Center or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any non-school-related activity, function, or program.

The term bullying or cyber-bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.



Definitions from Section 27-23.7 (

CS 5/27-23.7)

Cyber-bullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation 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 system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying also includes 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 effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one of more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Restorative measures means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, and (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school.

School personnel means persons employed by, on contract with, or who volunteer in a school Center, including without limitation school and school Center administrators, teachers, school guidance counselors, school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers, and security guards.

Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Director or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the Center's goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below; each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-12.

1. The Center uses the definition of bullying as stated.
2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this Center. However, nothing in the Center's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building Principal, Center Complaint Manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the Center Complaint Manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted.

Complaint Managers:

Jeannine Marco, Asst. Principal
500 Wilco Blvd., Romeoville, IL 60446
jmarco@wilcoacc.org or (815) 838-6941

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Director or designee shall promptly inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.
5. The Center shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
 - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
 - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.

- c. Notifying administration of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
 - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Assistant Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.
- 6. The Director or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, that may include, but are not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.
- 7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
- 8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the Center's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
- 9. The Center's bullying prevention and response plan must be based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
- 10. The Director or designee shall post this policy on the Center's Internet website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must also be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel, including new employees when hired.
- 11. The Director or designee shall assist the Board with its evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:
 - a. The frequency of victimization;
 - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
 - c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
 - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
 - e. Bystander intervention or participation

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the Center already collects for other purposes. The Director or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the Center's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin negatively affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from such discrimination and harassment is an important District and School goal. The District and School do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, or national origin in any of its education programs or activities and comply with federal and State non-discrimination laws.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: disciplining students more harshly and frequently because of their race, color, or national origin; denying students access to high-rigor academic courses, extracurricular activities, or other educational opportunities based on their race, color, or national origin; denying language services or other educational opportunities to English learners; and assigning students special education services based on a student's race, color, or national origin.

Harassment is a form of prohibited discrimination. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: the use of racial, ethnic or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; taunts; name-calling; offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's actual or perceived race, color, or national origin; the display of racially-offensive symbols; racially-motivated physical threats and attacks; or other hateful conduct.

Making a Report or Complaint: Investigation Process

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports will be processed under the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

Reports and complaints of discrimination or harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

Federal and State Agencies

If the District fails to take necessary corrective action to stop harassment based on race, color, or national origin, further relief may be available through the Illinois Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) or the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To contact IDHR, go to: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr.html> or call (312) 814-6200 (Chicago) or (217) 785-5100 (Springfield).

Prevention and Response Program

The District maintains a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. The program includes procedures for responding to complaints which:

1. Reduce or remove, to the extent practicable, barriers to reporting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
2. Permit any person who reports or is the victim of an incident of alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to be accompanied when making a report by a support individual of the person's choice who complies with the District's policies and rules;
3. Permit anonymous reporting, except that an anonymous report may not be the sole basis of any disciplinary action;
4. Offer remedial interventions or take such disciplinary action as may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis;
5. Offer, but do not require or unduly influence, a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation the option to resolve allegations directly with the accused; and
6. Protects a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation from suffering adverse consequences as a result of a report of, investigation of, or a response to the incident.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, consistent with the student discipline information in this handbook.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited.

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors and Boundary Violations

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the Center's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following.

Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors:

School and Center employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.

Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student.

Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says “no”
- Engaging in touching that a student or student’s parents/guardians have indicated is unwanted
- Trying to be a student’s friend rather than filling an adult role in the student’s life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student’s life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student’s sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts with occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student’s access to other adults

Warning Signs of Boundary Violations:

School and Center employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student’s health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to “hang out” or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission

- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the Center.

Additional Resources include:

National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Sexual Abuse Chatline at online.rainn.org

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence affect a student's ability to learn. Students who are parents or expectant parents have unique needs. Providing support services that enable students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence (Article 26A Students) to succeed in school are important school and district goals and are required by law.

Requesting Support Services

To facilitate the full participation of Article 26A Students, the school district provides in-school support services and information regarding non-school-based support services. Article 26A Students are also able to make up work missed on account of circumstances related to their status as a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence.

In-school support services include, but are not limited to, enabling a student to meet with counselors or other service providers, excusing the student from class as necessary for circumstances consistent with their Article 26A status, and assisting students with the development of a student success plan.

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may request a complete copy of the District's policies related to Article 26A Students and information on support services by contacting the Article 26A Resource Person listed below.

Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

No person, including a school or school employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; region; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; physical appearance; socioeconomic status; academic status; association with a person or group with one of more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The Center will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice or one of the characteristics stated above.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited (Title IX)

The School and District shall provide an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law.

A District employee, agent, or student violates this prohibition whenever that person engages in conduct on the basis of sex that causes another person to be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity operated by the District. Sex discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of sex, stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.

Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term teen dating violence occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

For more information about this issue, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's educational materials at: www.cdc.gov/injury/features/dating-violence/index.html.

