

School District of Indian River County

# Parent Guide



2023



2024

07/21/2023

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**Our District**

## District Overview

The School District of Indian River County is a community of achievers with a strong record of academic success. Indian River County located approximately halfway down the east coast of Florida. Centrally located 75 miles south of the Kennedy Space Center and 135 miles north of Miami, our 543 square miles contain beautiful beaches, immaculate ocean and river front communities, and many acres of farmland. SDIRC has 13 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 2 high schools, one alternative education center, one exceptional student education school, one technical college, 5 charter schools, and a virtual school, in addition to a home school program.

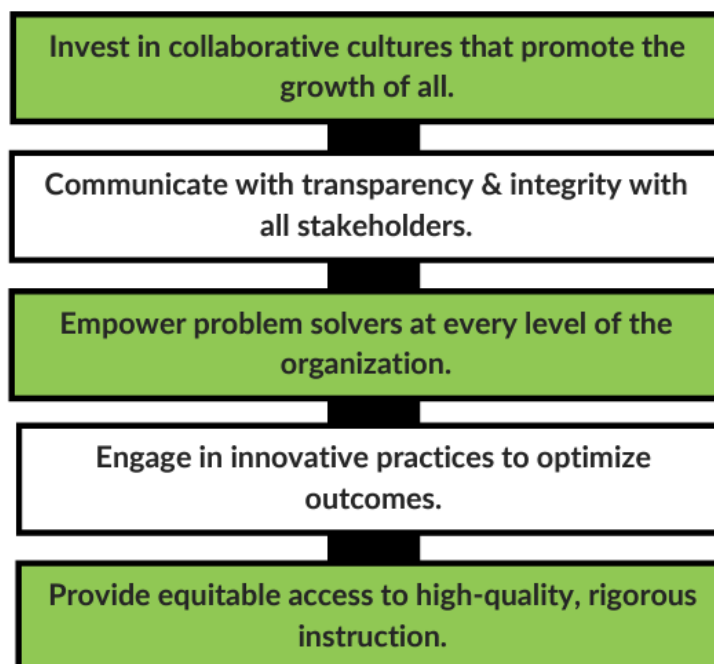
## Unified Mission

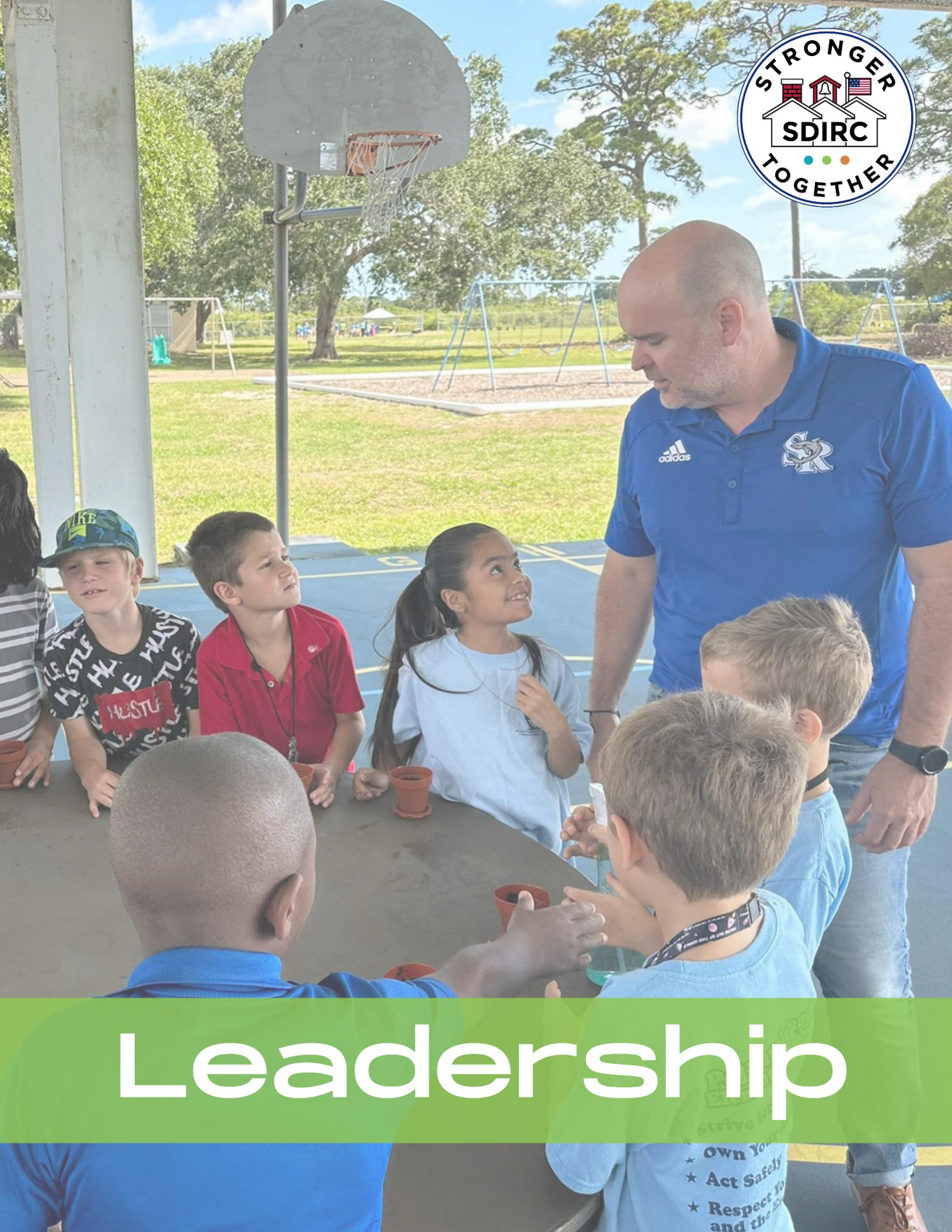
**“Transforming education to inspire & empower ALL students to maximize their full potential.”**

Our district has identified “Transforming education to inspire & empower ALL students to maximize their full potential” as our unifying mission. The underlying rationale for establishing a unifying mission is to clearly communicate the overarching educational priority in our district, while connecting all those supporting the work of the Strategic Plan to a common and meaningful purpose.

## Guiding Principles

Our district’s unified mission is supported by five Guiding Principles that set the standards by which all our decisions, behaviors, and outcomes are judged. These Guiding Principles are based upon our district’s collective core values and have been specifically developed to clearly communicate actionable ways in which our core values are exemplified as we carry out the work of our district and provide high-quality educational experiences for our students.





# Leadership

strive for  
\* Own Your  
\* Act Safely  
\* Respect Yo  
and the



## School Board

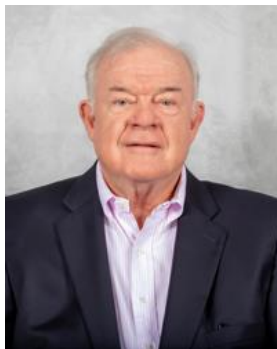
Regular School Board meetings are held on Monday evenings and are open to the public. Parents are encouraged to attend, either in person or via live broadcast. Further information is available at <https://www.indianriverschools.org/schoolboard>.



**Dr. Peggy Jones, Chair, District 3**



**Teri L. Barenborg, Vice Chair, District 4**



**Brian M. Barefoot, Chair, District 5**



**Jacqueline Rosaria, District 2**



**Gene A. Posca, M.D., District 1**

## Superintendent David K. Moore, Ed.D.

Dr. Moore currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools in Indian River County (SDIRC). Upon his arrival in Indian River, he initiated work to completely re-envision education in the District and solidified a framework for systems change through the development and implementation of the ACHIEVE 2025 District Strategic Plan. Dr. Moore continued to move forward with significant shifts in practice to maximize student learning outcomes, including annually revising and implementing a District Strategic Plan and African American Achievement Plan; creating systems of support to enhance the quality of instruction in classrooms; establishing leadership academies for administrators and instructional coaches; developing the infrastructure and educational culture in which data-driven decision-making thrives; successfully negotiating a multi-year teacher contract and salary raises for all teachers; and securing an operating millage to provide fiscal resources needed to expand district supports. Additionally, Dr. Moore was named as a National School Public Relations Association "Superintendent to Watch 2021," and completed the Yale University Fellowship Program for Educational Leaders and the Florida Chief Executive Officers-District Leadership Program during the 2022-2023 school year.



Under Dr. Moore's leadership, during the 2021-2022 academic year, the SDIRC realized an improvement of 16 state rankings for the District Grade from a ranking of 38 in 2018-2019 to a ranking of 22. This improvement in rankings showed the highest rate of improvement in the State of Florida, with the exception of one other small district that also increased a comparable number of state rankings. More recently, during the 2022-2023 academic year, initial Spring State Assessment results, showed that the percentage of students in the SDIRC performing on grade level or above, exceeded state percentages in all content areas tested. This performance is an unprecedented achievement in the SDIRC.

Prior to becoming superintendent, Dr. Moore served as the Assistant Superintendent in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the nation. During his more recent years with M-DCPS, Dr. Moore led the Division of Academic Support (DAS) which encompasses the Education Transformation Office (ETO), Student Services, and the Office of School Improvement (OSI). Dr. Moore was instrumental in redesigning each area under his supervision and significantly contributed to M-DCPS becoming one of the nation's highest performing urban school districts. Under Dr. Moore's leadership, the ETO experienced a reduction in the percentage of schools supported by the Office due to being identified as performing below a "C," from 83 percent in 2015 to just one percent in 2019. Dr. Moore led the charge which resulted in M-DCPS having zero schools with a designated school grade of "F" over a span of three years. Additionally, schools supported by the ETO realized drastic improvements in students scoring proficient within all content areas.



# Our Schools

# Overview

A successful education means defining "success" for each student and then placing this student in an educational environment that is vibrant and supportive. At SDIRC we view success as a student envisioning their own unique future and using the available resources to make that vision a reality. We have 27 schools offering a variety of courses and programs that help students reach their goals. For more information, please visit <https://www.indianriverschools.org/schools>.

## School Schedules

Elementary School – Start 8:50 a.m. Dismissal 3:30 p.m.

Modified Days: 8:50am-1:40pm

Middle School – Start 8:00 a.m. Dismissal 2:41 p.m.

Modified Days: 8:00am-12:50pm

High School – Start 7:05 a.m. Dismissal 1:52 p.m.

Modified Days: 7:05am-12:05pm

Specialty Schools:

IR Prep – Start 7:20 a.m. Dismissal 2:05 p.m.

Wabasso School – Start 8:00 a.m. Dismissal 2:45 p.m.

## Instructional Calendar

To access the current instructional calendar as well as the proposed calendar for next school year, visit [https://www.indianriverschools.org/calendars/instructional\\_calendar](https://www.indianriverschools.org/calendars/instructional_calendar). Click on the image of the calendar below to open the current calendar.

**SDIRC 2023-2024 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR**

**August 2023**

**February 2024**

**September 2023**

**March 2024**

**October 2023**

**April 2024**

**November 2023**

**May 2024**

**December 2023**

**June 2024**

**January 2024**

**Legend**

- Student/Teacher Holiday
- Student First/Last Day
- School/District Based PD
- Teacher Planning
- Teacher Optional Day (2)

\* Tentative calendar pending approval.

† Quarter 1 - 43 Days  
Quarter 2 - 43 Days  
Quarter 3 - 46 Days  
Quarter 4 - 46 Days

\*\* Modified Instructional Day (2)  
\*\* Modified Instructional Day (2) - pending approval for emergency makeup days.

