

2023-2024



**Vinton-
Shellsburg
Community
School District**



Tilford Elementary Family-Student Handbook



CONTACT

Tilford Elementary School | 308 E. 13th, Vinton, Iowa 52349 | (319)436-5800

Welcome to Tilford Elementary!

Tilford Elementary School is a Preschool thru 4th Grade building serving over 560 students. We place strong value in evidence based practices and resources to ensure success for all students by meeting the variety of needs of the students we serve. Our district's mission is "to be positive difference makers". The elementary staff strives to create a positive learning environment which fosters responsibility, respect, teamwork, and academic excellence. We are committed to helping students grow through the many rigorous educational opportunities offered at our school. Our goal is to raise student achievement through well-organized professional learning for our staff and the implementation of research-based instructional strategies while maintaining a positive connection with all students and families. Through this combination, we want our students to realize their potential and create a pathway to success for all.

The staff at Tilford work hard to create a learning environment that allows all students to feel safe and connected to school. Through research-based practices staff has developed ways to differentiate lessons to challenge all students. We believe that through teaching, modeling, and practicing, Tilford Elementary students will show good character by demonstrating safe, caring, respectful, and responsible behaviors. We also believe that by acknowledging and recognizing students when they demonstrate those core values, we will promote continued positive behavior. We encourage you to visit with your child about his or her school day. If it is important to you, it will be important to your child.

This handbook was designed to build communication and establish a more clear understanding of the services, expectations, and procedures at Tilford Elementary. The Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District's Board policy is also available for your perusal at www.vscsd.org. We value your participation in your child's success in supporting a school of excellence. Providing the best educational program for children of our district begins with a strong partnership between families and the school. Please contact the school with any concerns, questions, or comments. We look forward to a great year together!



Mrs. Andrea Townsley
Tilford Elementary Principal
Elementary Curriculum Director



Mr. Tony Islas
Tilford Elementary Assistant Principal

Tilford Elementary School
308 E. 13th, Vinton, Iowa 52349
(319)436-5800

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District /Building Information

Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District Phone Numbers

Tilford Elementary	(319) 436-5824
Shellsburg Elementary	(319) 436-5900
Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School	(319) 436-5601
Vinton-Shellsburg High School	(319) 436-5702
Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District Administrative Office	(319) 436-4728
→ Business services	(319) 436-4728
→ Transportation	(319) 436-5687
→ Food Service	(319) 436-5771

Tilford Elementary Student Learning Goals

1. All students are engaged in and accountable for their learning.
2. All students are achieving their potential and prepared for success beyond K-12.
3. All students are accessing individualized and challenging programming.
4. All students will use leadership skills to develop positive relationships and work collaboratively.
5. All students will be effective problem solvers.

Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District Goals

1. All students will graduate.
2. All students will have opportunities to personalize their learning.
3. All students will have a safe, nurturing and drug-free environment.
4. The district will attract and retain quality teachers by providing professional development and support leading to increased learning for all students and staff.
5. The district will remain financially stable.

VSCSD Equity Statement

The Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District shall take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment and advancement of women and men, minorities and disabled. Inquiries regarding compliance with equal educational or employment opportunities and/or affirmative action shall be directed to Becky Lutgen, Equity Coordinator, Vinton-Shellsburg CSD, 1502 C Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349 or becky.lutgen@vscsd.org. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education in Chicago, IL.

Tilford Daily Schedule

Daily Building Schedule

Building Office Hours

The main office is open from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. The nurse's office does not open until 7:45 AM. The buildings are locked at 4:00 PM. Before 7:30 AM and after 4:00 PM, a voicemail system will take your messages. Elementary offices are not open on vacation and/or holiday dates. The District Administration Office is open throughout the summer. A classroom daily schedule will be provided upon request.