Making a Report or Filing a Complaint

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may file a complaint for violations of this procedure with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Principal, Assistant Principal, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

Please check with your 26A resource person at your home school.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Dr. Alicia Cook
500 Wilco Blvd., Romeoville, IL 60446
(815) 838-6941
acook@wilcoacc.org

Complaint Managers:

Jeannine Marco
500 Wilco Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
(815) 838-6941
jmarco@wilcoacc.org

Jose Ramirez
500 Wilco Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
(815) 838-6941
jramirez@wilcoacc.org

Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to discipline.

Investigation Process

Reports and complaints of discrimination or harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, consistent with the student discipline information in this handbook.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited.

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Student Behavior

Expectations for Student Behavior

In order to provide a safe and productive learning environment, students should:

- Come to class prepared;
- Utilize time in a productive manner;
- Achieve to the best of your abilities all assignments given by the instructor;
- Attend every day to learn, participate, and achieve;
- Respect the rights of others; and
- Practice courtesy and decency as consistent with the standards of good citizenship in a democratic society.

Standards of Student Behavior

Wilco Area Career Center is an educational extension of the home school. As an extension, Wilco maintains the policies of each school in combination with the policies developed by the Wilco Board of Control.

The combined policies represent the discipline procedures that will be followed by the Wilco Staff, Faculty and Administration. The home school will be consulted/contacted on all discipline incidents.

Disciplinary consequences will be the result of communication between the home school and Wilco's administration.

Two principles govern all discipline and regulations at Wilco Area Career Center:

1. Conduct that is disruptive to the educational environment is prohibited.
2. Conduct that infringes on the rights of others is prohibited

Prohibited Student Conduct

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:

- a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, medical cannabis and hashish unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused Product under Ashley's law).
 - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's law.
 - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
 - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
 - h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form. *Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.*
4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.

6. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student's lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
7. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
8. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member's request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
9. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
10. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
11. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
12. Engaging in teen dating violence.
13. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
14. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
15. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
16. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
17. Being involved with any public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
18. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
19. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.

20. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.
23. Sexting, which, for purposes of this procedure, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions, as defined in State law.

For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or school activity, function, or event;
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property or
5. During periods of remote learning

Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student's parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to students.

Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the Center's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure environment is an important goal of the Center. While it is not possible to completely eliminate threats, the Center maintain a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program and a Threat Assessment Team to reduce these risks to its environment.

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, School, or self. Reports can be made to any school administrator, law enforcement authorities, or the Safe2Help Illinois helpline (www.safe2helpil.com/).

Students and parents are urged to participate in behavioral threat assessment and intervention programs if the Behavioral Threat Assessment Team believes that intervention is necessary to prevent a student from harming themselves or others. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker(s) or parent/guardian(s), the threat

assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal.

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out and Physical Restraint

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. Corporal punishment is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by State law.

Weapons Prohibition

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alike" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items

which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

Students should also remember that although they are not at their home school, all district and Wilco rules apply while they are at Wilco or any of our offsite locations: ASIP Local 150 Training Facility, Braidwood Fire Station, Franklin Cosmetology, Champion Beauty and Barber University, Lemont Nail Inn and School of Cosmetology, Joliet Junior College, Professional Choice Cosmetology School, and Reed-Custer High School.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

Prohibited Student Conduct Involving Illegal Substances or Weapons

Students may be disciplined for misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling:
 - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana and hashish).
 - b. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a licensed health care provider or when not used in the manner prescribed.
 - c. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.
 - d. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance,
 - e. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a firearm or “look alike,” knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.

Search and Seizure

To maintain order and security at Wilco, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The Director may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s account on a social networking website that violates the school’s disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

Student Searches

School authorities may search a student and/or the student’s personal effects in the student’s possession (such as purses, wallets, book bags, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or Wilco’s student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

- Outside the view of others, including students.
- In the presence of a school administrator or adult witness.
- By a certified employee.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s account on a social networking website that violates the school’s disciplinary rules of school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a

factual determination. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

All vehicles are subject to search and inspection by designated school personnel if deemed necessary by the administration. This applies whether or not a parking permit has been issued.

Questioning of Students Suspected of Committing Criminal Activity

Before a law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security person detains and questions on school grounds a student under 18 years of age who is suspected of committing a criminal act, the building principal or designee will: (a) Notify or attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian and document the time and manner in writing; (b) Make reasonable efforts to ensure the student's parent/guardian is present during questioning or, if they are not present, ensure that a school employee (including, but not limited to, a social worker, psychologist, nurse, guidance counselor, or any other mental health professional) is present during the questioning; and (c) If practicable, make reasonable efforts to ensure that a law enforcement officer trained in promoting safe interactions and communications with youth is present during the questioning.

School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. Your child's school and district play an essential role, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency.

During a pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the school and district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department

of Public Health, local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.