School District of Indian River County  
2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

Day of the Week	Date	Event Description
Tuesday	8/01/2023	*Optional Teacher Planning Day
Wednesday	8/02/2023	*Optional Teacher Planning Day
Thursday	8/03/2023	Teacher Planning/School-based Professional Development
Friday	8/04/2023	District Professional Development Day
Monday	8/07/2023	Teacher Planning/High School Orientation (AM); Middle School Orientation (PM)
Tuesday	8/08/2023	Teacher Planning/Elementary School Orientation
Wednesday	8/09/2023	Teacher Planning/School-based Professional Development
Thursday	8/10/2023	First Day of School for Students
Monday	9/04/2023	Labor Day; No School; Holiday for Students/Employees
Tuesday	9/12/2023	High School Open House
Wednesday	9/13/2023	Middle School Open House
Thursday	9/14/2023	Elementary School Open House
Monday	9/25/2023	No School for Students/Employees
Wednesday	10/11/2023	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Tuesday	10/24/2023	Elementary School Conference Night
Wednesday	10/25/2023	Middle School Conference Night
Thursday	10/26/2023	High School Conference Night
Friday	10/27/2023	No School for Students/Teachers due to Conferences
Friday	11/3/2023	Staff Professional Development Day; No School for students.
Monday	11/20/2023	Thanksgiving Break Begins; No School for Students/Employees (exception 12-month employees) 11/20/2023-11/24/2023
Thursday	11/23/2023	Thanksgiving; No school; Holiday for Students/Employees 11/24/2022-11/25/2022
Tuesday	12/19/2023	Modified Instructional Day
Wednesday	12/20/2023	Modified Instructional Day/End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
Thursday	12/21/2023	Winter Break Begins; No School for Students/Employees 12/21/2023-1/05/2024
Monday	1/08/2024	*Optional Teacher Planning Day; No School for Students
Tuesday	1/09/2024	Teacher Planning/School-based Day; No School for Students
Wednesday	1/10/2024	Students Return from Winter Break
Monday	1/15/2024	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Observed); No School; Holiday for Students/Employees
Friday	2/02/2024	Staff Professional Development Day; No School for Students
Monday	2/12/2024	Elementary School Conference Night
Tuesday	2/13/2024	Middle School Conference Night
Thursday	2/15/2024	High School Conference Night
Friday	2/16/2024	No School for Students/Teachers; due to conferences
Monday	2/19/2024	Presidents' Day; No School; Holiday for Students/Employees
Tuesday	3/19/2024	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
Monday	3/25/2024	Spring Break Begins; No School for Students/Employees (exception 12-month employees); 03/25/2024-3/29/2024
Friday	4/19/2024	No School for Students/Employees
Friday	5/17/2024	Vero Beach High School Graduation
Saturday	5/18/2024	Sebastian River High School Graduation
Monday	5/27/2024	Memorial Day; Holiday for Employees
Wednesday	5/29/2024	Modified Instructional Day
Thursday	5/30/2024	Modified Instructional Day
Friday	5/31/2024	Modified Instructional Day; Last Day of School for Students; End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Monday	6/03/2024	*Optional Teacher Planning Day

\*Teachers may opt to work one- or two-days August 1 and August 2. In lieu of one or both of the following days, January 8 or June 3. These days are for teacher planning only, not designated for school or district PD. All other teacher planning and PD days are not available for opt. liaison.

## District Data Dashboards

The School District of Indian River County maintains several public-facing Power BI data dashboards detailing current and historic data pertaining to academics, extracurricular activities, student attendance and discipline, enrollment information, and district grade information. To access these dashboards, direct your browser to the following link: <https://www.indianriverschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1549525&pageId=9329835>

The screenshot shows the website header for the School District of Indian River County. The header includes the district logo with the slogan "STRONGER TOGETHER" and the tagline "Transforming education to inspire & empower ALL students to maximize their full potential." Navigation links include "CLASS LINK", "FOCUS", and "STAFF PORTAL". A search bar is present with the text "Search...". A secondary navigation bar lists "STUDENTS & FAMILIES", "OUR SCHOOLS", "CALENDARS", "SUPERINTENDENT", "SCHOOL BOARD", "DISTRICT", and "DIRECTORY". The breadcrumb trail reads "School District of Indian River County > Directory > Accountability & Research > Reporting".

The main content area is titled "Accountability & Research" and contains a sub-menu with "Reporting" and "Research Request". Below this, there are three dashboard tiles:

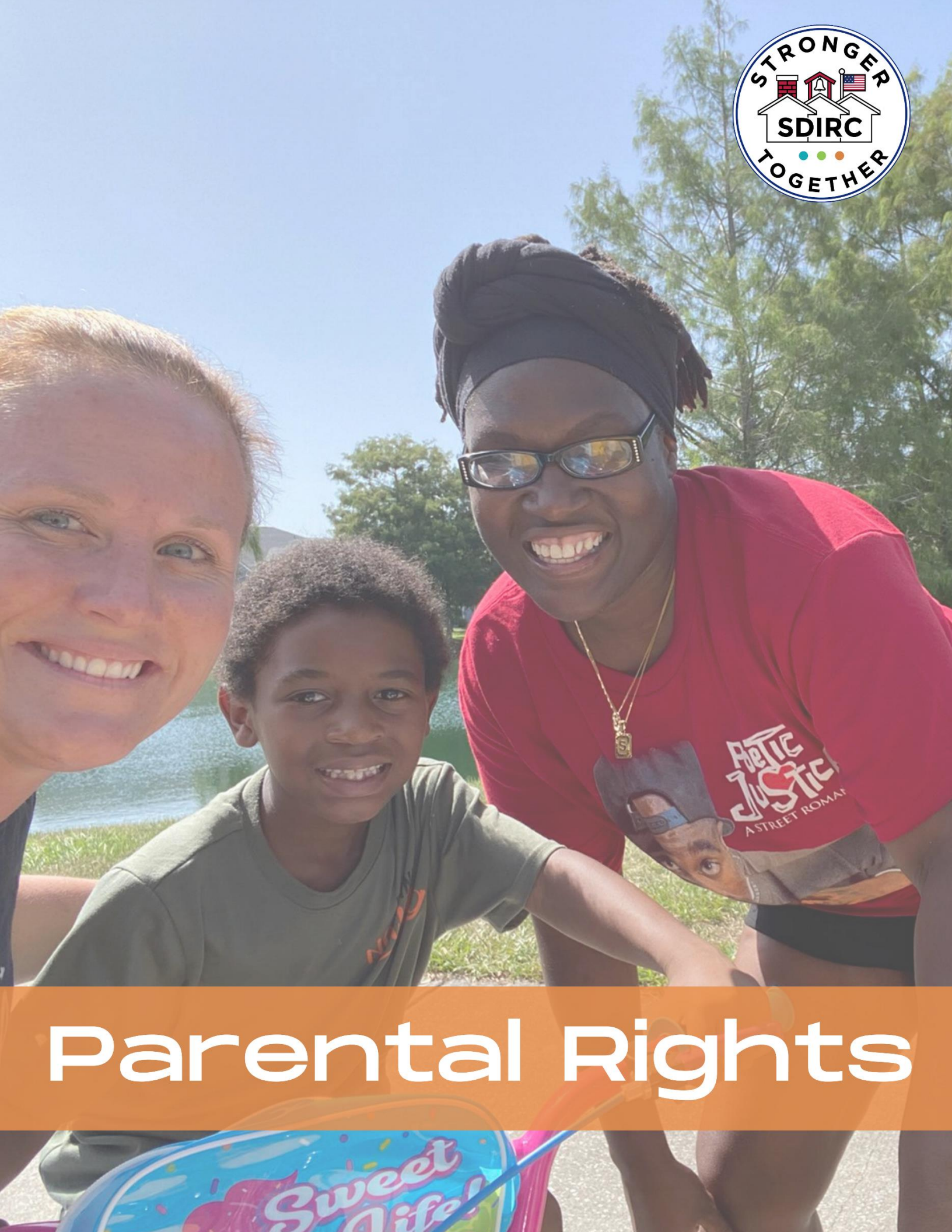
- [FLDOE EduData School and District Grades](#)
- [FLDOE Interactive Reporting](#)
- [School Profiles](#)

A horizontal line separates this section from the "Power BI Dashboards" section. Below this heading, there is a link to an [FAQ for Power BI dashboards](#). A paragraph states: "If you have any questions regarding the data dashboards, please email [DataDashboards@indianriverschools.org](mailto:DataDashboards@indianriverschools.org) and a member of the District staff will address your question."

Below the paragraph are three more dashboard tiles:

- [Advanced Coursework](#)
- [District Grade and FSA Rankings](#)
- [Early Warning System](#)

At the bottom, there are three partially visible tiles with icons for a musical note, a graduation cap, and a school building.



# Parental Rights



## Parental Rights in Education

The School District of Indian River County is committed to honoring the rights of parents/legal guardians and promoting their involvement in the District. The School District recognizes the fundamental rights of parents/legal guardians to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children including the rights of parents in need of additional assistance with certain disputes that are not timely resolved by a school as outlined in HB 1557.

On July 1, 2022, House Bill 1557 came into effect in the state of Florida. HB 1557 reinforces a parent's fundamental right to make decisions regarding the care and upbringing of his or her child in the public-school setting. Additionally, HB 1557 outlines the following parental rights:

- The SDIRC has adopted procedures of notifying a student's parent if there is a change in services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.
- SDIRC personnel will encourage a student to discuss issues related to his or her well-being with his or her parent.
- At the beginning of each school year, the SDIRC will notify parents of all healthcare services provided at their student's school and provide parents the opportunity to individually consent to, or decline, each service.

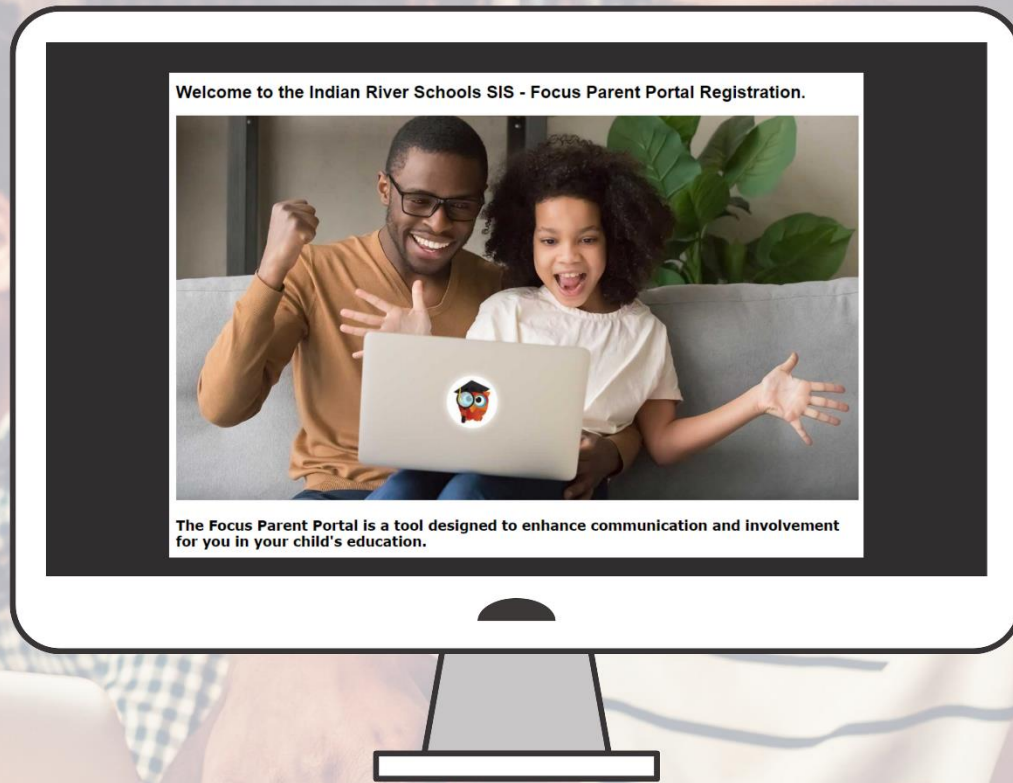
House Bill 1557 also prohibits:

- Classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students.
- The administering of a well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3 without first receiving consent from the student's parent.
- The withholding from a parent, or encouraging of a student to withhold, information related to a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.
  - SDIRC procedures may allow personnel to withhold information only for a reasonable belief that the disclosure would subject the student to abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

Finally, HB 1557 requires school districts to all have procedures for a parent to notify the principal of concerns regarding the provisions in the bill, and the process for resolving concerns within seven days of the complaint. If the complaint is not resolved by the school district after an additional 30 days, a parent may:

- Request the Commissioner of Education appoint a special magistrate who meets qualifications established in the bill. The special magistrate must recommend a resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommendation between 7 and 30 days after the recommendation.
- Bring an action against the SDIRC to obtain declaratory judgement that the SDIRC procedure or practice violates the provisions in the bill and seek injunctive relief. A court may award damages and must award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or injunctive relief.