Students should arrive AFTER 7:50 AM

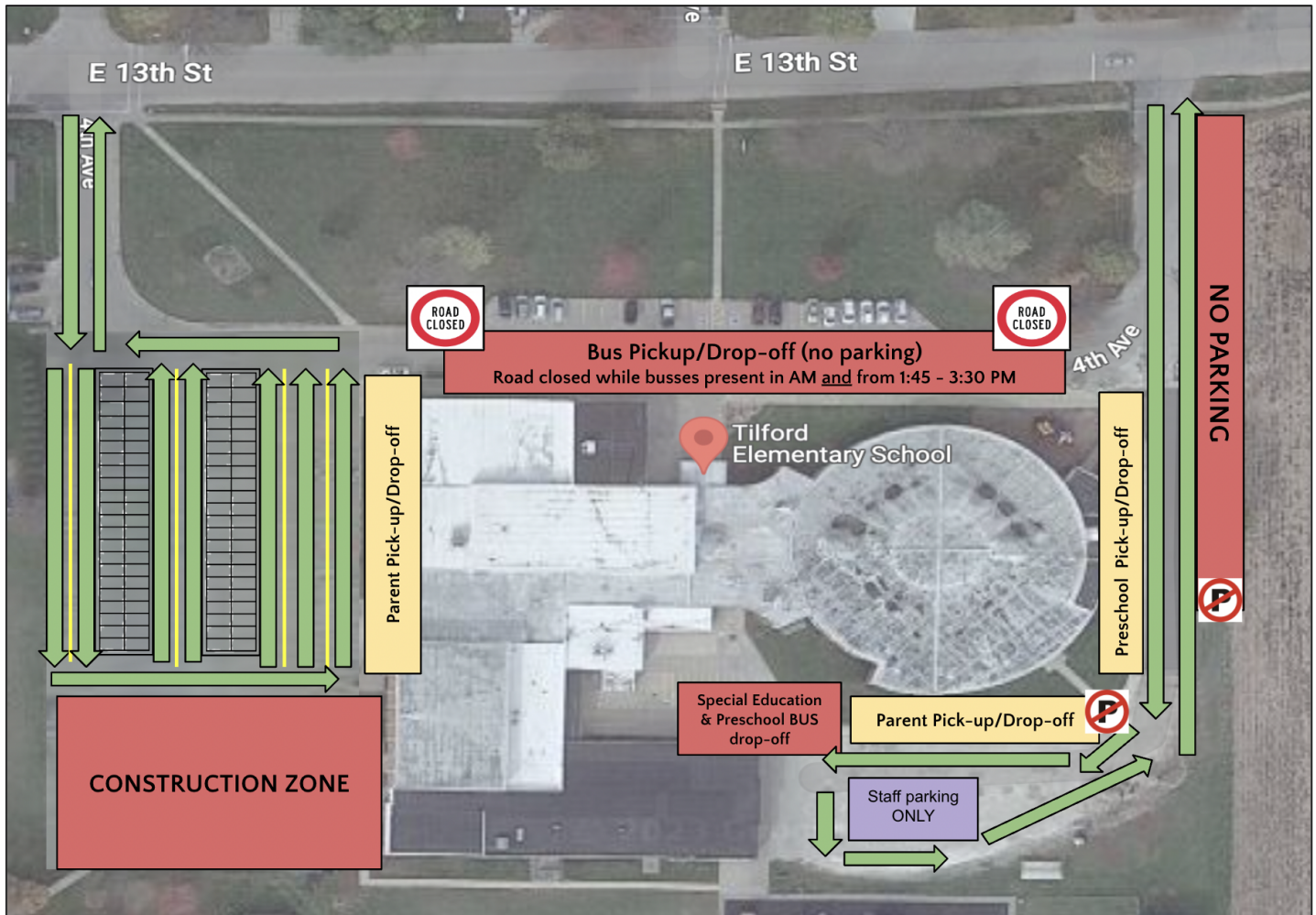
- 7:20AM -- Building Opens (K-4 to the auditorium)
- 7:50 AM -- Breakfast or recess
- 8:10 AM -- Students arrive in classrooms
- 8:20 AM -- Classes begin
- 3:10 PM -- Bus students dismissed
- 3:20 PM -- Students walking or getting picked up dismissed

Arrival Procedures (morning dropoff)

- The appropriate drop off time for PK-4th grade students **not** eating breakfast is **8:00 AM**.
- The appropriate drop off time for students eating breakfast is **7:50 AM**.
- **Fifth Graders** will wait for the bus in the cafeteria or auditorium and leave Tilford Elementary at **7:45 AM**.
 1. There will be a LOT of construction at Tilford during the 2023-2024 school year. Please be cautious as you arrive and depart.
 2. The flow of Traffic at Tilford has also changed. The attached photo helps describe the changes.
 3. The entire north side of the school will be reserved for buses starting in August 2023. There will be signs posted to help you remember. Dropoff should be on the **WEST** side of the building or at the early-childhood entrance on the **EAST** side of the building.
 4. Parking is not permitted behind the school. If you leave your car, you must park in the west lot or the visitor parking on the north side in front of the school.
 5. All students enter through the front of the school. All students can play on the school playground south of the school from 7:50-8:10.
 6. Parents wishing to escort their child to the classroom are only permitted to do so before 8:20 AM. Parents doing so should park their car in a parking spot and **NOT** park along the

fire lane which is now painted in bright RED.

7. Parents visiting classrooms between the times of 8:20 AM – 2:00 PM should also park in the parking lot on the west side of the building or in the visitor parking spots and check in with the office. Visitors are NOT permitted to park along the fire lane.



Dismissal Procedures (after school pick-up)

Parents must communicate with the school by email or phone call for students not following their usual dismissal routine to inform the school of where the child should go and how s/he will get there. Without a phone call or email stating otherwise, the student will be sent home following the usual routine. To alleviate student worry and confusion, regular routines should be followed as much as possible and strong communication is encouraged. Emailing our building secretaries will be a great way to ensure strong communication happens:

- Emma Henry - emma.henry@vscsd.org
- April Hummel - april.hummel@vscsd.org

Pick-up Procedures:

Cars should drive in through the west entrance. Pull next to the red curb along the WEST side of the building or the EAST side of the building. The front of the school will be closed for bus traffic from 1:45 - 3:30 PM. Parents must stay IN their cars to keep the line moving when picking up children. If you want to walk up and pick up your child, you must park your car in a parking spot on the WEST side of the school or the Visitor parking out front.

It can be easy if everyone cooperates. Traffic moves much more quickly when cars continue to keep pulling forward along the curb. If you are worried your children won't see you, tell them to meet you toward the end or the front of the school, as you will eventually move there. Thank you for your support and cooperation during this congested time.

- Picking up a few minutes early to avoid traffic congestion is **not** an acceptable excuse for students to miss instruction and be dismissed early. Expect a contact from the building principal to discuss this if this becomes a regular routine.
- Parents / caregivers waiting in the building must check in at the office and wait in the front entryway only, not outside classroom doors.

Two-Hour Early Dismissal Schedule

Early dismissals for teacher professional development and parent-teacher conferences are noted on our district's webpage and approved school calendar. Plan now to use those free hours to take care of some of your child's out-of-school needs (medical and dental appointments and vacations). Teachers utilize professional development time to strengthen their instructional practice through collaboration to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students.