2. Available learning opportunities may include remote and/or blended learning. Blended learning may require your child to attend school on a modified schedule.
3. Students will be expected to participate in blended and remote instruction as required by the school and district. Parents are responsible for assuring the participation of their child. Students who do not participate in blended or remote learning will be considered truant.
4. School disciplinary rules remain in effect during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom.
5. Students and parents will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.
6. During a pandemic or other health emergency, the school and district will ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students.
7. School personnel will work closely with students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations to minimize the impact of any educational disruption.
8. Students who have a compromised immune system, live with an individual with a compromised immune system, or have a medical condition that may impact their ability to attend school during a pandemic or other public health emergency should contact school officials.
9. During a pandemic or other health emergency, teachers and school staff will receive additional training on health and safety measures.
10. In accordance with school district or state mandates, the school may need to conduct a daily health assessment of your child. Parents and students will be notified of the exact assessment procedures if this becomes necessary.
11. Parents should not send their child to school if their child exhibits any symptoms consistent with the pandemic or other health emergency.
12. Please do not hesitate to contact school or district officials if you have any concerns regarding your child's education, health or safety.

Medical Considerations

Student Medication

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "School Medication Authorization Form."

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and

signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector (e.g., EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler or medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

Students who are diabetic may possess and/or self-administer diabetic testing supplies, equipment, and insulin if authorized by the student's diabetes care plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students with epilepsy may possess and/or self-administer supplies, equipment and medication, if authorized by the student's seizure action plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students may self-administer (but not possess on their person) other medications required under a qualified plan, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

The school district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine injectors, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine injector, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

Administration of Medical Cannabis

In accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program, qualifying students are allowed to utilize medical cannabis infused products while at school and school events. Please contact the building principal for additional information. Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

Undesignated Medications

The school may maintain the following undesignated prescription medications for emergency use: (1) Asthma medication; (2) Epinephrine injectors; (3) Opioid antagonists; and (4) Glucagon. No one, including without limitation, parents/guardians of students, should rely on the school or district for the availability of undesignated medication. This procedure does not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medication(s).

Emergency Aid to Students

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

Prevention of Anaphylaxis

While it is not possible for the Center to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the Center maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the Center's policy may contact the Building Principal.

Accommodating Breastfeeding Students

Students who choose to breastfeed an infant after returning to school are provided reasonable accommodations. A student who is a nursing mother may take reasonable breaks during the school day to express breast milk or breastfeed her infant. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to:

1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a bathroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant.
2. Permission to bring onto school campus a breast pump or other equipment used to express breast milk.
3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk.
4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely.
5. Reasonable breaks to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child.
6. The opportunity to make up work missed due to the student's use of reasonable accommodations for breastfeeding.

Complaints regarding violations of this procedure should be made to the District's Complaint Manager or Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

Student Records

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes; and electronic recordings made on school buses.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

1. **The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 school days of the day the Center receives a request for access.**

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. Within 10 business days, the principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The Center may charge per page if over 50 copies for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost. These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

2. **The right to request removal from the student's academic transcript one or more scores received on college entrance examinations.**

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the Center to remove certain scores of college entrance exams from their student's academic transcript. This includes the State assessment that includes a college and career readiness determination. Students often take college entrance examinations multiple times in order to improve their results. Test publishers provide the results from each examination taken to the student's high school. Schools must include each of these scores on the student's transcript, which may result in academic transcripts having multiple scores from a single college entrance exam. A parent/guardian or eligible student may not want certain scores to be sent to postsecondary institutions to which the student applies. To request the removal of these scores from a student's academic transcript, the parent/guardian or eligible student must submit a written request to the building principal.

3. **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.**

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building

principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought.

If the Center decides not to amend the record, the Center will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

4. **The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the Center as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Control; Board; A school official may also include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist, or educational technology vendor); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or contractual obligation with the district.

Upon request, the Center discloses education records without consent to officials of another school Center in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records.

Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; to another school district that overlaps attendance boundaries with the District, if the District has entered into an intergovernmental agreement that allows for sharing of student records and information with the other district, any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

5. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.

The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

6. The right to prohibit the release of directory information.

Throughout the school year, the Center may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

Name

Address

Grade level

Birth date and place

Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers
Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs
Academic awards, degrees, and honors information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics, Major field of study, Period of Attendance in school.

Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

7. The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the student's parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, submits a written request that the information not be released without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

8. The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.

9. **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Center to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington DC 20202-4605

Any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words or ideas as if they were one's own. It is plagiarism to change even a few words and give no credit to the author. It is a serious offense, and while you should be gathering ideas from multiple sources, each source should be referenced and credit given to the author. It is not acceptable to paste items from the Internet into a paper and not site the source. Items should be sourced using the following guidelines:

1. If the exact words of an author are used, whether they are sentences or just phrases, quotation marks must be used and the source documented.
2. If an original idea of an author is used, even if it is not copied word for word, that idea must be documented.
3. If information is found in at least three sources, it is considered common knowledge and need not be documented as long as the original wording is paraphrased, not used exactly as printed.