The School District has adopted the following procedures for resolving specified parental concerns. Please review, follow, and maintain the attachment. These procedures must be followed to serve as a means to document if a parent submits a complaint. The types of specific complaints are outlined in this attachment. The [Parental Rights Dispute Resolution Form](#) is available on the SDIRC website under the Students and Families tab. Parents may submit complaints utilizing this form.



# School Choice & Student Enrollment



## Student Enrollment

Visit our [www.indianriverschools.org/enrollment](http://www.indianriverschools.org/enrollment) website for full details, screenshots, and videos on how to enroll in SDIRC schools through the Focus Parent Portal application.

The online student enrollment application is always available in the Focus Parent Portal.

### Enrollment Requirements:

**Kindergarten:** A child must be 5 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll in Kindergarten.

**First Grade:** To enroll for the first time in our district, a child must be 6 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> and have proof of satisfactorily completion of a kindergarten program.

**K-12 Transfer Students:** Provide a copy of your student's latest report card, Florida Statewide Assessment scores, or other achievement results, along with all required documentation (see below). If your student receives ESE services and/or other accommodations, please provide a copy of their IEP/504/ELL plan.

Documentation Requirements:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Number (optional)
- Proof of school physical (no older than 1 year from the school start date)
- Certificate of Immunization (DOH form 680) obtained from a local doctor or County Health Department (updated for corresponding grade level consistent with F.S. 1003.22)
- Two (2) current utility bills with your name and address for proof of residence
- Emergency Contact Information

\*Students will be excluded from school if immunizations are not up to date, if physicals have expired or are incomplete and if records have not been submitted to the school by the 30<sup>th</sup> school day after transferring into Indian River County.

**For each student who returns to SDIRC from year to year**, the parents will need to fill out the Parent Acknowledgement Forms and Re-Enrollment Contact Verification each year prior to the start of school through the Focus Parent Portal.

## School Choice

Each year from November 1 to January 15 the SDIRC School Choice application is open for the next school year. Parents must have a Focus account linked to their student to complete the application. For each student who does not want to attend their zoned school, an application can be filled out with up to three choice schools selected. Choice lotteries are held four times a year: Late January, March, May and July, with the application re-opening prior to each subsequent lottery. After each lottery is run, parents have ten days to accept or decline their choice offering.

Please [visit this section](#) of our enrollment website for full details on our Open Enrollment process for school choice.



NOT EXIT  
Visitors Must Exit  
between 8am-4pm  
the Front Office



# School Safety

## School Safety and Security Overview

The School District of Indian River County puts a high priority on student and school safety. SDIRC has built a strong collaborative relationship with all five local law enforcement agencies, and we are proud to say we have a dedicated School Resource Deputy or Officer (SRD/SRO) on every school campus, public or charter. We also benefit from the FLDOE Office of Safe Schools best practices and required initiatives, such as the FortifyFL app that allows for anonymous reporting of suspicious activity.

We believe our students, families, staff, and community are key partners in keeping our schools safe. SDIRC encourages everyone to help us maintain safety and security by reporting any concerns to the appropriate authorities. As always, we are a See Something, Say Something school district.

## Partnership with Law Enforcement

See something, Say Something

Report a tip to the Indian River County Sheriff's Office by phone or email.

[schooltips@ircsheriff.org](mailto:schooltips@ircsheriff.org)

772-978-6000 or 911



## FortifyFL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



<https://getfortifyfl.com/>

## Raptor Visitor Management System

The School District of Indian River County uses the Raptor Visitor Management System. With the Raptor Visitor Management system, visitors are screened against the registered sex offender databases in all 50 states.

The Raptor Visitor Management system ensures that accurate and reliable records are kept for the visitors who enter your school, every day.





# Academics

## Standards and Courses

The Florida Standards provide the foundation for instruction in the School District of Indian River County. We encourage parents and legal guardians to visit CPALMS, the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions, to review detailed information.

## Instructional Materials

In accordance with [Section 1006.40\(2\), F.S.](#), the School District of Indian River County is committed to providing each teacher and student in kindergarten through grade 12 with a major tool of instruction in core courses of the subject areas." The School District of Indian River County is a closed district for instructional materials adoption and follows the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) instructional materials adoption timeline. The FLDOE provides valuable information pertaining to instructional materials on the following websites:

- [FLDOE Instructional Materials](#)
- [FLDOE Standards Review](#)
- [Florida Statutes Title XLVIII, Chapter 1006](#)

View the list of [instructional materials](#) utilized in all of our schools.

Florida law now requires School Principals to be responsible for instructional and library materials on their campuses. If you have questions or would like to review available print or digital resources kindly contact your child's [principal](#).

### Proper Use of Instructional Materials

The principal shall assure that instructional materials are used to provide instruction to students enrolled at the grade level or levels for which the materials are designed, pursuant to adopted district school board rule. The school principal shall communicate to parents the manner in which instructional materials are used to implement curricular objectives of the school.

### Money Collected for Lost or Damaged Instructional Materials; Enforcement

The school principal shall collect from each student or the student's parent the purchase price of any instructional materials the student has lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged and to report and transmit the money collected to the district school superintendent. The failure to collect each sum upon reasonable effort by the school principal may result in the suspension of the student from participation in extracurricular activities or satisfaction of the debt by the student through community service activities at the school site as determined by the school principal, pursuant to policies adopted by the district school board rule.

### Sale of Instructional Materials

The school principal, upon request of the parent of a student in the school, shall sell to the parent any instructional materials used in the school. All such sales shall be made pursuant to rule adopted by the district school board, and the principal shall annually provide information to parents that they may purchase instructional materials and how to purchase the materials.

## CTE

Career and Technical Education (CTE) refers to courses or programs designed to prepare students for careers in current or emerging professions. It provides students in grades 6-12 the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and post-secondary education. These programs help to build and improve math, science, literacy, and problem-solving skills. CTE prepares learners for the world of work through applied learning that is competency or work based. All CTE programs provide the opportunity to earn a recognized Industry Certification.

The Dual Enrollment program at Treasure Coast Technical College offers high school students the opportunity to enroll in post-secondary clock hour courses creditable toward both high school graduation and a career certificate. High school juniors and seniors may participate provided entrance requirements are met through a formal application process. All dual enrollment programs provide the opportunity to earn a recognized Industry Certification. As a dual enrollment student tuition, books, lab industry certification fees are waived.

The Career Pathways articulation agreement between Indian River State College and the School Board of Indian River enables students who successfully complete a secondary CTE program the opportunity to receive articulated credits upon initial registration at IRSC.

## Dual Enrollment

The School District of Indian River County and Indian River State College co-sponsor appropriate college courses in high schools during the normal class hours, after normal class hours, and during the summer term. Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes shall earn both high school and college credit if they meet the requirements for satisfactory completion of such classes. An eligible high school student may be enrolled as a fulltime dual enrollment student at any Florida College or University with which the School District has a current interinstitutional articulation agreement. The student must be accepted by that institution to attend.

## Exceptional Student Education Services

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, students with disabilities are provided high-quality, specially designed educational opportunities in each student's least restrictive environment; that is, the environment which most closely resembles the educational environment of their peers without disabilities, as determined by Individual Education Plan (IEP) Teams. All district schools support the access, involvement, and progress of each student's individual education program by providing a range of educational services at a level which best benefits the student without infringing on the safety or learning of others.

A school administrator on each campus serves as the Local Education Agency (LEA) representative with decision-making authority for students with disabilities. The principal may delegate the LEA role to a designee. The school Resource Specialist serves as the Exceptional Student Education point of contact. Resource Specialists schedule team meetings for ESE students and serve as a resource for school staff and families.

The district ESE Department provides professional development, technical assistance, and problem-solving guidance to schools and families to support implementation of ESE programs on school campuses.

## Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal civil rights statute designed to encourage participation and equal access to federally funded programs for individuals with disabilities, and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. This, along with the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA), it guarantees students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities the right to full participation and access to a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE). Under these laws, the school must provide services that level the playing field so that eligible students have equal participation and opportunity to benefit to the same extent as their nondisabled peers. Protections under Section 504 do not guarantee that a student will succeed, but rather, the student be provided FAPE and afforded the opportunity to succeed. Eligibility under Section 504 is determined by a team of individuals who know the student. Parents and students are encouraged to be part of the Section 504 team. A parent, student, or a teacher/staff member may request to be part of the team to consider eligibility for a student.

All students with disabilities who qualify under Section 504 are provided protection from discrimination, procedural safeguards, manifestation determinations, as appropriate, and periodic re-evaluations to determine the need for continued protections and for an accommodation plan. In The need for an accommodation plan is a separate eligibility decision. The Section 504 team is to consider the impact of mitigating measures when making this determination. Interventions and accommodations that align specifically with a student's needs are to be implemented and progress monitored for as long as the team deems necessary. The site-based team will reconvene to review the data and make an eligibility determination. A team member reserves the right to request a formal meeting to review the current plan at any time. This request is made through the site-based Resource Specialist. If you are the parent of a student with a disability and want additional information about Section 504, call your student's school and ask to speak to the school site Resource Specialist.

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

All parents complete a 3-item "Home Language Survey" upon initial enrollment. ESOL staff assess any child whose parent/guardian answers "yes" to any of these questions. The results of the English language test will determine ESOL program eligibility. The ESOL program is designed to help improve English language proficiency and academic potential.

Teachers utilize ESOL strategies, as appropriate, during classroom instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs). Each school in the district with 15 or more ESOL students of the same native language shall have an ESOL staff member to provide additional assistance to children in the ESOL program.

ELLs shall have equal access to all programs and services offered by the schools based on need and eligibility, regardless of language proficiency, race, ethnicity, or national origin. This shall include, but is not limited to, advanced programs and instruction in basic subject areas that is understandable to ELLs and equal and comparable in amount, scope, sequence, and quality to that provided to English proficient students. ELLs with special needs and/or in need of additional services shall be provided equal and comparable services to those provided to English proficient students in a timely basis and appropriate to the student's level of English proficiency.

All English Language Learners will be assessed annually using a statewide language proficiency assessment. The statewide annual English Language Proficiency Assessment, ACCESS for ELLs, measures the areas of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Each student identified as an ELL shall continue to receive ESOL instructional support until the student is reclassified as English proficient and exits from the ESOL Program.

## Report Cards

All Students receive report cards every nine weeks. They will also receive progress reports between each report card. For Secondary Schools, most academic subjects will be given a grade ranging from A to F. There is a space on your child's report card where teachers can make additional comments about your child's progress.

High School Report Cards: In grades 9, 10, 11, & 12, your child's report card will state his cumulative grade point average (GPA). This average is calculated by changing letter grades into a number value: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0. The number values are then added and divided by the total number of classes taken. A GPA of 2.0 is required for high school graduation.

Elementary Report Cards: All elementary teachers will be grading students by the progress toward mastery of the standards. The standards assessed each quarter will be the ones that will show on the report card with all standards expected to be assessed by the end of the year. For grades 2-5, academic subjects will be given a grade ranging from A to F.

In Grades K-1, students are assessed using the following academic scale: M=Mastering or proficient in understanding the skills needed during the reporting period

D+=Progressing towards mastery

D=Developing understanding of skills/needs support

L+=Progressing towards development

L=Limited understanding and/or not demonstrating skills needed

In grades 2-12, students are assessed using the following academic scale:

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=0-59





# Academic Advisement

## School Counselor Services

School Counselors design and deliver school counseling programs that improve student outcomes. They lead, advocate, and collaborate to promote equity and access for all students by connecting their school counseling program to the school's academic mission and school improvement plan. They uphold the ethical and professional standards of ASCA and promote the development of the school counseling program based on the following areas of the ASCA National Model: define, deliver, manage, and assess.