- 1:10 bus students dismissed
- 1:20 students caregiver pick-up and walkers dismissed

Students Leaving Early

To be excused during school hours, a parent must send an email or we must have a phone call from a parent stating the reason for the absence. The child must also be signed out of the office; we cannot just send them out to the car. You may communicate this irregular dismissal by emailing Emma and April in the school office.

- Emma Henry - emma.henry@vscsd.org
- April Hummel - april.hummel@vscsd.org

Tilford Policies and Procedures

Academic Curriculum Review (in conjunction with Board Policy 605.03)

Parents / caregivers may contact the district office to review curriculum materials prior to their use. Those wishing to excuse their children from parts of our program need to identify the specific objectives and the unit from which they wish to have their child excused. A district form can be obtained from the central office and is posted on our district website.

Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy (in conjunction with [Board Policy 104 and 104.R1](#))

Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state and local policy, and are not tolerated by the Board. The Board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. To that end, the Board has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment as well as processes and procedures to deal with incidents of bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment of students by other students, by school employees, and by volunteers who have direct contact with students will not be tolerated in the school or school district.

The Board prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization; of students, based on

any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status. Harassment against employees based upon the employee's race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age or disability is also prohibited.

This policy is in effect while students or employees are on property within the jurisdiction of the Board; while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school or school district.

After an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures that may include suspension or expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures that may include termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures which may include exclusion from school grounds. "Volunteer" means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

When looking at the totality of the circumstances, harassment and bullying mean any electronic/digital, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

- Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property;
- Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

"Electronic/digital" means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. "Electronic/digital" includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, cell phones, electronic text messaging or similar technologies.

Harassment and bullying may include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors and circumstances:

- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, property, etc.;
- Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student; and/or
- Unreasonable interference with a student's performance.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of the student's education or benefits;
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment.

In situations between students and school officials, faculty, staff, or volunteers who have direct contact with students, bullying and harassment may also include the following behaviors:

- Requiring that a student submit to bullying or harassment by another student, either explicitly or implicitly, as a term or condition of the targeted student's education or participation in school programs or activities; and/or
- Requiring submission to or rejection of such conduct as a basis for decisions affecting the student.

Any person who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment under this policy to a school official, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to the person's participation in any administrative, judicial, or other proceeding relating to the report. Individuals who knowingly file a false complaint may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Retaliation against any person, because the person has filed a bullying or harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding, is also prohibited. Individuals who knowingly file false harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation shall be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy should be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy should be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

The school or school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging bullying or harassment. The superintendent or appropriate building principal will be responsible for handling all complaints by employees alleging harassment.

It also is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the investigator and principals, to develop procedures regarding this policy. The superintendent also is responsible for organizing training programs for students, school officials, faculty, staff, and volunteers who have direct contact with students. The training will include how to recognize harassment and what to do in case a student is harassed. It will also include proven effective harassment prevention strategies. The superintendent will also develop a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy in reducing bullying and harassment in the school district.

Appearance/Appropriate Dress (in conjunction with [Board Policy 502.01](#))

The Board believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district. Students should wear comfortable clothes and shoes for active participation in gym class and recess. During cold weather, students need to wear warm coats, snow pants, gloves or mittens and something warm to cover their head. Boots may be required depending upon the condition of the playground area. Please take a moment in the morning to check your child's attire and make sure it is marked with his/her name.

Clothing that is offensive creates a distraction and is not conducive to our learning environment. Although

the responsibility of dress begins with parent supervision, the school administration has the right to determine what is proper or improper for the school setting. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and adhere to school policy on clothing or other apparel

The following items are considered inappropriate dress for elementary students and are prohibited:

- Clothing and apparel promoting profanity, inappropriate pictures or slogans, negative religious references, gang-related clothing, or items which are illegal for use by minors (alcohol, tobacco, drugs)
- Hats worn inside the school building (unless for a special reward)
- Revealing tops or see-through clothing
- Tops that expose the midriff
- Low riding pants which expose areas when seated
- Short shorts
- Flip flops, high heels (students must wear comfortable clothes and shoes for active participation in gym class and recess)

Iowa Code 279.58 allows schools to regulate dress code and eliminate anything gang-related, distracting, and or an expression of violence, bigotry, hate and abuse. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the building principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Attendance Policy (in conjunction with [Board Policy 501.10](#))

Parents / caregivers within the school district who have children that are four years old by September 15 and in proper physical and mental condition to attend school shall have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the Board. Students shall attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar.

Regular attendance is essential for students to obtain maximum benefit from the educational program. The VSCSD is committed to making sure your student is in school and engaged in learning on a regular basis. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be addressed when they are deemed to be excessive.

- **6 Absences:** Letter will be sent home, however, 6 unexcused absences, as per School Board Policy, may result in immediate action from the County Attorney. Absences are cumulative throughout the school year.
- **12 Absences:** Letter will be sent home and students and parents / caregivers will come to school for a conference. If no conference occurs, the County Attorney will be contacted if any of the 12 absences are unexcused.
- **18 Absences:** The County Attorney will be notified which will likely result in a mediation conference with him and school officials.

Note: Principal's designee may be the school student services coordinator, nurse, guidance counselor, teacher or secretary. A conference could be by phone, home visit, or a school conference.