Plagiarism is a problem for two reasons. First, it makes the teacher's task of evaluating your creativity much more difficult since it is often impossible to differentiate between your own writing and that of the sources. Also, plagiarism is essentially theft-the stealing of someone else's intellectual property. Students should be aware that Wilco may utilize a software program to assist with the verification that students are submitting original work.

Consequently, if evidence of substantial, presumably intended plagiarism exists, a penalty will be imposed at the teacher's discretion and may range from a reduction in grade to no credit given for the paper.

Plagiarism and Dual Credit: Joliet Junior College and College of DuPage

Students who are enrolled in dual credit at Wilco Area Career Center fall under the rules and regulations of the college in regards to plagiarism. Students should refer to information provided in their course syllabi for further information.

Lost/Damaged Textbooks

Students are responsible for any textbook or instructional materials they have been issued. If a book or other materials are lost or damaged beyond use, the student must pay the replacement cost. If the exact cost cannot be determined, the replacement will be as follows:

Hardback books: \$50.00

Paperback books: \$25.00

If a book or other instructional material is damaged and still usable, the student must pay for the damage. Torn pages, pencil or ink marks, etc. constitutes damaged. The student must pay 50% of the cost of the book.

Nonpayment of Lab Fees

For programs that require tools, shop uniform, etc. students are responsible to pay a student fee. Tools may be brought from home if they meet the necessary requirements. Uniforms must be purchased through Wilco. Non-payment of lab fees may result in a student being dropped from the program or a student receiving a grade of incomplete.

Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees

The Wilco Area Career Center establishes fees and charges to fund certain school functions.

Students will not be denied the opportunity to participate in curricular and extracurricular programs of the school district due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges.

Students whose parent or guardian are unable to afford student fees may receive a waiver of the fees. A fee waiver applies to all fees related to school, instruction, and extracurricular activities. However, these students are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies and equipment.

Applications for fee waivers may be obtained from the school office and may be submitted by a parent/guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. As student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites is met:

The student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals programs

1. The student's parent is a veteran or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
2. The student is homeless, as defined by the Mc-Kinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Unemployment;
- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process or an appeal of the District's decision to deny a fee waiver should be addressed to the Building Principal.

Pursuant to the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act, the school is required to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of whether the

student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks. Students may not be provided with an alternative meal or snack and the school is prohibited from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for or owes money for a meal or snack.

Fines for loss or damage to school property are waived for students who meet certain eligibility guidelines.

Eligibility Criteria

A student shall be eligible for a fee waiver when the student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program.

The Director or designee will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- Illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Unemployment
- Emergency situations
- The student's parent is a veteran or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Verification

The Assistant Director shall establish a process for determining a student's eligibility for a waiver of fees in accordance with State law requirements. The Assistant Director will require family income verification at the time a student applies for a fee waiver and anytime thereafter, but not more often than once every 60 calendar days.

If a student receiving a fee waiver is found to be no longer eligible during the school year, the Director or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian and charge the student a prorated amount based upon the number of school days remaining in the school year.

Determination and Appeal

Within 30 calendar days after the receipt of a request, the Assistant Director shall mail a notice to the parent/guardian whenever a waiver request is denied. The denial notice shall include: (1) the reason for the denial, (2) the process and timelines for making appeal, and (3) a statement that the parent/guardian may reapply for a waiver any time during the school year if circumstances change. If the denial is appealed, the Center shall follow the procedures for the resolution of appeals as provided in the Illinois State Board of Education rule on waiver of fees.

For more information contact Elizabeth Kaufman at 815-838-6941 or ekaufman@wilcoacc.org

English Language Learners

The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet.

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children, and (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

For questions related to this program contact

Jeannine Marco
500 Wilco Boulevard
Romeoville, IL 60446
jmarco@wilcoacc.org
815-838-6941

Teacher Qualifications

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their student's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification and licensing criteria have been waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in a field of discipline of the teacher's certification; and
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your student and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Student Opportunities

Wilco Area Career Center has a number of opportunities for students to obtain additional experience in their chosen fields, gain self-confidence, and make new friends. The opportunities range from Career Cruising, job shadowing, internships, community service, to student organizations. Providing students the chance to share ideas, compete, serve and/or expand their knowledge, gives students an outlet to showcase and enhance their skills.

Student Organizations

Student organizations at Wilco include SkillsUSA, FCCLA, Health Occupations Students of America, National Technical Honor Society, and FFA. Information on each of these organizations can be obtained on the Wilco website at www.wilco.k12.il.us.



Conduct Code for Extracurricular Participants

The Director or designee, using input from sponsors of extracurricular activities, shall develop a conduct code for all participants in extracurricular activities. The conduct code shall: (1) require participants in extracurricular activities to conduct themselves at all times, including after school and on days when school is not in session, and whether on and off school property, as good citizens and exemplars of their school, and (2) notify participants that failure to abide by it could result in removal from the activity. The conduct code shall be reviewed by the Assistant Director periodically at his or her discretion and presented to the Board. A code of conduct will be given to each student participating in the organization.