<b>School Counseling Programs Promote Student Success Through:</b>
• Academic Development
• College & Career Development
• Personal and Social Development

School Counselors work to maximize student success, promoting access and equity for all students. As vital members of elementary, middle, and high school leadership teams, school counselors create a culture of success for all.

### **School Counselors help students:**

- Apply academic achievement strategies
- Manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills
- Plan for postsecondary options (higher education, military, work force)

### **Examples of ways in which counselors support students:**

- Individual student academic planning and goal setting
- School counseling classroom lessons based on student success standards
- Short-term counseling (individual and group)
- Crisis assessment and intervention
- Referrals for long-term support
- Data analysis to identify student issues, needs, and challenges

Visit the District website to learn more about [school counseling](#).

## Career Exploration

Xello, an online career planning and work-based learning coordination system is Florida's official tool to empower students in the development of a personalized plan for the future. The program features a user-experience that is interactive and developmentally appropriate. Xello is utilized with students in grades 6 – 12.

### **Program Features:**

- Build personalized profiles to highlight their interests, skills, and abilities
- Take career matching assessments to guide and motivate exploration
- Explore options by reviewing career profiles, labor market data, and postsecondary training opportunities
- Set both short and long-term goals and track progress with academic course planning and managing the application process
- Continually learn, reflect, and reassess their plans with support of college and career readiness lessons

## College Advisement – PATH Program

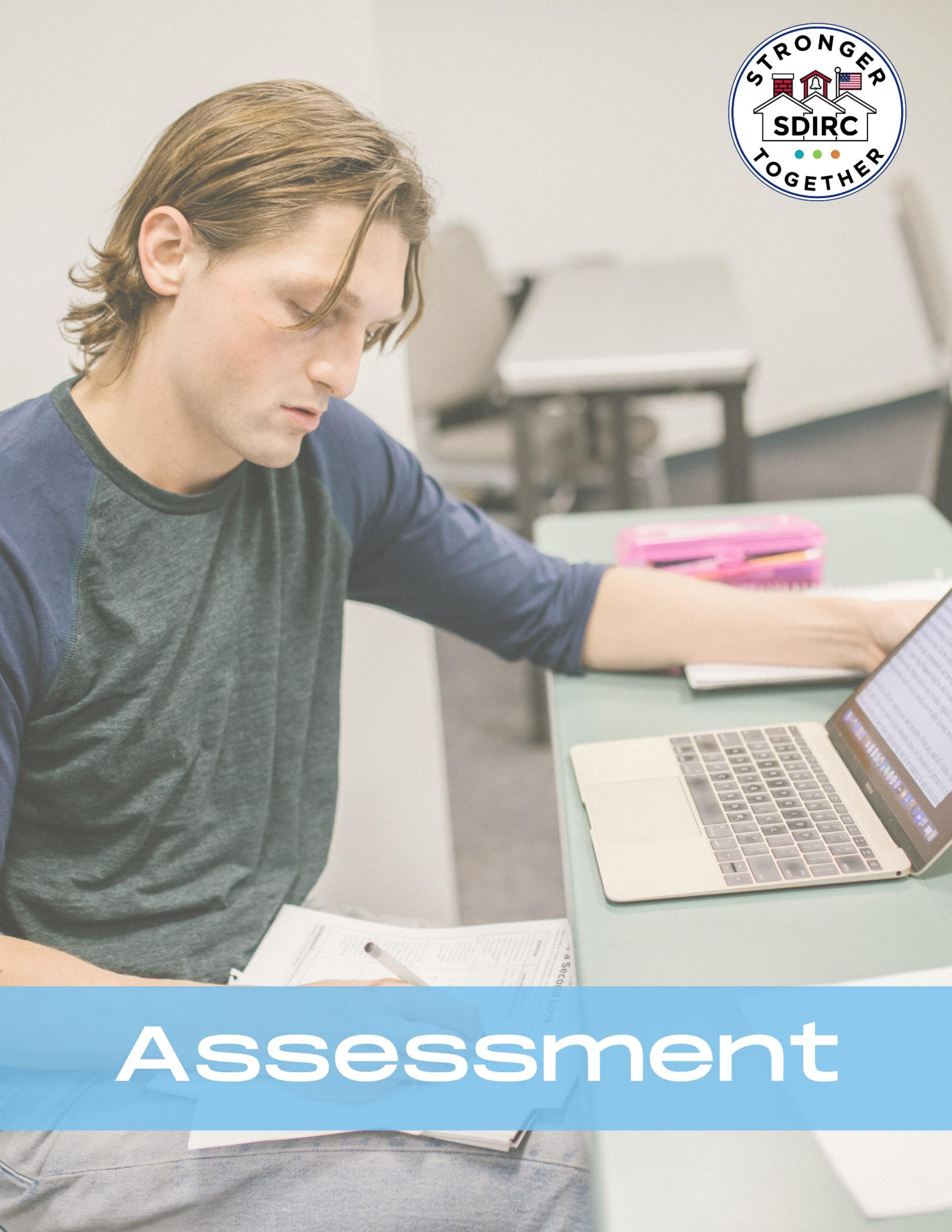
The PATH Program prepares and advises students and parents towards higher-education opportunities from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, assistance is provided in making a four-year plan, finding appropriate post-secondary institutions and helping navigate school admissions requirements, financial aid, and the scholarship process.

The more prepared and equipped students and parents are, the better the outcomes. PATH Advisors are located at both VBHS and SRHS. Both Advisors also serve as School Counselors and will support you and your student on their journey towards higher education.

### **PATH Program Topics for Success:**

- Grade-Level Specific Information (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)
- College Readiness Checklists (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Dual Enrollment
- Scholarship Process
- Financial Aid (FAFSA)
- College Advising
- College Applications & Essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Admission Testing Information (SAT, ACT, CLT)

View current PATH Program resources on the District [website](#).



# Assessment

## State Assessments

All Florida public school students, including full time virtual school, must participate in the Florida Statewide Assessments Program. Homeschoolers may choose to participate but are not required to test. The full set of state assessment windows can be found on the [FDOE Assessment Calendar webpage](#). For the 2023-2024 School year, the following assessments will be given:

Grades K-2: Either Star Early Literacy or Star Reading and Star Math, three times a year

- Grades 4-10 Writing\*: once a year in April
  - Grades 3-10 English Language Arts\*: three times a year
  - Grades 3-8 Math\*: three times a year
  - Grades 5 & 8 Science\*: once a year in May
  - State End of course exams\*: once a year in May
    - Students who have completed at least 80% of the following courses must take the exam:
    - Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, US History, Civics (7th grade)
  - Students in Access Points curriculum courses will take the Florida Alternate Assessment for the above \*starred tests in the spring between February and April
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Florida Civic Literacy Exam: upon completing US Government either in December or April
  - Grades K - 12 WIDA: Access for English Language Learners: for ELL Students, once a year beginning in late January
  - 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT in the Fall
  - 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the SAT school day in the Spring
- \*\*\*Tests that are held three times a year will occur in September, December, and May\*\*\*\*

## Assessment Calendar

The state requires the district submit the Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar each year by October 1. Please visit the school district [Department of Assessment website](#) for the most current assessment information.

## Accessing Student Score Reports

All Florida Statewide Assessment scores can be found within your SDIRC Focus Parent Portal Account.

At the top right corner of each student name that is linked to your account is an icon for the Florida Statewide Assessment Score portal. The guide for understanding these reports is housed on the Florida Statewide Assessments portal. For grades 3-12 [access this guide](#). For Star reports in grades K-2 [access this guide](#).

## Retakes

The state holds retake windows for all End of Course Exams and the required 10<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts exam four times a year. The calendar can be found at the above FDOE calendar link. Schools will set individual testing dates within the windows.



# Special Programs

## Title I Program

The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all students have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education, and at a minimum, reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

Title I funds assist schools with the highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students in improving student achievement and are used to enhance the district's instructional program. In accordance with federal law, funds are allocated to schools to support the purpose of Title I and the goals of the Schoolwide Improvement Plan (SIP).

In addition to a variety of other family engagement and community outreach activities, each school with a Title I program hosts an annual parent meeting that notifies parents of their opportunities to provide input on their child's education throughout the school year. The written Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) and school-parent compact, jointly developed with parents, address the importance of ongoing communication between the school and families and describes ways each will be responsible for supporting student learning.

## Parent's Right to Know

Family engagement is an important component of the Title I program. Each school with a Title I program is required to send notification to parents regarding the "right to know" provision.

1. At the beginning of the school year, schools notify parents of their right to request (and receive in a timely manner) information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:
  - Whether the student's teacher—
    - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
    - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
    - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
  - Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
2. Notify parents of the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments.
3. Provide timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.
4. At the beginning of each school year, notify parents that they may request (and receive in a timely manner), information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by the State or District.
5. Make widely available through public means for each grade level, information on each assessment required by the State including—

- the subject matter assessed;
- the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
- the source of the requirement for the assessment; and
- where such information is available—
  - the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and
  - the time and format for disseminating results.

6. Notify parents of English Language Learners (ELLs) within 30 days of the beginning of the school year, or if identified as an ELL after the start of school, within 2 weeks of their child’s participation in the English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program; Inform parents of ELLs on ways they can support their child’s education.

### McKinney-Vento – Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is designed to address the barriers that homeless children and youth may face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, school districts must ensure that each homeless child and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If you lost your housing due to economic reasons and now live doubled-up with family or friends; live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, camping ground, or temporary trailer; on the street; or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing, your child(ren) may be eligible to receive support through the McKinney-Vento Act.

It is the policy of the School District of Indian River County (Board Policy 5111.01) that homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homeless status. The Board recognizes that homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin, the school that student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled, and the right to dispute their school assignment, if their assignment is other than their school of origin. According to the student’s best interest, a homeless student will either remain in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness or be enrolled in the school in the attendance zone where the student currently resides.

If you believe your child(ren) may be eligible for the support provided by the McKinney-Vento Act, contact the district’s Homeless Liaison, Karen Malits, Director of Federal Programs at (772) 564-3096.

### Early Childhood Education – VPK & Preschool Early Intervention (PreK ESE)

[SDIRC's Early Learning Programs](#) encompass the school year statewide Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program (VPK) and Preschool Early Intervention Program which provides Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services to our youngest learners ages 3 to 5.

Our SDIRC Early Learning Programs consists of 20 classrooms (11 VPK and 9 PreK ESE) across 7 public elementary schools in the SDIRC and itinerant therapies servicing 340+ students within the county.



We also provide summer programming for PreK ESE (ESY), Summer VPK and “STEP into K,” our Summer Transition Enrichment Program.

[Voluntary Prekindergarten \(VPK\)](#) is a FREE 540-hour state program designed to prepare every child in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. All age eligible children (age 4 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year) are entitled to participate. The VPK mission is to ensure that all children are intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically ready to enter school and are ready to learn, fully recognizing the crucial role of parents and caregivers as their child’s first teacher. [VPK applications](#) begin in January of the current school year. Please call 772-564-3201 to complete an application via phone. Applications are not completed in the Focus Student Information System.

[Summer VPK](#) is a 300-hour program offered for 30 days in June and July. All age eligible children (5 years old on or before September 1 and did NOT complete a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten during the school year) are entitled to participate. Summer VPK applications begin in March of the current school year. Please call 772-564-3201 to complete an application via phone. Applications are not completed in the Focus Student Information System.

SDIRC’s Early Learning Programs also provides [Early Intervention Exceptional Student Education Services](#) for preschool age (3-5 years) children in classroom settings. These classrooms accommodate fewer children per teacher ratio. Opportunities for inclusion with typical peers are provided as appropriate. Classroom teachers are certified and have additional support staff to assist with the special needs of each child. A child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may include specialized transportation.

Children who only meet eligibility criteria for speech or language therapy can be served at itinerant sites throughout the district. If the child attends a private/faith based childcare center, specialized transportation may be provided for the therapy sessions.