Each situation is unique and will be evaluated as such, however, in general excused absences are as follows:

- Religious holidays
- Illness, hospitalization or doctor's care
- Death in the family or family emergency
- School trips
- Court appearance or other legal situations beyond the control of the family

- Family vacations
- Medical or dental appointments
- Parent or guardian initiated absences must occur before 9:00 AM on the day the student is absent, or it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

The policy of the school is that parents are to call the school prior to 9:00 AM on the day of the absence.

This is done for a number of reasons, including good school attendance practices, missing or lost children checks, and classroom management and work assignments.

- If your child has been diagnosed with an infectious disease, we would appreciate a call notifying us so that we may send letters home to alert parents of the other children in your child's classroom.
- Students need to check with their teacher about school work they may have missed. Some recesses or free time may need to be used to make up the work.
- For absences due to reasons other than illness or the death of a relative or friend, the school is to be contacted prior to the absence.
- If your child is late to school the student must report to the office to receive a slip admitting them to class.
- Students absent from school due to illness will not be permitted to attend school-sponsored events that evening.

Audio/Video Surveillance

Video and audio surveillance is in use in various locations throughout Tilford Elementary and throughout the district

Bus Procedures

All students who normally ride a bus are expected to do so unless an email or call is received from parents / caregivers giving other instructions. The safety of every child on our school buses is of great concern to all of us. Your cooperation is necessary in emphasizing the need for your child or children to adhere to the following rules that have been established for the safety of students and the orderly operation of the bus fleet.

In the fall there always seems to be one or two people who are not aware of the state laws governing school districts and eligibility of students to be transported. Chapter 43 of School Rules of Iowa states that pupils whose residence is within two miles of the school are ineligible for transportation at public expense. In other words, if you live within two miles of your child's attendance center or town shuttle you are not eligible for transportation. The misunderstanding seems to occur when a parent of a young child makes babysitting arrangements at a home that is more than two miles from school. According to state law, we must determine transportation eligibility on the basis of a child's home address not the babysitter's address. If you live within two miles of school and your babysitter lives four miles from school, your child is not eligible for bus transportation even if the bus directly passes the babysitter's home.

1. Students should be at their pick-up stations a few minutes before the established time. School buses will not wait for students to appear. If the bus waits for students, the bus will be late all along the route.
2. All pupils shall be received and discharged from the right front entrance of every school bus and if pupils must cross the highway, they shall be required to pass in front of the bus, look in both directions, and proceed to cross the highway only on signal from the bus driver.

3. According to State statutes, pupils may be picked up or discharged along established regular bus routes only at designated stations (where bus students reside). Students who wish to be discharged from the regular route at some place other than that which has been previously designated, may do so only if the stop is a designated pick-up on the route. The pupil must also submit a note to the building principal from the caregivers requesting such, before the privilege is granted.
4. Students who wish to ride a bus that is not their regular means of transportation to and from school must bring a note from their parent/guardian. This note will need to be signed by office personnel.
5. A ruling by the Attorney General prevents a school bus from loading or unloading students when there is less than 300 feet visibility because of fog or a snowstorm. Buses will not be sent out unless there is 300 feet of visibility, we will plan to delay school opening for up to 2 hours depending on conditions. Such delays will be announced on the same stations listed under School Cancellation. If the buses are out and fog suddenly develops, the drivers will not stop unless there is at least 300 feet of visibility. If this should be during morning pick-up, the driver will continue on to school and caregivers will be notified by phone that the bus was unable to stop. During the evening route the bus will stop in a safe farm yard off the road and wait for conditions to clear before continuing the route.

BUS BADGE AND ID SCANNING

All students are going to be given two school ID badges and a retractable lanyard. One of the badges must be attached to the student's bag/backpack with the retractable lanyard. The other can be placed wherever the student prefers. Students are required to scan when entering the bus and when exiting the bus. This will include all field trips and athletic events. If a student forgets his/her card more than three times in a month a bus conduct report can be issued. If cards are lost, students are to notify the bus driver and a replacement will be issued to the student and the cost of the card may be billed to the parent/guardian.

EMERGENCY BUS ROUTES

During times when the country roads are too muddy and soft or too icy for the school buses to travel, emergency routes will be used. These routes will be on hard surface roads only. When emergency routes are followed in the morning, they will also be followed in the afternoon.

Ways to have a safe bus ride:

1. Follow driver's directions
2. Stay in seat, face forward, feet on floor, aisle clear
3. Use 6-inch voices, no cursing or profanity allowed
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to oneself
5. Electronic devices are permitted but must be used in a manner that is not distracting to the driver. For example- the use of headphones. No vulgar or inappropriate usage.
6. Seats and surroundings stay clean without vandalism.
7. No food or drink on the bus.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING SAFE RIDING RULES:

Please keep in mind that getting your children to and from school safely is the prime objective of a bus driver. For safety reasons, it is necessary for students to respect the privilege of riding a bus and behaving appropriately. It is important that you stress to your child/children the importance of following the procedures stated above. It may be necessary to immediately impose bus-riding restrictions if a student exhibits severe behavior problems.

- First Offense -- The driver verbally warns a student that the unwanted behavior must stop. A bus conduct report will be issued and parent signature will be required.
- Second Offense -- The driver notifies the Transportation Director and they will talk to him/her about the unwanted behavior. A bus conduct report form will be completed, sent home and signed by a parent/guardian in order for bus service to continue for the student. Building principal will be notified by phone, in person, or by receiving a copy of the bus report.
- Third Offense -- Driver will notify the Transportation Director. A bus conduct report is completed, sent home and signed by a parent/guardian. Parent, student, driver, transportation director, and principal may hold a joint conference to discuss behavior
 - ◆ Suspension of student's bus riding privileges may occur.
- ◆ Fourth Offense -- Driver notifies Transportation Director. Caregivers and building principals are contacted. The student may be excluded from bus service for an extended period of time.
- Any physical interactions with another student or the driver will be grounds for an immediate bus suspension for a minimum of 3 school days.
- Any use of tobacco, vape products, or alcohol will be an automatic 5 day bus suspension.