Academic Eligibility

Selection of members or participants in extracurricular and athletic activities is at the discretion of the designated teachers, sponsors, and coaches.

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities, a student must maintain an overall 2.5 grade point average. Any student failing to meet academic requirements will be suspended from the sport or activity for 7 calendar days or until all Academic requirements are met, whichever is longer.

Absence from School on Day of Extracurricular Activity

A student who is absent from school after noon is ineligible for any extracurricular activity on that day unless the absence has been approved in writing by the principal. Exceptions may be made by the designated teacher or sponsor for justifiable reasons, including: 1) a pre-arranged medical absence; 2) a death in the student's family; or 3) a religious ceremony or event.

A student who has been suspended from school is also suspended from participation in all extracurricular and athletic activities for the duration of the suspension.

A student who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday extracurricular activities at the sole discretion of the designated teacher and sponsor.

Travel

All students must travel to extracurricular and athletic activities and return home from such activities with his or her team by use of school approved transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by the teacher, sponsor or coach in charge of the extracurricular or athletic activity upon advance written request of a student's parent/guardian and provided the parent/guardian appears and accepts custody of the student. Oral requests will not be honored and oral permissions are not valid.

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities and is enforced 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

This Code does not contain a complete list of inappropriate behaviors. Violations will be treated cumulatively, with disciplinary penalties increasing with subsequent violations. A student may be excluded from extracurricular activities while the school is conducting an investigation into the student's conduct.

Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to seek assistance from a Student Assistance Program for alcohol or other drug problems. Participation in an alcohol or drug counseling program will be taken into consideration in determining consequences for Code of Conduct violations.

The student shall not:

1. Violate the school rules and School Center policies on student discipline including policies and procedures on student behavior;
2. Ingest or otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute a beverage containing alcohol (except for religious purposes);
3. Ingest or otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute tobacco or nicotine in any form;
4. Ingest or otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute any product composed purely of caffeine in a loose powdered form or any illegal substance (including mood-altering and performance enhancing drugs or chemicals) or paraphernalia;
5. Use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute any object that is or could be considered a weapon or any item that is a look alike weapon. This prohibition does not prohibit legal use of weapons in cooking and in athletics, such as archery, martial arts practice, target shooting, hunting, and skeet;

6. Attend a party or other gathering and/or ride in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by minors;
7. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
8. Violate any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and reckless driving;
9. Haze or bully other students;
10. Violate the written rules for the extracurricular or athletic activity;
11. Behave in a manner that is detrimental to the good of the group or school;
12. Be insubordinate or disrespectful toward the activity's sponsors or team's coaching staff; or
13. Falsify any information contained on any permit or permission form required by the extracurricular or athletic activity.

Hazing is any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a team or group, regardless of his or her willingness to participate. Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include but not limited to name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Due Process Procedures

Students who are accused of violating the Code of Conduct are entitled to the following due process:

1. The student should be advised of the disciplinary infraction with which he or she is being charged.
2. The student shall be entitled to a hearing before an appropriate administrator.
3. The student will be able to respond to any charges leveled against him or her.
4. The student may provide any additional information he or she wishes for the administrator to consider.
5. The administrator, with the help of other staff members if needed, may interview material witnesses or others with evidence concerning the case.

6. If the administrator finds, after reviewing the evidence, that the violation occurred, he or she will impose sanctions on the student, as follows:
Sanctions for violations other than drug and alcohol will be based on the nature of the offense and the number of offenses, and may include suspension from all extracurricular or athletic activities for one of the time periods described below:
 - a. A specified period of time or percentage of performances, activities or competitions;
 - b. The remainder of the season or for the next season; or
 - c. The remainder of the student's school career.
7. Sanctions for alcohol and other drug violations, including tobacco, nicotine in any form, mood-altering or performance enhancing drugs, products composed purely of caffeine in a loose powdered form, paraphernalia or any other illegal substance, will be based on the following.

First violation

- a. Use, ingestion, possession, buying, selling, offering to sell, bartering, or distributing: A suspension of one third of the total number of performances, activities, or competitions or the remainder of the season, whichever is shorter. This penalty will be reduced if the student is enrolled in a school-approved alcohol or drug counseling program.
- b. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by minors: A suspension of one sixth of the total number of performances, activities or competitions, or the remainder of the season, whichever is shorter.
- c. The student will be required to practice with the group, regardless of the violation (unless suspended or expelled from school).

Second violation

- a. Use, ingestion, possession, buying, selling, offering to sell, bartering, or distributing: A suspension of 12 weeks or 1 season, including suspension from all performances, activities, or competitions during this period. To participate again in any extracurricular or athletic activity, the student must successfully participate in and complete a school-approved alcohol or drug counseling program and follow all recommendations from that program.
- b. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by minors: A suspension of one third of the season and all extracurricular group performances, activities, or competitions during this period.
- c. The student may be required to practice with the group (unless suspended or expelled from school).