If you suspect your child may have a developmental delay or disability, contact the Preschool Evaluation Team (PET) office directly at 772-564-4166. Physicians, community members, teachers and other early childhood programs who suspect a child may have a disability can also suggest the parent/guardian contact the PET office. The parent or guardian will be asked to complete an intake to share relevant information with our Child Find secretary. Relevant information may include developmental, speech or language concerns, medical concerns, prior evaluations, or therapies.

For VPK or Summer VPK inquiries, please reach out to 772-564-3201. For Preschool Evaluation Team inquiries, please reach out to 772-564-4166. Any questions may also be directed to Brooke Flood, Early Learning Programs Principal, at 772-564-4169.



# Extended Learning Opportunities

## Extended Day Program

The purpose of our Extended Day Program is to decrease the number of latch-key children by providing services for parents who need support. The program is designed to enrich children's lives educationally, socially, emotionally, and physically in a safe and familiar setting. The program is open on regular school days to students in kindergarten through 5th grades.



### Extended Day Program Costs

Extended Day Program Costs		
SDIRC Employees who qualify		
Registration Fee	\$25.00 per child	\$15.00 per child
Morning Program		
1 Day	\$5.00 per week per child	No Charge
Two to Five Day Week	\$20.00 per week per child	\$10.00 per week per child
Afternoon Program		
1 Day	\$10.00 per week per child	\$5.00 per week per child
Two to Five Day Week	\$40.00 per week per child	\$20.00 per week per child
Pick-up Late Fee	\$10.00 per child every 15 minutes or portion thereof past 6:00pm	\$10.00 per child every 15 minutes or portion thereof past 6:00pm
Late Payment Fee	\$10.00 per child per week when payment is not received on time	\$10.00 per child per week when payment is not received on time

### Extended Day Online Registration

Please **ONLY** register using the link's below if your child is a new student to Extended Day, incoming kindergarten or transferred from another school. If you are unsure, please call before registering your child. 772-564-6223 or 772-564-4975

[Beachland Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Citrus Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Dodgertown Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Fellsmere Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Glendale Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Indian River Academy Online Registration](#)

[Liberty Magnet Online Registration](#)

[Osceola Magnet Online Registration](#)

[Pelican Island Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Rosewood Magnet Online Registration](#)

[Sebastian Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Treasure Coast Elementary Online Registration](#)

[Vero Beach Elementary Online Registration](#)

## Before School Activities

The program is open on regular school days to students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, hours are 7:00 a.m.- 8:20 a.m.

## Afternoon Activities

Afternoon program hours are at the close of the school day until 6:00 p.m. A wide variety of enrichment activities including arts and crafts, computers, music, games, homework assistance, and sports is offered at each site. A low staff/child ratio and nutritious snacks are also features of the program.

## Extended Day Staff

All staff are School Board employees and as such, each has been fingerprinted, drug-tested and meets all requirements of School Board employment, including having undergone a criminal background check.

## Registration Procedures

The online registration must be completed, and a \$25.00 registration fee paid BEFORE a child may participate in the program. Medical, emergency contact, and special needs information are required.

## Summer Programs

The Extended Day Program also runs two (2) Summer Camps each summer. Incoming Kindergarteners to outgoing 5<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible to attend. Fieldtrips are included in the weekly fee.

## Summer Learning Opportunities

2024 Summer Learning Opportunities is an option for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who have not successfully mastered State Standards during the 2022-2023 school year, as well as secondary students (middle/high school) who need to pass core courses.

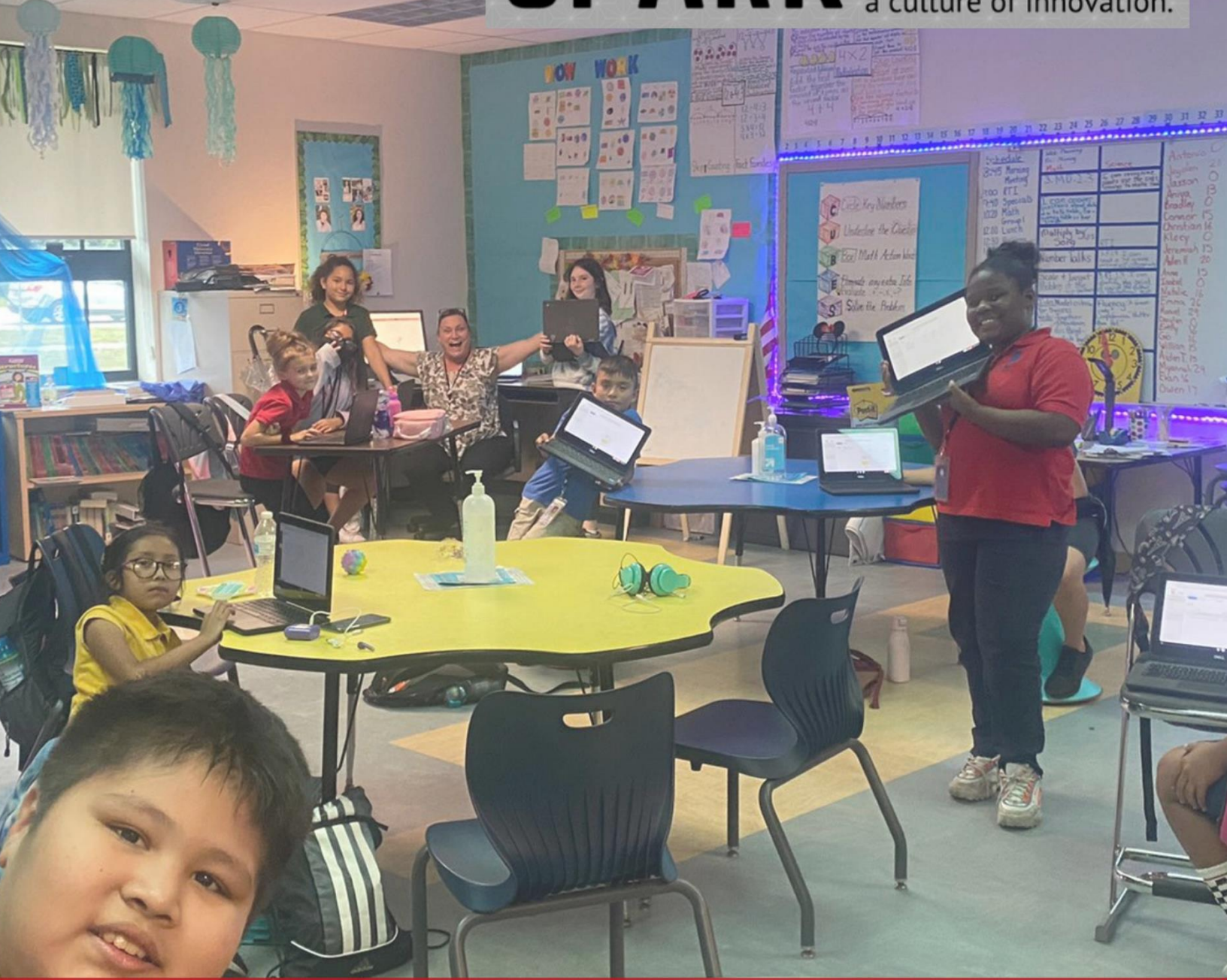
Additional academic summer programs are also open/offered across the district for other students to participate in.

## Extended School Year (ESY)

Extended School Year (ESY) services include special education and related services that are provided to students with disabilities beyond the regular 180-day school year. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), school districts must provide ESY services if the student requires those services to receive a free appropriate public education. Typically, ESY services are provided if there is a concern that the student will regress (or lose progress) in critical life skills during his/her time off from school. School districts are not required to provide ESY services to all students with disabilities—only to those who require ESY services based on data reviewed by IEP teams.



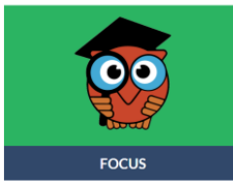
The mission of the Instructional Technology Services Department is to empower digital learners by **SPARKing** a culture of innovation.



# Technology



## Focus



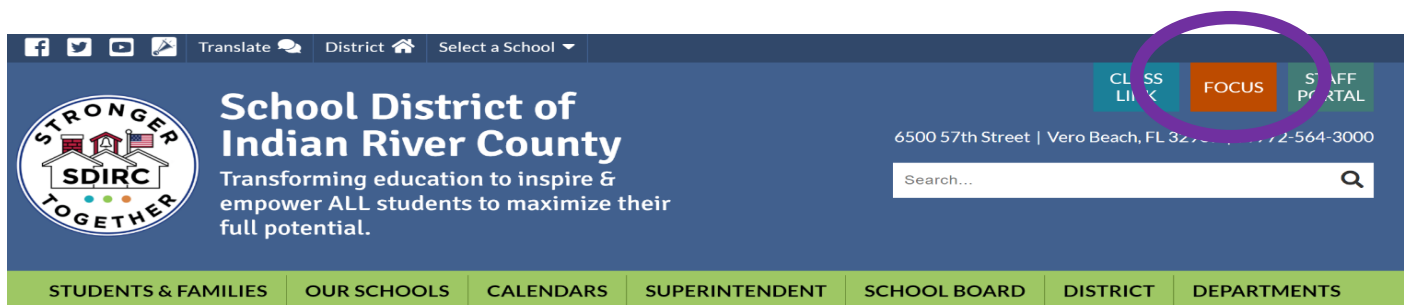
**What is Focus?** Focus is a web-based Student Information System (SIS) and grade book designed for use in K-12 districts. Focus offers the Parent/Student Portal tool for grades K-12 in addition to teacher access.

**The Focus Parent Portal is a tool designed to enhance communication and involvement for you in your child's education.** This portal will allow you to monitor your child's progress in school by providing timely access to both assignments and grades that are entered by the teacher throughout the grading period. This communication tool will improve your ability to assist your child and to communicate with the teacher if necessary.

After creating your Parent Portal Account, you have four options to choose from:

- Enroll a new, not previously enrolled student.
- If you do not know your enrolled child's Student ID number, you cannot link to the child from home. You will need to visit your child's school and bring along a valid Driver's License or a government-issued photo ID.
- If your enrolled child's social security number is on file with the school district and you know your child's Student ID number, you can link to the child from home.
- If you know your child's Student ID number, but your child's SSN is not on file with the district or you are not willing to provide the last four digits of your child's Social Security Number, you can link to the child at this time, but will need to visit the school to activate your account.

Focus login can be accessed at [www.indianriverschools.org](http://www.indianriverschools.org) by clicking on the FOCUS link as shown below.



**What is the Parent/Student Portal tool?** This self-service web-based software allows parents or guardians to view their own student's demographics, schedule, grades, attendance, homework assignments, and much more. Students may also access their own information.

**How do I create an account in the Focus Parent/Student Portal?** Visit the District's website at [www.indianriverschools.org](http://www.indianriverschools.org). From the District's [homepage](#) click on the [Student & Families tab](#), **then click the Focus Registration Portal** link. Detailed instructions are provided for your convenience to guide you step-by-step to create a user account.

**I created an account for my student last year. Do I have to create a new one this new school year?** No.

## Laptop Information



All students in grades 2 -12 will be issued a Dell Chromebook. This device is issued solely for **educational** use. Any use deemed inconsistent with the purpose as determined by school administrators or by The School District of Indian River County personnel will be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

**Expectations:** If taken home, your student must bring a **fully charged** Chromebook to school each day. Students will be unable to complete classwork if they do not bring the charged device to school.

### **User Responsibilities:**

The student is responsible for ensuring the Chromebook and charger are not damaged, lost, or stolen while it is loaned out to him/her. Do not leave the Chromebook unattended at any time. Do not deface, write on, or put stickers of any type on the Chromebook. Your student will receive a case that snaps onto the Chromebook. They may decorate and personalize the case, but not the device. Keep food and drinks away from the device. Do not tamper with the device's hardware or existing software. The Chromebooks are filtered and monitored at home and at school. The district does not permit unethical use of the Internet, email, or any other media. Violation of this policy may result in the loss of device loan privileges and disciplinary action by the school.



**Financial Responsibility:** Student (parent/guardian) is financially responsible for the costs associated with replacement of the loaner equipment if it is severely damaged, lost, or stolen. If the Chromebook is damaged, lost, or stolen, the student must notify the school's Administrator immediately. If stolen, student must file a police report and notify the School Resource Deputy.