Care of School Property / Vandalism (in conjunction with [Board Policy 502.02](#))

Students found to have destroyed or otherwise harmed school district property may be required to reimburse the school district for the damage. They may be subject to discipline under Board policy and the school district rules and regulations. These instances may also be turned over to local law enforcement authorities.

School equipment, furniture, books, etc. are provided for your child's temporary use. It is the responsibility of each child and family to care for books and equipment borrowed. Should a child fail to care for books issued to him/her or misuse school property in any way, they will be required to pay for the damage. Books lost or significantly damaged will be replaced at full replacement cost. Students shall treat school district property with care and respect. This is an excellent opportunity to teach respect for public property.

Child Custody

Parents / caregivers and others, with permission from parents, will be allowed to pick up students from school. The District will try to respect the rights of parents, both custodial and non-custodial, to participate in the education of their child. Absent a court order, decree or other documentation, the school will assume both parents have equal custodial rights and shall allow both parents to visit or pick up the child from school.

If the custodial parent indicates that the non-custodial parent should not visit the school, or the non-custodial parent does not have authority to take the child from the school, it shall be the custodial parent's responsibility to immediately provide the District with documentation regarding any restrictions applicable to the noncustodial parent, such as a court order or decree. This must be on file in the office in order for us to implement the court orders.

Conferences With A Teacher

All students will be provided with a scheduled, personal parent-teacher conference during the fall and spring during parent/teacher conference night. Our elementary schools strive for 100% attendance by families at these conferences. Due to being limited to the number of conference slots available, divorced or separated parents may not necessarily be provided with separate conference time. In the event that

the family is unable to attend, a rescheduled date and time will be provided. You may contact any teacher in the district by calling their building or emailing them. Teachers are often unavailable to come directly to the phone during school hours. Please leave a voicemail message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Discipline / Behavior Expectations

TilfordElementary School utilizes PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). The goal of PBIS is to promote safe and responsible decision making, respect for self and others, and respect for property and pride in appropriate behavior. One of our primary responsibilities as a school is to promote a safe, productive learning environment, and it is our belief that communication and teamwork between the home and the school are important in promoting good citizenship and a secure school. Teachers will present school-wide rules and expectations for the classroom, playground, and all school settings.

We believe that together, we will promote an academically, physically, socially and emotionally safe environment in which every individual accepts personal responsibility for making a positive contribution to the harmony and welfare of the school as a whole. We strongly encourage students to take pride in their learning and their choices. Please reinforce and encourage appropriate behaviors using these expectations while speaking with your child about their school day. A collaborative effort with common language and support from home will help our students be successful throughout their day.

Our NEW combined behavior chart guideline for both Tilford and Shellsburg can be found [here](#). This outlines both minor and major behavior referrals and the menu of interventions to respond to the behavior. Much of this has been updated in accordance with the recent HF 604 legislation.

<u>Students Can Show Positive Behavior and Viking Spirit by...</u>		
<u>Respect</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Treating others as you would like to be treated→ Listening to others→ Following directions→ Accepting differences→ Using manners and kind words	<u>Safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Using line and body basics→ Asking for help→ Reporting your concerns→ Following school procedures→ Keeping hands and feet from hurting others	<u>Responsibility</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Following Directions Right Away→ Completing work→ Being prepared→ Taking care of yourself and property→ Making good choices→ Doing your best→ Helping others

Drills

Fire, tornado, and ALICE (A - Alert L - Lockdown, I - Inform, C - Counter, E - Evacuate)lockdown / evacuation drills are conducted throughout the year to assure the students and staff understand the procedures associated with these drills.

Family/School Communication and Cohesion

A unified team of parent and teacher provides the most effective educational experience. Use caution

when sharing frustrations regarding school with your children so that a temporary problem does not permanently alter the student's perception of teamwork between school and home.

- Don't be a stranger.
- Make time to talk with school personnel regularly. Know who your children's teachers and bus drivers are and how they may be contacted.
- Communicate concerns quickly and openly.
- Get concerns out in the open early. The problem you or your child faces may be the result of an oversight or misunderstanding that can be easily rectified once it is brought to the attention of the appropriate school personnel.
- Give everyone a chance to understand your concern.
- If you call for an appointment to see the person involved, why not let them know in advance what the general nature of your concern is? This gives them a chance to reflect on it before the appointment and ask other staff members for information that might relate to your problem or concern. If a personal visit isn't possible, why not call once to state the problem, and during that conversation, offer to call back at a time when you can both discuss the situation in more detail?
- Be careful sharing frustrations with your children.

Health & Safety Procedures(in conjunction with [Board Policy 607.02](#))

NURSE'S OFFICE

- ◆ The school maintains a nurse's office in the building. The school nurse is available to help provide temporary care for sick or injured children. **The purpose of these guidelines is to prevent the spread of disease.**
 - Children who are obviously ill **should not be sent to school.** A child's temperature should remain normal for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers before returning to school.
 - A child who is taking medication to reduce a fever, **should not be sent to school.**
 - A child who has a temperature of 100°F or higher will be sent home.
 - A child who has vomited or has had diarrhea within the last 24 hours **should not be sent to school.**
 - If your child has been hospitalized and will be returning to school, it is policy to have a doctor's note/release upon their return.

