

Proposed Changes in PHS Handbook 25-26

Under Weapons:

A folding pocketknife with a blade length of 2.5 inches or less is not considered a weapon in Idaho. In accordance with Idaho law, students may legally carry a folding pocketknife with a blade length of **less than 2.5 inches**. However, to maintain a safe and distraction-free learning environment, **pocketknives must remain concealed and secured at all times while on school property.**

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Displaying a pocketknife during class or school hours
- Placing a pocketknife on desks, tables, or other visible areas
- Flipping, opening, or handling a pocketknife during class time
- Using a pocketknife in any way that could be perceived as intimidating, threatening, or disruptive to others

Any inappropriate display or use of a pocketknife—even if it meets the legal size limit—**may result in disciplinary action**, including confiscation of the item and possible referral to school administration.

Students are expected to exercise responsibility and good judgment. The presence of a legally allowed item does not excuse its misuse on campus.

Under Class Changes:

Students are not permitted to enroll in IDLA courses that are offered in person by teachers at our high school. Exceptions to this policy require prior approval from the administration.

Additionally, students may only enroll in FLEX IDLA courses for the purpose of credit recovery or with administrative approval.

Under Electronic Devices:

Classroom Phone Procedure

All classrooms will be equipped with a phone holder. At the beginning of each class period, students are required and expected to place their phones in the designated holder. Phones must remain there for the duration of the class unless the teacher grants permission for academic or instructional use. Phone use during class is solely at the discretion of the teacher. Failure to follow this procedure may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's electronic device policy.

TITLE I [PHS is now a Title I school, so providing info about Title I and Parent Involvement in the program]

Title I Program and assistance is offered to all students as needed. Title I services help students be successful in school and demonstrate proficient or advanced levels of achievement. The school recognizes that in order for students to demonstrate academic success, the school needs to advocate for the involvement of parents and families in their children's education.

The school desires to foster relationships between home, school, and the community which will enhance the education of students. Jointly we will review and update a parent involvement policy and parent compact, which outlines how the school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve high standards. The compact will provide a space for all parties to sign and date the document. Parents are invited to attend the annual Title I meeting held in the early fall to learn more about the program and services as well as share suggestions to make the school a better place. Other formal school meetings will be held in which parents can contribute ideas to make the school a better place.

Parents are also welcome to contact school administration at any time to offer suggestions and insights. We believe that family involvement fosters positive attitudes, promotes good behavior, and encourages student achievement. As a result of this partnership, we feel the educational success of our students will be increased.

Additionally, parents of a student attending a school receiving federal program funds may request the professional qualifications (college major, degree and license) of their child's classroom teacher. If that information is desired, parents should contact the school office to obtain it.

SCHOOL – PARENT – STUDENT COMPACT

The school understands the importance of the school experience to every student and their role as educators and models. Therefore, the school agrees to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of their ability:

- 1) Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the school's challenging academic standards.
- 2) Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - Parent-teacher conferences, bi-annually, during which this compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.
 - Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress.
 - Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.
 - Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.
 - Treat each child with dignity and respect.
 - Strive to address the individual needs of the student.
 - Acknowledge that parents are vital to the success of child and school.
 - Provide a safe, positive and healthy learning environment.
 - Assure every student access to quality learning experiences.
 - Assure that the school staff communicates clear expectations for performance to both students and parents.

The parent understands that participation in his/her student's education will help his/her achievement and attitude. Therefore, the parent will continue to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of his/her ability:

- Supporting their child's learning.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child.

MEDICATIONS (Preston School District Policy #561) [Added this new section]

Medication Administration Guidelines

- Students who require medication during the school day must coordinate with their doctor and the school nurse. A doctor's authorization form is available from the office and must be signed by the doctor, parents, and school nurse. A new authorization form is required at the beginning of each school year.
- Parents must bring prescription medications to the school office in their original container, clearly labeled with the child's name and dosage instructions. A completed medication administration form must also be provided.
- For safety reasons, please do not send any medication to school with your child.
- Students who require inhalers, emergency epinephrine pens, diabetic medications, or supplies must have an emergency action plan. These plans are available from the district nurse and require signatures from the doctor, parent, and district nurse.
- If a student needs assistance with over-the-counter medications, a medication administration form must be completed and signed by the parent and district nurse, including all necessary details.
- Office staff responsible for administering medications will receive proper medication administration training. Our priority is to ensure safe, competent, accurate, and careful medication administration for all students.

FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT [Added]

Children who lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing have certain educational rights. Visit with the elementary principal or contact the Preston School District Homeless Education Liaison at 208-852-0283 to find out more.