Third violation

- a. Use, ingestion, possession, buying, selling, offering to sell, bartering, or distributing: A suspension from extracurricular or athletic activities for the remainder of the student's school career.
- b. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by minors: A suspension of one

calendar year from the date of the suspension, including all extracurricular and athletic activities during this period.

8. The appropriate administrator will make a written report of his or her decision and rationale. The student may appeal the decision to the Principal or Principal's designee.

All students remain subject to all the Center's policies and the Center's student/parent handbook rules.

In addition to the Wilco Code of Conduct, many of the student organizations at Wilco have their own Code of Conduct. Students must adhere to both to remain in good standing in the organization.

Pest Control

Notification Requirements: Public Act 91-0525 & Public Act 91-0099 This is to advise all parents, guardians, and students of Wilco's building pest control management schedule. Pest control spraying will occur during the 4th week of every month. Any parent/guardian who wishes to be notified of spraying should consider this as notification. Any questions regarding this procedure should be directed to the Executive Director, (815) 838-6941.

Wilco has been inspected and found to contain minor amounts of totally encapsulated asbestos. Routine inspections insure that Wilco continues to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and requirements. The Center has an asbestos plan, and it is available for inspection at the Wilco office.

Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

The student(s) must notify the building principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.

The material may be distributed at times and locations selected by the building principal, before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.

The building principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.

Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.

The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.

Students must not distribute material that:

- Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
- Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
- Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the students' maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbook;
- Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
- Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. However, material from outside sources or the citation to such sources may be allowed, as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students; or
- Incites students to violate any Board policy

A student may use the School Center's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Student Rights Procedure

Explanation:

A grievance is a difference of opinion raised by a student or group of students involving: (1) the meaning, interpretation or application of established policies (2) difference of treatment; or (3) application of the legal requirements of civil rights legislation.

This procedure is not intended to limit the option of the Center and a grievant(s) to resolve any grievance mutually and informally. Hearings and conferences under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place which will afford a fair and equitable opportunity for all persons.

The grievance procedure is not required if the grievant(s) prefers other alternative such as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or the courts. Due process shall exist throughout the procedure with the right to: (1) representation; (2) present witnesses and evidence; (3) confidentiality; (4) review relevant records; and 5) proceed without harassment and/or retaliation.

This procedure, along with explanation, due process and directions are available for inspection in the office of the Director and Assistant Director.

STEP 1

The student(s) and other parent(s) should discuss the matter with the person(s) directly responsible for the grievance issue within fourteen (14) days of the time when a reasonably alert person should have been aware of the event giving rise to a grievance. An oral response must be made within five (5) days.

STEP 2

If the problem is not resolved, the grievance should be referred informally to the Principal. A meeting must be held within five (5) days from notification of referral and an oral response made within five days.

STEP 3

If the grievance is still not resolved, it should be submitted in writing within ten (10) days to the Assistant Principal for Student Services. The grievance should be described as specifically and completely as possible. A thorough investigation of the issue will be documented. Extra time if needed, can be mutually agreed upon. A meeting must be held between the grievant and Center representative within ten (10) days and a written response made within five (5) days.

STEP 4

If a satisfactory solution is not reached, the grievant(s) may appeal the issue in writing to the Director or designee within ten (10) days from the receipt of the response on Step 3. A meeting between parties will be held within ten (10) days and a written response made within five (5) days. A complete record of this meeting shall be kept and signed by both parties for possible future reference.

STEP 5

If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved on Step 4, the grievant(s) may appeal the grievance issue in writing to the Board of Control within five (5) days from the receipt of the written response. The Board shall consider the appeal within sixty (60) days and a written response shall be given within five (5) days.

Notes:

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, reproductive health decisions, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact: Asst. Executive Director/Principal: Dr. Alicia Cook at 815-838-6941 ext. 1032.

Any student may file a sex discrimination complaint under the District's Title IX Grievance Procedure.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint under the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure. A student may appeal the Board's decision to the Regional Superintendent and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education.

Education of Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of Wilco to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Act are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

The Center provides free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled. The term 'children with disabilities' means children between the ages of 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of Wilco to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication 'Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities' may be obtained from the school district office.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Behavioral Interventions

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The Center will establish and maintain a communication with the home schools to implement and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities. We will work with the home school's special education department to ensure proper placement and that appropriate supports are provided.

Discipline of Special Education Students

The Center shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The School may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Dual Credit

Depending on the course, students may have an opportunity to earn college credit through Joliet Junior College, College of DuPage, Baker College, and Lewis University. However, credits are dependent on the student applying for admission and completing a registration form, fulfilling college prerequisites, and meeting the academic rigor of the course.

- Dual Credit requirements are set by the participating college. Students must meet all placement requirements before enrolling in the college course.
- Students may participate in the coursework at Wilco and decline the dual credit. However, the work assigned will still be at a college level.
- Wilco instructors have the ability to drop students from Dual Credit if they do not meet the class's academic requirements with a grade of 'C' or higher or 80% in the Certified Nursing Program.
- A student who does not perform at a passing rate in a dual credit course may jeopardize their college financial aid.
- Some of the credit offered is transferable to other institutions. Please visit <http://www.itransfer.org/> for more information on transferring credits from one institution to another.