GWAEA HEARING SCREENING

- ◆ Grant Wood Area Education Agency (GWAEA) will be providing a hearing test for your child during the upcoming year. Routine screening is performed in grades K, 1, 2, and 5. Students in other grades may be tested if there is a known history of hearing problems or if the student is new to the school.
- ◆ The school newsletter will indicate when testing is to be done. **Parents who do not want their child tested will need to indicate in writing to the school.** The school will then notify the Grant Wood AEA audiologist of your request.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- ◆ Students exhibiting symptoms of possible communicable diseases are reported to the school nurse. Each case is treated according to school guidelines with length of exclusion from school varies with the specific disease. Please contact the school if your child is treated for a communicable disease. This will alert us of other cases in the school and enable us to take preventative action to stop the spread of the disease.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

- ◆ To provide for the safety and protection of our students and staff, we have initiated

several precautionary measures. The staff is prepared for emergency situations involving blood by having appropriate bloodborne pathogen training annually.

MEDICATION POLICY

- ◆ If your physician has prescribed medication for your child that must be taken during school hours, the school nurse or trained office personnel will see that your child receives the medication. In order to give prescription medication, the medication must be in the original container, stating the child's name, medication name and dosage. Also A PERMISSION SLIP MUST BE SIGNED BY THE DOCTOR AND THE PARENT/GUARDIAN. Medication permission slips are available in the nurse's office. No medication will be given without written permission. This included Ibuprofen, Tylenol, antacids and cough drops.
- ◆ For prescription medication, most pharmacists will provide you with an extra labeled container for any medication that needs to be taken during school hours. The policy for grades PK-4 is that an adult should bring the medication directly to the nurse's office. If the directions allow for parents to administer the medication at home, it would be extremely helpful to the school if you would do so.
- ◆ If there are any changes to the original prescription, we must have a written or verbal order from the prescribing physician providing us with the proper information. We feel that extra caution is warranted when it comes to administering medication to your child, and we thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
- ◆ **In the event of a late start**, medications routinely given @ 8:00 AM, will not be given, unless permission to do so has been received from the parents. This can be done through a phone call or email giving permission to give the medication at a later time. This will alleviate confusion & possible over-medicating of the student.

ACCIDENTS

- ◆ The school will administer first aid to all minor injuries. In case of a major injury, parents will be contacted and emergency care will be given.
- ◆ If parents cannot be located and the school feels that the child needs immediate medical attention, the doctor listed on the child's emergency card will be called. Every effort will be made to contact the parents or emergency number. Please update your student's online Power School information or notify the office of any changes, such as new employment, emergency, and caregiver phone numbers.
- ◆ Responsibility for reporting the accident will rest upon the injured person to report to an adult, the teacher who is on playground duty at the time of the accident, and upon anyone who may have witnessed or received a report of it.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

- ◆ There may be instances throughout the school year when children will be injured and it would be wise to seek the help of a doctor immediately. It is possible that this could happen to your child and you are not available by telephone to secure permission for treatment. Therefore, we would like to have your written consent on file so there will be no delay in receiving treatment. This form is for your convenience and your child's benefit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ If students are unable to participate in physical education class due to an illness or injury they should not participate in recess. It seems reasonable that if a student is too ill or injured to participate in physical education class, the student should not risk additional illness by participating in physical activity during recess.
 - All medical excuses written by parents will be referred to the school nurse. She will make the judgment as to the level of participation, if any, for that day.
 - The nurse will use her judgment and call parents as she feels it necessary to verify the situation.

- A doctor's note for extended illness or injury will be required.

Parties Outside Of School

No invitations will be exchanged at school. Contacts and invitations to personal parties are to be handled privately outside of school unless all children in the class are receiving an invitation.

Phone Calls / Cell phones

Students are allowed to call home with the teacher's or principal's permission. Cell phones may be brought to school, but must stay in the locker and be turned off during school hours. Students must keep cell phones closed securely in their backpacks during the school day. If a student has a phone out, it will be taken to the principal's office, and can be picked up at the end of the day. If there is a second offense, the phone will be kept in the office until a parent picks it up. This policy holds true for other types of electronic devices that allow for students to send or receive communication from those outside the school (ex: smart watches, tablets, etc.).

Problem Resolving Strategy: We Have a Problem

A Parent's Guide for Solving Problems at School(Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools)
Unfairness, misunderstanding, hurt feelings, and conflict are experiences common to all of us. We recognize the special pain that parents feel when their children experience these problems in school and the difficulties that children, parents, and school staff face as they try to overcome these problems.

→ STEP ONE Take your concern to the person closest to the problem.

- ◆ No matter where the problem is, take your concerns there first. Whether in the classroom, on the bus, or on the practice field, the quickest and easiest solution can usually be found with the staff member most directly involved. Sometimes this approach just isn't possible or leads to an unsatisfactory conclusion; then what?

→ STEP TWO Present your concern to the next level.

- ◆ Building principals and the director of transportation are examples of the next level of school personnel to contact. Their interest in your problem will be increased if you share with them the steps you've already taken with the person closest to the situation, or if you will take the time to openly share with them the reasons why you feel uncomfortable dealing directly with the person who's closest to the problem.

→ STEP THREE Talk with the superintendent of schools.