**Fees:** The replacement fee for the Chromebook is \$400 and \$33 for the charger. The student will be charged for the damaged or missing Chromebook. If fee is not received within a reasonable time, student will be placed on the school's obligation list. These fees are intended to promote good habits and responsible use of the district-issued device.

**Duration:** All Chromebooks are issued for the entire school year and must be returned in good condition when devices are collected school-wide in May.







**Exiting the District:** If the student is leaving the school district, the Chromebook must be returned to withdraw from school.



# Chromebook Care

## Best Practices for Families








	<p>Every home should have safe storage and charging space for the Chromebook. Make sure this is on a flat surface where it is visible and cannot be stepped on or knocked over.</p>
	<p>Each night, the Chromebook should be placed in the safe space and plugged in so it is completely charged for the next day. A fully charged Chromebook will last the whole day. The charger can be left at home.</p>
	<p>Make sure your child brings his/her Chromebook to school EVERY DAY.</p>
	<p>The case should remain on the Chromebook at all times. The case can be personalized with stickers, Cricut, etc., but do not put stickers or write directly on the Chromebook.</p>
	<p>Keep the Chromebook away from food, liquid, and extreme temperatures.</p>
	<p>The most vulnerable part of the Chromebook is the screen. Many things can damage it. Take extra care not to drop the Chromebook. Don't put anything, including paper or pencils, inside the Chromebook.</p>














## Resources



As the demand for access to digital resources increases, it is important to keep our parents informed. In an effort to help parents assist their children with access to these resources at home, the Instructional Technology Department has developed this site to provide guidance and support for the district standardized applications used in your child's classrooms.

 <p>INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY <b>SPARK</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Technology Overview Video</u></a></p>	<p>Click here to watch a video that explains the technology available at the School District of Indian River County.</p>
 <p>FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>FAQ</u></a></p>	<p>Click here to see answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Online Textbooks</u></a></p>	<p>Click here to see the different digital textbooks available to our students.</p>
 <p>CYBER SAFETY</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Cyber Safety</u></a></p>	<p>Click here to find different ways to keep your kids safe online.</p>
 <p>ClassLink</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>ClassLink</u></a></p>	<p><b>ClassLink</b> is our single sign on portal where students can access all digital applications.</p>

	<p><a href="#"><u>Canvas</u></a></p>	<p><b>Canvas</b> is our learning management system where students can access digital content.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Focus</u></a></p>	<p><b>Focus</b> is our gradebook program where students can access grades and attendance.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Office 365</u></a></p>	<p><b>Office 365</b> is the online version of Microsoft Office, which is free to students.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>i-Ready</u></a></p>	<p><b>i-Ready</b> is an individualized learning program to practice reading and math skills</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Digital Readiness Profile</u></a></p>	<p>The <b>Digital Readiness Profile</b> outlines the digital skills necessary for students to be successful.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>GoGuardian</u></a></p>	<p><b>GoGuardian</b> is the application teachers use to monitor student devices.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>PBIS Rewards</u></a></p>	<p><b>PBIS Rewards</b> is the district-approved communication platform for grades K-8.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Remind</u></a></p>	<p><b>Remind</b> is the district-approved communication platform for grades 6-12.</p>

	<p><a href="#"><u>Chromebooks</u></a></p>	<p>All the information you and your student need to know about using and navigating Chromebooks.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Support / Help</u></a></p>	<p>If the information above has not answered your questions, click here for additional assistance.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>ClassLink Public Portal</u></a></p>	<p>The <b>ClassLink Public Portal</b> provides access for PII information from contracted vendors of online services.</p>



# Behavior & Expectations

## Behavioral Expectations

Each member of the school community plays an important role in the creation of a safe, supportive, and positive school climate. All community members, including school staff and administration, parents/guardians, community organizations, and students, are responsible for promoting school environments that support teaching and learning.

Students are expected to follow the [Code of Student Conduct](#) standards, federal and state laws, and school board policies while on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and while being transported to and from school or school-related activities and events.

## Attendance

**TARDINESS:** Tardiness is defined as an arrival to school or class after the designated time, or after the tardy signal has sounded. When tardiness becomes excessive -- four (4) or more times per nine-week grading period-- the parent/guardian will be notified by classroom teachers. Progressive interventions will be initiated by the MTSS Individual Problem-Solving Team.

**EARLY DEPARTURE:** An early departure is any unexcused departure prior to the end of the class or school day. Parents are encouraged to keep students in school for the entire school day with minimum interruptions or requests for early dismissal. Early dismissals interfere with classroom instruction. Dismissal within the final 30-minutes of the school day is prohibited unless the School Principal determines that it is an emergency, or the student has a medical, dental, or court appointment that cannot be rescheduled.

### EXCUSED ABSENCES The following factors are deemed to be reasonable excuses for students' school absences:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insurmountable problems *</li><li>• Medical appointments and/or personal illness (medical evidence may be required after 5 consecutive days of absence)</li><li>• Approved school activity</li><li>• Religious instruction or holiday</li><li>• Out-of-school suspension</li><li>• Confinement at a detention center</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Death of a family member</li><li>• Attendance at a center under the supervision of Children and Family Services</li><li>• Court appearance</li><li>• Appointments for a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to FL Law for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder</li><li>• All other reasonable excuses</li></ul> |
|--|---|

\* Prior permission is required by the principal or designee except in cases of emergencies. Absences not listed above shall be documented as unexcused.

Additional Attendance Information is available in the Attendance Handbook. Florida Statutes: F.S. 1003.01, F.S. 984.151, 1002.20, 1003.02, 1003.21, 1003.23, 1003.24, 1003.26, 1003.27  
School Board Policy: 5200

## Dress Code

Dress and grooming expectations contribute to student success. A unified dress code has been established for all elementary schools. Visit your school's webpage to learn more about the criteria for your student's school campus. The dress code for middle and high schools is determined by the School Advisory Council (SAC). Since each school differs based on SAC decisions, please visit the school's webpage to learn about the dress code requirements that are in place.

Please review districtwide expectations of the Dress Code Policy in the [Code of Student Conduct](#) as needed.

\*The principal has the final authority to determine when personal appearance does not meet expectations.

## Cell Phone Policy

**GRADES K - 8:** Cell phones must be placed on silent mode and out of sight from the start of the school day until the end of the school day. If a cell phone is visible or a student is seen using a cell phone during the school day, this will be considered a violation of the cell phone guidelines.

**GRADES 9 - 12:** Cell phones must be placed on silent during school hours. Upon entering the classroom, cell phones must be out of sight. If a cell phone is visible or a student is seen using a cell phone during the school day, this will be considered a violation of the cell phone guidelines.

**GRADES 6 - 12:** Cell phones may be used for unique activities to enhance instruction. This will require the teacher to receive prior written approval from the principal (e.g., Biotech, HOSA).

**Violations of these guidelines may result in confiscation of the wireless communication device or electronic device.**

### Minor Cell Phone Misuse

Minor cell phone misuse will follow progressive discipline procedures. After the second violation, a mandatory parent conference will be held, and a cell phone agreement will be signed. An out-of-school suspension occurs with the third offense. After three violations, the student will be automatically referred to the Suspension Expulsion Review Team (SERT) for consideration of an alternative school-based program.

### Major Cell Phone or Other Wireless Communications Device Violations

A mandatory parent conference will take place with an administrator and law enforcement when a major cell phone violation occurs. The student will be assigned an automatic ten days of out-of-school suspension with a possible SERT referral for consideration of an alternative school-based program or expulsion.

The following violations are serious offenses and **will not be tolerated** in our schools (this is not a complete list):

- Capturing and/or recording fights or similar events and/or posting recording and/or images
- Capturing, recording, or transmitting (sending or posting) images and/or video of any student or staff member without consent
- Cyberbullying (an investigation must be conducted)

For more details on the cell phone policy and procedures, please review the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

## Reporting Bullying/Harassment

The school district is committed to providing an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from offensive conduct, harassment, or bullying for all our students and employees. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated in the School District of Indian River County. All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated in a timely manner.

### Bullying/Harassment Reporting Procedure

- Students and parents can submit a Bullying/Harassment report in **Focus** in both the Parent Portal and Student Portal. Reports can also be submitted confidentially through **drop boxes** located in the health room, school counselor's office, media center, or main office of schools.
- All reports submitted via drop-boxes or verbally, must be entered into Focus within 24 hours of the receipt of the report.
- When a report is submitted in Focus, the school principal will receive an email and a Focus alert.
- An investigation of any reported incident will be conducted by a trained administrator or administrator designee.

### Bullying Investigation Timeline

24 hours

Parents of potential victim(s) and potential offender(s) must be notified within 24 hours of receipt of bullying report.

Days 1 - 10

An investigation must be completed within 10 school days of receipt of bullying

Days 11 - 15

Outcome letters must be sent to the parents of all involved students and the identified victim must also be sent the [Hope Scholarship](#)\* information no later than 15 school days of receipt of bullying report.

\*Learn more about the Hope Scholarship by clicking on the link.

### Prevention & Intervention Supports for Bullying and/or Harassment

The district has adopted a framework of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at all traditional public schools within the district. It is embedded within the existing Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) framework. PBIS incorporates the provision of direct instruction in the development of socially acceptable behaviors and clearly outlines schoolwide expectations. Within each of the school-based PBIS frameworks, schools have incorporated various evidence-based programs and strategies to support positive behavior and address bullying concerns. The district also requires annual training for all staff members in the Bullying Recognition and Response. Students receive training in how to respond to bullying and the reporting procedures annually as well.

For more information about the supports, procedures, guidelines, and definitions for bullying and/or harassment, view the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

## Vaping

Vaping guidelines were developed to address the possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco or nicotine products. Corrective interventions for these behaviors have been designed to support the cessation of vaping.

Additional guidelines are in place for vaping-related behaviors associated with drug possession, use, distribution, or sale of any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance or look-alike substances. This may include types of cannabis, including, but not limited to, marijuana and hemp, and derivatives including, but not limited to, THC and CBD products.

### Corrective Interventions for Vaping Nicotine/Tobacco

Vaping Nicotine/Tobacco behaviors will follow progressive discipline. Elementary students will be assigned the FL Tobacco Prevention Program for the first offense and referred to the School Counselor after the second violation and a second session in the FL Tobacco Prevention Program for the third offense. Students in Grades 6 – 12 will be referred to the Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA) Counselor for the second offense. Parents will be contacted with each violation, with a parent and student conference to be held with an administrator after the second and third offenses. After three violations, the student will be automatically referred to the Suspension Expulsion Review Team (SERT) for consideration of an alternative school-based program.

### Corrective Interventions for Vaping THC/Drugs

The first violation will result in an out-of-school suspension for 4 – 8 days and civil citation or similar prearrest diversion. The second offense and thereafter results in an out-of-school suspension for 10 days, a civil citation or similar prearrest diversion, and a SERT referral for consideration of an alternative school-based program or expulsion.

Florida law (Section 985.12, Florida Statutes) authorizes civil citation and similar prearrest diversion programs for non-serious misdemeanors for youth with no criminal history. This is a pre-arrest diversion program that serves as an alternative to arrest. **If a student or the parent/guardian declines to participate or does not successfully complete the diversion program, law enforcement will determine if arrest is appropriate or allow the student to continue in the program. If arrested, the student will proceed through the normal juvenile court process.**

Florida State Statutes 322.056 requires the suspension of the student's driver license for 6 months if under 18 years of age and found guilty of a drug offense. If a student is not eligible for a driver license (under-age), the department will withhold the issuance of a driver license for a period of 6 months after their eligibility.

Review the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.



## Alternative 2 Out of School Suspension – A2OSS

A2OSS is an alternative to out-of-school suspension at the secondary level (Grades 6 – 12). It is a short-term intervention program that may be utilized as a corrective intervention at Levels 3 or 4. It is designed to reduce the repeat of serious behaviors that adversely impact the educational environment related to behavioral infractions. Students are assigned to the A2OSS program following a serious behavioral violation.