Cosmetology

The Wilco Area Career Center cosmetology program is offered off-site at four different locations. Depending on the school that you attend, you may register at Professional's Choice in Joliet, Champions Beauty-Barber University in Aurora, Franklin Institute of Cosmetology in Morris, or Lemont Nail Inn and School of Cosmetology, as well as their Joliet location. Seating is limited in the program, and students are not guaranteed a seat until they have signed a contract with the individual cosmetology schools.

The program does have fees associated with it that are subject to change on a yearly basis. For up-to-date information on fees, please phone Wilco. Students are required to follow the dress code set up by the individual schools. Saturday attendance is mandatory since students are not required to attend on Monday. In addition, students are expected to attend on days of nonattendance; such as, teachers' institute days, winter break, spring break, etc...

To complete the course, students must accumulate 1500 hours before they are eligible to sit for the state test. Therefore, attendance at the school is very important. Any student who does not accumulate 750 hours within the school year must make up the time over the summer at his/her own expense. Furthermore, a passing grade will not be issued until all hours are made up. Students are subject to Wilco's attendance policy and may be dropped from the program for nonattendance.

Students are required to provide their own transportation to and from the cosmetology school. Carpooling is allowed with the permission of all parents, school officials, students, and Wilco administration. However, students should be in compliance with Illinois law in regards to transporting students. Students must have their own transportation available in the event of the absence of the primary driver.

Student Privacy Protections

Surveys

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the Center's educational objectives, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

Surveys by Third Parties

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Building Principal.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- Sexual behaviors or attitudes.
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.

- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

The student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon request, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Photo Release and Video Imaging

Unless notified in writing by the student's parent/guardian stating that they do not wish their child's image to be used for public use, pictures taken of student may be placed in any Wilco publication, display, or presentation. This includes but not limited to videos, computers, Wilco's website, or articles placed in the newspaper.

Curriculum Objection

To submit feedback and/or objections about Wilco's curriculum and instructional material for a program, please complete the Curriculum Objection Form by visiting Wilco's Website <https://www.wilco.k12.il.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/Students%20%26%20Parents%7CForms>.

Letter Regarding Access to Student Social Networking

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Our Center has the ability to enhance your child's education through the use of electronic networks, including the Internet. Our goal in providing this service promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Students and their parents/guardians need only sign this Authorization for Access to the Center's Electronic Networks once while the student is enrolled at the Center.

The Center filters access to materials that may be defamatory, inaccurate, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate in the school setting. If a filter has been disabled or malfunctions, it is impossible to control all materials, and a user may discover inappropriate material. Ultimately, parents/guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their child should follow, and the Center respects each family's right to decide whether or not to authorize Internet access.

With this educational opportunity also comes responsibility. The use of inappropriate material or language, or violation of copyright laws, may result in the loss of the privilege to use this resource. Remember that you are legally responsible for your child's actions. If you agree to allow your child to have a network account, sign the Authorization form and return it the Center.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Kaufman,

Wilco Executive Director

Electronic Network Acceptable Use Agreement

Please read this document carefully before signing.

Introduction and Terms of Use

Students and staff at Wilco Area Career Center have access to valuable electronic information networks, including the Internet and Wilco's own local area network. We are very pleased to bring this access to Wilco and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and staff. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers worldwide and millions of individual users. Students and staff have access to:

1. Limited electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information and news from government sources, research institutions, and other sources.
3. Many public and private libraries, the Library of Congress, and the Educational Resources Information Clearinghouses (ERIC).

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of a school setting. On a global network, it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. Wilco firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the learning outcomes of Wilco.

Life is a series of choices and consequences. Wilco has chosen to make Internet resources and access to its own electronic network available to students, and the consequence is that they will have access to far more information than if they had to rely on their school's library. If a student chooses to use these resources for finding information that will be of assistance in learning, the consequence will be continued access to the Internet and its own network.

If a Wilco student chooses to access resources that are harmful, indecent, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, illegal, material that may cause or constitute a substantial disruption of Wilco's educational activities, or material that is otherwise specifically prohibited from being accessed by the terms of this policy, the consequence will be suspension or termination of access privileges. The signatures at the end of this document indicate each party who signed has read the terms and conditions and understands their significance.

Computer and Internet Terms and Conditions

The term electronic networks include all of the Center's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

- A. The Center's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), Center-provided Wi-Fi hotspots, and any Center servers or other networking infrastructure;
 - B. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the Center's networking infrastructure or to any Center issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
 - C. Center-owned and Center-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.
-
1. Acceptable Use – Access to the Center's electronic networks must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the Center's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.
 2. Network Etiquette - Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
 - c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
 - d. Recognize that the Center's electronic networks are not private. People who operate the Center's technology have access to all email and other data. Messages or other evidence relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - e. Do not use the networks in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
 - f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the electronic networks to be private property.
 3. Privileges – Use of the Center's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The system administrator or Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.
 4. Security – Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify or suspects a security problem on the network, the user must promptly notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep user account(s) and password(s) confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the networks.

5. Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of malware, such as viruses and spyware.
6. Unacceptable Use - In accordance with this policy Wilco teachers and administrators will deem what is unacceptable use, and their decision is subject to confirmation by the Wilco Board of Control. The administration, teachers, and staff of Wilco may request the suspension or termination of computer use by any user who violates these acceptable use practices.
 - a. Using the electronic networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other intellectual property rights or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
 - b. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by board policy;
 - c. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
 - d. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices (such as flash or thumb drives);
 - e. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
 - f. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
 - g. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
 - h. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
 - i. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, such as a photograph or video;
 - j. Using another user's account or password;
 - k. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other persona, unless requested by the system administrator;
 - l. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
 - m. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
 - n. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
 - o. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
 - p. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
 - q. Misrepresenting the user's identity or the identity of others; and
 - r. Using the electronic networks while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
7. No Warranties – The Center makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Center will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The

Center specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

8. Indemnification – By using the Center’s electronic networks, the user agrees to indemnify the Center for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the Center relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.
9. Telephone Charges – The Center assumes no responsibility of any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

Authorization for Access to the Center’s Electronic Networks Form

Students must have a parent/guardian read and agree to the following before being granted unsupervised access:

All use of the electronic networks shall be consistent with the Center’s goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The failure of any user to follow the terms of the Acceptable Use of the Center’s Electronic Networks will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

I have read this Authorization form. I understand that access is designed for educational purposes and that the Center has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the Center to restrict access to all controversial and inappropriate materials. I will hold harmless the Center, its employees, agents, or Board members, for any harm caused by materials or software obtained via the network. I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child’s use is not in a school setting. I have discussed the Acceptable Use of the Center’s Electronic Networks with my child. I hereby request that my child be allowed access to the Center’s Electronic Networks with my child. I hereby request that my child be allow access to the Center’s electronic networks, including the Internet.

As part of Wilco’s Acceptable Use Policy, students are required to sign the form below verifying that they have read the policy.

Students must also read and agree to the following before being granted unsupervised access:

I understand and will abide by the above Acceptable Use of the Center’s Electronic Networks. I understand that the Center and/or its agents may access and monitor my use of the Center’s electronic networks, including the Internet, my email and downloaded material, without prior notice to me. I further understand that should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or legal action may be taken. In consideration for using the Center’s electronic network connection and having access to public networks, I hereby release the Center and its Board members, employees, and agents from any claims and damages arising from my use of, or inability to use the Center’s electronic networks, including the Internet.

Please acknowledge that you know how to access the Wilco handbook and have read it.

I have received and read the Wilco Area Career Center Student Handbook for the 2024 - 2025 School Year.

I have also read the *Acceptable Use Policy*.

PRINT Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology

Vendors Under the Student Online Personal Protection Act

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as operators. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Ill. State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

All Center employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, demonstrate integrity and honesty, be considerate and cooperative, and maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others.

The Director or designee shall provide this policy to all Center employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the Center's website, if any.

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the Center's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for Center employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students by following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behaviors that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct.

The Director or designee shall identify employee conduct standards that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the Center's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

1. Employees who are governed by the Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 4:165, Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; and 5:100, Staff Development Program.
3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following Center-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Transporting a student;
 - b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and

- c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.
- 4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; and 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.
- 5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
 - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.
 - b. Sexually harasses a student.
 - c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).
 - d. Engages in grooming as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.
 - e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
 - ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
 - iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialogue.
 - iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
 - v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
 - vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

Wilco Administration

Elizabeth Kaufman, Executive Director

Alicia Cook, Assistant Director/Principal

Jeannine Marco, Asst. Principal for Student Services

Wilco Board of Control

Lemont District 210

- Tina Malak, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction
- Gary Gray, Secretary, Wilco Board of Control, Dist. 210 Board Member

Plainfield District 202

- Dr. Glenn Wood, Superintendent
- Rod Westfall, President, Wilco Board of Control, Dist. 202 Board Member

Reed-Custer District 255U

- Danielle Valiente, Curriculum Director
- Chris Cavanaugh, Dist. 255U Board Member

Valley View District 365U

- Tammi Conn, Director of Careers and Technical Education
- Vickie Sutterlin, Dist. 365U Board Member

Wilmington District 209U

- Dr. Matt Swick, Asst. Superintendent
- Peggy Kunz, Vice-President, Wilco Board of Control, Dist. 209U Board Member

Regional Office of Education

- Dr. Lisa Caparelli, Fiscal Agent, Wilco
Board of Control, Regional Superintendent of Schools

Handbook

The Wilco handbook is to be used in conjunction with your child's high school handbook. The handbook is only a summary of board policies governing the Center; a complete set of Board policies is available to the public at the Career Center office. The handbook may be amended throughout the year without notice as updates in Center policy occur. Policies will be communicated to persons expected to execute and comply with them.