- ◆ Sometimes all the best intentions can't solve a problem. When you believe you've worked hard with those closest to the problem, and you've taken the problem to the next level but still haven't achieved a satisfactory outcome, the superintendent of schools is the next place to go. Keep in mind that the superintendent's day starts early and often ends late in the evening. Part of the superintendent's job requires attendance at area-wide meetings outside the district. As a consequence, a meeting with the superintendent will probably require some advance planning.

→ STEP FOUR Contact your School Board members.

- ◆ School Board members are elected to represent the interest of all parents and district residents, and you should always feel free to tell them your point of view. School Board members do not, however, have authority in day-to-day school operations. So when should a Board member be contacted and what can they do?

→ Contact a Board member...

- ◆ after other means to solve a problem have been tried.
- ◆ when a policy is being enforced but you believe it results in bad consequences.
- ◆ when you believe a policy isn't being enforced.
- ◆ when policies or procedures are not enforced fairly for all.

→ The Board member may take one or all of the following actions:

- ◆ informally discuss the issue with the superintendent or other administrators.
- ◆ request that the Board review the specific policies that relate to the situation.
- ◆ propose new policies for the Board's consideration.

The laws of the State of Iowa do not grant individual Board members any authority over the school. All authority is the result of official actions by a majority of the Board at meetings open to the public.

Report Cards / Progress Monitoring

There are two grading periods each consisting of approximately 20 weeks during the school year. Report cards will be sent home with the students at the end of each semester. Report card folders are to be signed and returned back to the teacher in a timely manner. At-risk and persistently at-risk letters will be sent home three times per year which coincides with Iowa's state-wide testing windows.

Safety and Security

Tilford Elementary has a buzzer system at the main entrance and all other doors are locked during the school day. All visitors during school hours will enter through the main office and have to be buzzed in at the main entrance located on the north side of the building. All visitors coming into the building must park in a parking spot on the WEST side or NORTH side of the school. Parking along the red fire lane around the building is not permitted.

School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Students will be served the menu for the day with the exception of those with special dietary needs due to a medical condition. These needs should be in writing and given to the school nurse or Food Service Director who will relay the information to the building head cook. Milk will be served with all hot lunches unless we are otherwise notified in writing from a doctor.

Parents / caregivers can make payments for a student's lunch account on the schools' web site or in any school office. Please make sure your child's name is listed with your payment. Please note that if your child has a negative lunch balance of more than \$5.00, the student may receive an alternate meal until their account returns to a positive balance.

If you would like to eat lunch with your child, please notify the school the day before or early the same day you plan to eat.

School Delays Or Cancellations

"Remind" is an automated phone messaging system that will send text messages, emails, and phone calls to alert you of any school closings, late starts, and "hard surface roads bus routes only". It is important that all cell phone numbers and contact information are kept up to date. If you need assistance setting up your Remind account, please contact the office.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

The SRO is a Vinton Police Officer who is assigned to work in the schools. This program provides an opportunity for students to build positive relationships with the community police department. The SRO visits classrooms making presentations on a wide range of topics of student interest, is visible in the hallways and school grounds throughout the school day, assists at various events, and works with the administration as needed. The SRO is available to answer student or parent questions and assist them with a variety of issues.

School Supplies

A list of school supplies will be available online and at registration. All clothing, school bags, and shoes need to be marked with the student's name. A link to school supply lists can be found here:

www.vscsd.org/school-supply-list.

Search And Seizure (in conjunction with [Board Policy 502.08](#))

School district property is held in public trust by the Board. School district authorities may, without a search warrant, search students or protected student areas based on a reasonable and articulable suspicion that a school district policy, rule, regulation or law has been violated. The search shall be in a manner reasonable in scope to maintain order and discipline in the schools, promote the educational environment, and protect the safety and welfare of students, employees, and visitors to the school district facilities. The furnishing of a locker, desk or other facility or space owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student, even if the student provides the lock for it, shall not create a protected student area and shall not give rise to an expectation of privacy with respect to the locker, desk, or other facility.

School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. Items of contraband may include, but are not limited to, non-prescription controlled substances, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, apparatus used for controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons and stolen property. Such items are not to be possessed by a student while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district: while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Possession of such items will be grounds for disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion and may be reported to local law enforcement officials. The Board believes that such illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or may present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, in conjunction with the building principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Solicitations From Outside

Employees and students should be free from solicitations at their place of employment. No organization or individuals, including building employees, may solicit or distribute flyers or other materials within school district facilities or on school district grounds without the approval of the Superintendent.

Student Classroom Placement

A lot of time and effort is put into developing class lists. Class lists are actually developed during the months of March and April for the following school year. Information is gathered from each student's teacher regarding his/her academic development and social behavior. The first priority is to balance each room academically and behaviorally. We also work to ensure that students entitled to our district supports such as special education, will be in a classroom where schedule and support align with that student's needs. We then separate students who may not demonstrate their best behavior when paired with another student.

Please remember, students will have many teachers during their educational experiences. If a student is responsible with homework and is respectful to all, they will have a successful learning experience in any of our classrooms. All of our teachers are willing to work in partnership with parents to provide the best possible learning experience for their children.

We do not accept any specific teacher requests for students to be placed INTO a specific room. We are always open to meeting with parents who have a serious educational or social concern about their child at any time.

Student Contact Information / Records

Parents / caregivers are responsible for keeping their contact information current using our PowerSchool program available through our school website at vscsd.org. It is critical to have current phone numbers and contacts as emergencies can arise with your student at any time. Parents / caregivers may view the contents of their child's cumulative folder in the presence of the building principal. Contact the building office to set up an appointment.