### **A2OSS Resources to Support Student Success**

- SDIRC-employed teacher (with certification in exceptional student education) to provide instruction
- Mental Wellness Specialist (with prior parent permission)
- Morning orientation to introduce/review rules & expectations
- A quiet and focused environment for students to complete class assignments
- Provision of ESE or 504 services according to individual education plans
- An opportunity for reflection and the learning of new strategies for responsible decision-making



# Food & Nutrition Services

## Food Services

Food and Nutrition Services is committed to providing the opportunity for every child to eat a well-balanced and nutritious meal daily. In advocating student achievement, our aspiration is to develop life-long eating habits that promote health and wellness through proper nutrition.

The School District of Indian River County offers a choice of healthy meals each school day. All meals served meet the nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture. All meals which are prepared in our kitchens are either baked or steamed. To reinforce healthy eating, we refrain from frying any food. All foods offered, including ala carte items, meet dietary restrictions and are Smart Snack compliant.

## Meal Cost

The School District of Indian River County offers a choice of healthy meals each school day. All meals served meet the nutrition standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The following is the meal prices set for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade Level	Meal Offered	Cost
Elementary Schools	Breakfast – Full Pay	\$1.50
	Lunch – Full Pay	\$2.50
	Breakfast – Reduced Priced	\$0.30
	Lunch – Reduced Priced	\$0.40
Middle Schools	Breakfast – Full Pay	\$1.50
	Lunch – Full Pay	\$2.75
	Breakfast – Reduced Priced	\$0.30
	Lunch – Reduced Priced	\$0.40
High Schools	Breakfast – Full Pay	\$1.50
	Lunch – Full Pay	\$2.75
	Breakfast – Reduced Priced	\$0.30
	Lunch – Reduced Priced	\$0.40
Adults	Breakfast – Full Pay	\$2.25
	Lunch – Full Pay	\$3.75

## How to Apply for Free or Reduced Priced Meals

Apply online using the website [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) . Meal applications will be available for the upcoming school year July 19, 2023.

If you have any questions about the application, please call 772-564-4980.

## Online Meal Payments

We offer an online Meal Payment Program, a state-of-the-art online service that offers you the convenience and information you need to manage your student's meal account. Parents who choose to make prepayments using Mosaic's Online Payment Center will have a small program fee added to each family transaction based on the amount deposited. The fee is used to cover the credit card and other payment processing fees and is not collected by our district. The system has been overwhelmingly successful thus far, and we encourage all parents to utilize Mosaic's Online Payment Center.

For those who do wish to prepay into their student's meal account, visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) .

For more information, visit [https://www.indianriverschools.org/directory/food\\_nutrition\\_services](https://www.indianriverschools.org/directory/food_nutrition_services)



# Health & Wellness

## Health Services

Visit [SDIRC Health Services](#) or call 772-564-5940 with questions about health services.

### Physical & Immunization Requirements

Any student entering Florida schools for the first time must present a School Entry Health Exam (Florida State Form DH 3040) performed within the last 12 months prior to the first day of school. Immunizations must be turned in to the health room on the required State of Florida's DH 680 form. No other forms are acceptable.

**7th Graders** (Must have a Tdap before entering 7th grade):

1 dose (Tdap) Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Per Florida Statue, 1003.22, "prior to admittance to or attendance in a public/private school, grades K- 12, or any other initial entrance into a Florida public/private school, each child must have on file with the school a certification of immunization." "An authorized school official issues a temporary exemption, for up to 30 school days, to permit a student who transfers into a new county to attend class until his/her records can be obtained. Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness and children who are known to the department, as defined in s. 39.0016, shall be given a temporary exemption for 30 school days."

This Statue also states, "The parents of any child admitted to or in attendance at a Florida public or private schools, grades Pre-K through 12, are responsible for assuring that the child is in compliance with the provisions of this section." Immunizations and physicals are offered by your local pediatrician/healthcare provider, by your local Department of Health or community clinics. For additional immunization information go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html> or [www.immunizeflorida.org](http://www.immunizeflorida.org)

### School Health Services

The School District of Indian River County employs a Health Assistant Licensed practical nurse or a Registered nurse for each school campus who works under the direction of a Registered Nurse. The school nurse works to serve the students' health needs during school hours.

### Services available to your child include:

- First aid for minor injuries/Health Room access for student health needs during school hours
- Assistance with medications during school hours, with parental consent
- Department of Health/nursing referrals
- Individualized School Health Plans
- State mandated health screenings with parental consent:
  - Vision (grades K, 1, 3, 6)
  - Hearing (grades K, 1, 6)
  - BMI (height-weight) grades 1,3,6
  - Scoliosis (grade 6 only)
  - *Optional grades may be screened*

<b>Health Resources (School Physicals and/or Immunizations)</b>		
IRC Health Department	1900 27th Street, Vero Beach	772-794-7425
Treasure Coast Community Health (North)	12196 County Road 512, Fellsmere	772-257-8224
Treasure Coast Community Health	1555 US Hwy 1, Suite 105, Vero Beach	772-257-8224
Treasure Coast Community Health (South)	1545 9 <sup>th</sup> Street SW (on Oslo Rd.), Vero Beach	772-257-8224
Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Mobile Unit	Call for mobile unit schedule ( <i>physicals only</i> )	772-567-5551

#### Emergency Contact Information School Health/Wellness Form

Every student is required to have a School Health/Wellness Form. This form is to be updated annually and is kept in the health room.

This form includes:

- emergency contact information
- important health information
  - Allergies
  - current medical diagnosis and conditions
  - name of their health care provider
- A section to provide parental permission to share personal health information in cases of health and safety emergencies.

Per Florida Statute, 1014.06, parental consent for health care services (except as otherwise provided by law), a health care practitioner, as defined in s.456.001 (any person "licensed" issued a permit, registration, certificate or license, including a provisional license issued by the Florida Department of Health) may not provide or solicit or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent.

#### Students with Medications at School

A student shall be able to carry emergency medication such as: metered dose inhaler, EpiPen, diabetic supplies, pancreatic enzymes, on their person while in school, when they have approval from their parents and physician and proper paperwork on file in the health room. For additional medication requirements, please refer to the Medication Procedures Parent Handbook 2022-23 located in the Health Rooms at each school. The school nurse will gladly review the Handbook with you and assist with answering any questions you may have.

#### Illness

Sick children should not be sent to school. Students should have no vomiting, diarrhea and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before being sent back to school after an illness. If a student becomes sick at school, a call will be made to the parent or guardian to come pick up the student.

## Mental Wellness Services

Your child's education and wellbeing are our main priorities. Student wellness includes, and success depends on, good mental health. Learn more about [SDIRC Mental Health Services](#) and additional resources by visiting the linked webpage, calling 772-564-6199, or consulting with your student's School Counselor.

### Support Provided by SDIRC Staff:

- Care Coordination: referrals to outside agencies, progress monitoring, problem-solving
- Counseling Services: individual, group, family
- Coaching & Consultation: classroom-based, school teams, families
- School Crisis Response: assessment, intervention, follow-up

### Crisis Support is Available 24/7:

- Dial 211 from any phone
- Call New Horizons Mobile Crisis Response at 772-468-3909
- Community/Crisis Care: Text your zip code to 898211
- Text "home" to 741741
- Call or text 988 Crisis Lifeline or chat online at 988lifeline.org
- **911 is always available in any emergency**

### Risk Assessments

SDIRC staff will assess a situation and decide if a student requires additional evaluation. School teams will follow state-mandated procedures regarding suicide and threat assessments, and you will be notified. Schools may utilize support services from partner agencies (e.g., New Horizons Mobile Crisis Response, Mental Health Association) to aid with de-escalation and risk assessments in accordance with state law (SB 7030, HB 945).

We will call you and request you come to the school immediately if we are concerned about your student's safety following a suicide or threat assessment. Remain calm and model healthy coping skills when you arrive. You will be asked to problem-solved with the team working with your students. In rare instances in which the student's safety cannot be maintained, you may be asked to meet your student at the hospital.

In cases in which we believe your student to be a harm to themselves or others, we will refer them for an evaluation at Cleveland Clinic, Indian River, and they may be transported by our School Resource Deputy or a member of law enforcement.

We will always treat every child and family with dignity and provide support throughout the evaluation and follow-up process.

### Mental Wellness Legislative Requirements (Annual Plan):

- Deliver evidence-based, mental wellness assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment and recovery, through a multi-tiered system of supports
- Focus on evidence-based mental wellness services for students with one or more co-occurring mental wellness or substance use diagnoses and students at high risk of such diagnoses
- Include direct employment of school-based mental wellness services providers (e.g., school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, and other licensed mental wellness professionals) to reduce staff-to-student rations and meet student mental wellness assistance needs
- Identify strategies to increase the amount of time student services personnel spend providing direct mental wellness services (e.g., review and revision of staffing allocations based on school or student



mental wellness assistance needs

- Include contracts or interagency agreements with local behavioral health providers or Community Action Team services to provide behavioral health services on or off school campus (plan must specify the type of services that are provided in the agreement)
- State how the plan will establish school board policies and procedures that ensure for all schools, including charter schools, to ensure:
  - Students referred for a mental wellness screening are assessed within 15 days of referral
  - School-based mental wellness services are initiated within 15 days of identification and assessment
  - Community-based mental wellness services for students are initiated within 30 days of referral
- Describe the process for coordinating mental wellness services with a student's primary mental wellness care provider and other mental wellness providers involved in the student's care
- Identify strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal tendencies; or substance use disorders
- Describe the process for coordinating mental wellness services for students at charter schools that are part of the school district's plan
- Identify strategies to:
  - Improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders
  - Improve the provision of early intervention services
  - Assist students dealing with trauma and violence



# Extracurricular

## Extracurricular Activities

### Champions List

The Champions List is an extracurricular guide outlining academic and athletic extracurricular programming available at each school location. The Champions List supports compliance with [F.S. 1014.05 \(e\)](#) Procedures, pursuant to [s. 1006.195\(1\)\(a\)](#), for a parent to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at his or her minor child’s school, including those that are extracurricular or part of the school curriculum.

Elementary Schools		
<a href="#">Beachland Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Indian River Academy</a>	<a href="#">Sebastian Elementary</a>
<a href="#">Citrus Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Liberty Magnet</a>	<a href="#">Treasure Coast Elementary</a>
<a href="#">Dodgertown Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Osceola Magnet</a>	<a href="#">Vero Beach Elementary</a>
<a href="#">Fellsmere Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Pelican Island Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Glendale Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Rosewood Magnet</a>	
Middle Schools	High Schools	Specialized Schools
<a href="#">Gifford Middle</a>	<a href="#">Sebastian River High</a>	<a href="#">Alternative Center for Education</a>
<a href="#">Oslo Middle</a>	<a href="#">Vero Beach High</a>	<a href="#">Wabasso School</a>
<a href="#">Storm Grove Middle</a>		
<a href="#">Sebastian River Middle</a>		

### Extracurricular Scholastic Requirements

To participate in interscholastic, extracurricular student activities, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by statute for high school graduation per s. 1003.43(1), F.S.

A student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required for high school graduation, specified in s. 1003.43(1), F.S., during his or her junior year. The student must maintain satisfactory conduct, and if a student is convicted or is found to have committed a felony or delinquent act, which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon School Board policy.

Any student who is exempt from attending a full school day based on rules adopted by the District School Board for double sessions or programs, experimental schools, or schools operating under emergency conditions, must maintain a 2.0 GPA, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale and pass each class.

A home education student is eligible to participate in the interscholastic extracurricular activities at the public school that he or she would be assigned to attend based on a district's attendance area policies or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school provided the following conditions are met:

The student must meet the requirements of the home education program per s. 1002.41, F.S. During the period of participation, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the parent and the school principal, which may include:

- Review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent.
- Grades earned through correspondence.
- Grades earned in courses taken at a community college, university, or trade school.
- Standardized test scores above the 35th percentile, or any other method in s. 1002.41, F.S.

The student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.

The student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.