Student and Family Needs

If your student or family has additional needs please do not hesitate to communicate them with our office or Mr. Islas (tony.islas@vscsd.org). We have a team of individuals who work very hard to ensure that our students have everything they need to be their best learners.

Some examples include...

- Assistance with obtaining school supplies.
- The VSCSD Backpack Program supplies food for students over the weekend.
- Access to our district's homeless liaison.

Student Lockers (in conjunction with [Board Policy 502.05](#))

Student lockers are the property of the school district. Students shall use the lockers assigned to them by the school district for storing their school materials and personal belongings necessary for attendance at school. It shall be the responsibility of students to keep their assigned lockers clean and undamaged. To ensure students are properly maintaining their assigned locker, the principal of the building may periodically inspect the lockers. Student lockers may be searched in compliance with Board policy regulating search and seizure.

Student Support Services

Additional support services are available to assist teachers when concerns arise with students. These services include our building staff, (special education teachers, counselor, nurse, health secretary, etc.) and Grant Wood Area Education Agency support staff, (psychologist, social worker, consultants, speech-language pathologist, occupational and physical therapist, work experience coordinators, and

others). Grant Wood Agency support staff members are an important part of our team. They often assist with students who are struggling academically or behaviorally. They assist with developing supplemental and intensive assistance plans. They also may visit classrooms to observe and work with students. Of course, no educational placement decisions are made without parent input. Teachers and families may use input on an informal basis or request formal assistance in identifying strategies to address a concern, in carrying out these strategies, or in monitoring individual student progress. These services are available for all students through teacher or parent request. Working together, we can provide the best education possible for all of our children.

Therapy Dog

Tilford Elementary will have a therapy dog as a resource to support the social-emotional health of the staff and students in our building. Therapy dogs may provide healing benefits including reduced stress and anxiety, decreased feelings of sadness or loneliness, and feelings of isolation or aggression. Therapy dog support may also cause an increase in socialization resulting in an increased sense of happiness and well-being. This therapy dog has completed and will have ongoing intensive training with its owner who is a staff member in our building. If you have concerns about a therapy dog within our building such as allergies or a specific child's fear of dogs, please contact the office.

Toys/Electronics at School

Toys from home can be a distracting influence during the school day. Unless the toy or electronic is a part of the special event happening, they are not allowed at school. Electronics may be used in the classrooms for special events or learning opportunities established by the classroom teacher. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of toys or electronics. For the safety of students, hard balls and baseball bats are not allowed at school.

Visitors

Parents / caregivers or visitors who come to our school are required to check-in at the office to sign-in and receive a visitor identification sticker. We also ask that you sign out as you leave so we can keep track of visitors in the building. Please call the school at least a day in advance with a heads up of your visit to ensure it is during an appropriate time. When you visit, we would appreciate it if you would limit your stay to a short one rather than visiting for the whole day. Parents /caregivers visiting/volunteering should make alternative arrangements for non-school age children. Children of school age who may be visiting in your home are welcome to visit the school during non-instructional times, such as lunch and/or recess, and should be accompanied by an adult. Arrangements for these visits need to be made prior to the day of the visit.

Visitors - Animals In The Classroom(in conjunction with [Board Policy 606.03](#))

Live animals will not be allowed in school district facilities except under special approved circumstances. When authorized, the presence of a live animal must be for an educational purpose. Permission from the teacher and/or principal will be required of anyone wishing to bring an animal into school district facilities. Appropriate supervision of animals is required when animals are brought into the school district facilities. The person bringing the animal must furnish transportation for the animal brought to school. Animals will not be allowed to travel to and from the student's attendance center on the school bus or in school vehicles.

Volunteers

Whether you find yourself with free time on your hands, a desire to spend time with youth in our community, or welcome the opportunity to help others, our teachers, students and staff greatly appreciate your willingness to share your time through volunteering in our district. There are certain guidelines volunteers must follow. Check out the website to see the guidelines and to fill out the required sign-up form. Find the website here: www.vscsd.org/volunteering.

Weapons (in conjunction with [Board Policy 502.06](#))

The Board believes weapons and other and look-alikes dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons or dangerous objects and look-alikes. Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-alikes shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents / caregivers of students found to possess a weapon or dangerous object on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than 12 months. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects or look-alikes for educational purposes. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Winter Recess Procedures

Our goal is to allow for outdoor recess as much as possible. We believe that outdoor play is vital to a student's development. Caregivers should see that children are properly dressed for adequate protection from the hot, wet, and cold weather. Children are not permitted to play in the rain. Tilford Elementary will follow the *Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Weather Watch Guidelines* to determine if conditions will allow for outdoor recess. If the wind chill temperature is 10°F or colder OR if conditions do not allow children to play outside safely (ex: extreme wind, rain, storms, or icy conditions) children will remain inside. If the Heat Index exceeds 100°F, adjustments will be made to outdoor activities. Please send your child to school dressed with the appropriate clothing layers. If your child needs to remain inside for recess because of illness or injury, please send a doctor's excuse.

Waiver Of Student Fees (in conjunction with [Board Policy 503.03-R\(1\)](#))

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Caregivers or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship may complete a waiver form. The form can be accessed online [here](#). This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

504 Plan

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District to provide to eligible students a free appropriate education, including individually designed instruction. Section 504 does not require a written IEP but does require an educational plan which outlines accommodations for providing an education for handicapped students comparable to that provided to non-handicapped students.

Questions regarding the district's 504 Plan may be directed to any of the building administrators or to the Superintendent.