The student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for which the activity in which he or she wishes to participate. A home education student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

Any public school or nonpublic school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate as a home education student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in home education, fulfilling the requirements for interscholastic extracurricular eligibility, s. 1006.15(3)(a)2, F.S., to become eligible to participate as a home education student.

#### Extracurricular Activities – Virtual School

Virtual school is a school of choice and therefore certain programs and activities offered at traditional schools may not be available to virtual students. The District has made every attempt possible to create equity between traditional and virtual instructional programs, however, there are activities and events that are impossible to replicate in an individual, online instructional environment.

Students in grades 6-12 may participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities providing they adhere to the requirements, as specified in s. 1006.15, F.S. Students who want to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school where they participate. The residency requirement is based on the District student assignment plan. Therefore, all Indian River Virtual School (IRVS) students who want to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity must go through School Assignment and be assigned a school. IRVS students participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities must meet the requirements of participation as set forth by the Florida High School Athletic Association Policy 26 Section C. All Florida High School Athletic Association requirements must be met, as specified in s. 1006.15, F.S.



DIAN RIVER DISTRICT

# Transportation

## General Information

Safe and efficient transport of students is the goal of the [SDIRC Transportation Department](#).

### Transportation Facts & Requirements

- ✓ Riding the school bus is a privilege.
- ✓ All rules that apply to school grounds and activities also apply to the bus.
  - See the [Parent Handbook for School Bus Transportation](#) for more information about successful student behaviors and corrective interventions, transportation expectations, and other relevant information.
  - Students may lose bus privileges
- ✓ Parents are responsible for the supervision and safety of students at the bus stop until boarding.
  - Arrive at least 5 minutes before scheduled bus arrivals.
  - Parent supervision is **mandatory** at stop locations (AM & PM) for all Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students.
    - These students will not be permitted to exit the bus without guardian supervision; safety concerns will be reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if mandated supervision is not provided.
- ✓ Safety/security measures include video recordings while on board.
- ✓ Bus stops are designated by the physical home address on file only.
- ✓ Students are only permitted to ride their assigned bus.

#### For students who qualify for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Curb to Curb Services

- ✓ Provided using the home address only.
- ✓ Caregiver **must** be at home address at pickup and drop-off.
- ✓ Cancellation of ESE transport is required if your child will be absent.
  - Call 772-978-8812 or 772-987-8840 as early as possible; leave a message with your name, student's name, route #, home address, and the date(s) of cancellation.
- ✓ Call the numbers above if you are running late for the PM drop-off.
- ✓ ESE Curb to Curb students will not be permitted to exit the bus without guardian supervision; safety concerns will be reported to DCF if mandated supervision is not provided.

## Find My Bus Stop

Use the [Find My Bus or School](#) link on the [SDIRC main website](#). Enter your street address. Once your zoned school appears, click it. The bus stop location will appear along with AM/PM times. If no school/bus stop information appears, please call **978-8801** and choose option 2 for Routing. Students attending choice school/magnet school are required to contact the office for designated depot stop location.

## Bus Behavioral Expectations

Safe and efficient transport of students is the goal of the Transportation Department. All rules that apply to school grounds and school activities apply to the school bus. Riding the school bus is a privilege. Misconduct while riding a school bus represents a serious threat to the safety of all occupants of the bus as well as other motorists, pedestrians, and members of the community; therefore, students must follow bus safety and courtesy rules. Safety and security measures on the school bus include video/audio recordings of all passengers including driver/attendant. Parents are responsible for the supervision and safety of students until boarding and after departing the bus.

## Contact Information

Main Number – (772) 978-8801



# Getting Involved

## Importance of Parent Involvement

Parent engagement is considered the best predictor of student success. Parents play a vital role in all stages of children learning; their engagement in their child's education improves achievement. Parents and families provide their children with the foundation of their values, including educational responsibilities, home/school expectations and aspirations. Parents are the primary providers in preparing their children for school readiness and academic success. Parents' knowledge of their children's unique histories, traditions, life experiences, and learning experiences are important to their success. Parents also share knowledge about community resources and challenges, both of which are valuable and critical to their child's progress.

## Parent Teacher Association – PTA

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is the largest volunteer organization working exclusively to improve education, health, safety and well-being of all children and youth. The National PTA organization was founded in 1897 and has been an advocate for all children.

By joining PTA, your individual efforts are strengthened by 6.5 million parents, teachers and community members who share in your commitment to making a better life for all children.

## School Advisory Council – SAC

School Advisory Council, or SAC, is the name given to each school advisory council in the School District of Indian River County. Florida's 1991 System for School Improvement and Accountability legislation mandated that every school have a school advisory council.

Elected members of a school advisory council include teachers, educational support personnel, and parents. In high schools, students are also elected members. Business partners and community representatives are invited to be members by the principal.

## Superintendent's Exceptional Student Education Parent Advisory Council

The Exceptional Student Education Parent Advisory Council (ESE PAC) is an organization facilitated by Exceptional Student Education staff in collaboration with parents, to give children with special needs in our community a voice. The mission of the ESE PAC is to cultivate the partnership between the school district and families of students with special needs through communication, advocacy, education, and collaboration to maximize individual student potential. The ESE PAC meets quarterly, with the superintendent attending two meetings per year, with the goal of evaluating, planning, and developing exceptional student education services and programs.





# Appendix

## Library Media

The primary objective of the library media center is to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The library media center shall provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and with the representation of different points of view.

"Library Media Center" means any collection of books, eBooks, periodicals, and videos maintained and accessible to students on the site of the school, including classrooms. An employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate will select books made available to students through the school library and recommended or assigned grade-level reading lists. The selection of library/media center collections will be based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty. Accordingly, elementary classroom libraries are a type of school library; materials in all school libraries must be selected by a certified media specialist under [Section 1006.28\(2\)\(d\)\(1\), F.S.](#)

In accordance with [Section 1006.28\(2\)\(4\)\(d\), F.S.](#), the School District of Indian River County establish[ed] and maintain[s] a program of school library media services for all public schools in the district, including school library media centers, or school library media centers open to the public, and, in addition such traveling or circulating libraries as may be needed for the proper operation of the district school system.

By completing the Library Book Access Student Permission Form, parents and legal guardians select the level of access to their child's school library/media center. The form is located in the [FOCUS Parent Portal](#).

### Searchable School Library Catalog

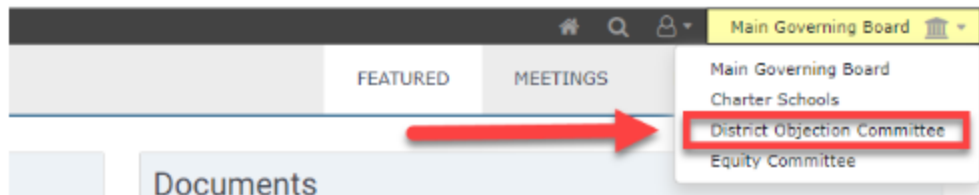
The library collection of each school in the School District of Indian River County can be searched using our online catalog. To conduct a search, simply click [Search the School Library Catalog](#). Additionally, all school websites have a "Library Media and Instructional Materials" quick link located in the "I Want To" menu on the home page. For further assistance with library materials or navigating Insignia Library Software, please contact your school's Library Media Specialist.

### Objections to Library Media Center, Reading Lists, and District-Approved Instructional Materials

In accordance with [po2522 - Objections to Adoption or Use of Instructional, Library Media, or Reading List Materials](#), parents/legal guardians and residents of the county may object to the use of a specific instructional material in the classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list, based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2. or F.S. 1014.05(1)(c).

A parent/legal guardian or resident of the county who has an objection to the use of a library/media center, reading list, and district-approved instructional material should request, preferably in writing, a conference with the Principal or Principal's designee to discuss the use of the material. The petitioner should include the name or title of the objected material, the author, page number, and the specific reason for the objection. In the event the issue is unable to be resolved at the school level, the Principal or designee shall provide an explanation of the reconsideration process and will direct the parent/ legal guardian to complete the [SDIRC Library/Media Center Reconsideration Form](#).

The School Board has established a District Objection to Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, and Reading List Materials Committee ("District Objection Committee"). As a District Committee, functioning under the Sunshine Law, every meeting will be noticed and open to the public. An audio recording of each meeting will be made available on the school district's publicly, accessible [BoardDocs](#) website for transparency along with the minutes.



## Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is a federal law, enacted in 1972, which states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

On May 6, 2020, the United States Department of Education released its final rule under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The final rule requires school districts to follow a specific Title IX Grievance Process while investigating allegations of sexual misconduct. The Office of Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education considers sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual assault and intimate partner violence) to be a form of sexual discrimination and requires the school districts to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual misconduct.

For more information or to access the Formal Complaint Form, please visit our website at:

[https://www.indianriverschools.org/SDIRC\\_Notices\\_of\\_Nondiscrimination/Title IX Information](https://www.indianriverschools.org/SDIRC_Notices_of_Nondiscrimination/Title_IX_Information)

## FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. A written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect should be submitted to the school principal. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify parents or the eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Schools are not required to provide copies, unless the records are impossible to review. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- The right to request that a school correct records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record they believe is inaccurate by writing the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student will be notified by the school advising them of their right to a hearing regarding the request.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records. FERPA allows schools to disclose without consent to the following parties: School officials with legitimate educational interests (a person employed by the district; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school district has contracted to perform a special task; or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) can review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district will forward records to another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the above FERPA requirements. The office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that The School District of Indian River County, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. The district may, but does not have to, include all the information listed.

## Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires the School District of Indian River County to notify parents and obtain consent or allow the parents to opt their child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes (marketing surveys), and certain physical exams and screenings. You will be notified, if your child will be asked to participate; and at that time, you will be provided with information about the survey.

## Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting

Every Student Success Act provisions allow access to school directory information and parents and students 18 and older can be removed from the list if they do not want to be contacted. Either the high school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without the prior parental consent as well. Opt-In/Out through the Parent Acknowledgement Forms in Focus.

## Student Grievances

This grievance procedure is not to be used to challenge student discipline of any type, including a suspension or expulsion.

The SDIRC School Board will not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes"). Learn more about SDIRC policy and associated grievance procedures in [Board Policy 2260](#).

**A grievance is a complaint alleging a violation of Title IX, Section 504, and other federal and state civil rights laws, rules, and regulations.**

### **Compliance Officers for Student Grievances:**

- Director of Student Services (772-564-5932)
  - Title IX
- Director of Exceptional Student Education (772-564-5944)
  - Americans with Disability Act
  - Section 504

### **Complaints Relating to Employees**

School Board Policy 9130 describes the process that should be followed when filing a formal complaint against an employee. The written complaint must be signed by the person making the complaint and submitted to the superintendent/designee. The complaint must state the basis of the charge against the employee and identify why he or she believes that the employee has acted in a manner that is in violation of any law, policy or otherwise is wrongful conduct by an employee. If you any questions regarding complaints relating to employees, you may contact the compliance officer below.

### **Compliance Officer for Employees:**

Director of Human Resources – 772-564-3000

The Compliance Officers will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to legally prohibited harassment. Compliance Officers are assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or to receive complaints which are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, the Compliance Officer or designee will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the School District community alleging harassment). In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare, after consultation with the School Board Attorney, recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of unlawful harassment which are reported to them to a Compliance Officer within five (5) calendar days of learning of the incident. Learn more about related SDIRC Policies and Procedures.

### **Student Accident Insurance and Florida KidCare**

It is important for you to know that the school district's insurance does not cover your child for accidents that occur at school or during school sponsored activities.

All accident and medical claims are the responsibility of the parents or guardians. For less than the cost of a single physician's visit, you can purchase accident insurance for your child. Forms are available at your child's school.

Through Florida KidCare, the State of Florida offers health insurance for children from birth through age 18, even if one or both parents are working. It includes four different programs. When you apply for the insurance,

Florida KidCare will check as to which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income. Application can be made online at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) or call 1-888-540-5437.

If you do have other insurance, the student accident plan offered through the schools can help fill "gaps" caused by deductibles and co-pays. Contact your child's school or the student insurance office, 772-564-3129 or 772-564-3175. Coverage can be purchased at any time throughout the year.