



2025 - 2026

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

Procedures contained in this handbook may be subject to change without prior notice. Western Area CTC will adhere to safety mandates as issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education.

Phone (724)746-2890 | Fax (724)746-6966

Website: www.wactc.net

A Choice. A Career. A Future.

Equal Opportunity Education

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	Foreword	11	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
2	Mission Statement	12	Internet and Computer Network Safety & Use
2	Vision	12	Job Placement
2	Non-Discrimination Policy	13	Leaving Class
2	Accreditation	13	Lost and Found
2	Disclaimer	13	McKinney-Vento Homeless
3	Accident – Injury Reports	14	Notification Rights (FERPA)
3	Admissions Policy	14	Nuisance Devices
3	Annual Security Report	15	Office Business
3	Articulation Partners	15	Parent-Teacher Conferences
3	Assemblies and Invited Guests	15	Permanent Records
3	Attendance and Absences	15	Personal Appearance
5	Beverages From Outside	16	Photo Press Policy
5	Books and Equipment	16	Report Cards
6	Buildings and Grounds	16	Safety
6	Bullying	17	Searches
6	Cancellations and Delays	17	Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products
6	Certification Test / NOCTI	18	Student Activities
6	Change of Address	19	Student Grievance Procedure
6	Completion of School	19	Student Responsibilities
7	Concentrator Status Definition	19	Student Services
7	Cooperative Education	20	Suspensions
7	Discipline Policy	21	Telephone Calls
7	Driving a Private Vehicle	21	Tools
8	Early Dismissals	22	Transportation
9	Every Student Succeeds Act	22	Tuition Costs
9	Field Trips	22	Unsatisfactory Progress
9	Fire Drill Instructions	22	Veterans Information
10	Follow-Up Surveys	23	Visitors
10	Grading Procedure	23	Website
10	Health Services	23	Withdrawal
10	Honor Roll	23	Work Orders for Projects
11	How to Apply	24	Work-Related Grade Rubric
11	Home Projects – Student Charges	26	School Calendar
11	Insurance		

FOREWORD

According to our Constitution, the recognition of rights and the assurance of equal opportunities are intended for every citizen. We have laws in our society designed to protect our rights. In order for the law to effectively work, everyone must know the law, and everyone must respect and obey the law. When the rules or laws of society break down, the rights of the individual are in jeopardy. Rights and responsibilities are inseparable.

As a student at Western Area Career & Technology Center, you, too, have rights and responsibilities. The purpose of this handbook is to make clearer those rules and regulations established to protect the rights of all students that lead to the best possible education.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Western Area Career & Technology Center is to provide the successful acquisition and expansion of technical skills for a positive, quality education in a safe and secure environment leading to post-secondary education and/or sustainable employment for our students.

VISION

The vision of Western Area Career & Technology Center is to focus on education, training and career development for tomorrow's workforce needs.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Western Area Career & Technology Center shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical handicap, disability or limited English proficiency in its educational programs, activities or employment policies, and shall provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth programs, as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Boy Scouts Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Center shall not use or distribute any publication stating that the Center treats applicants, students, or employees differently on the basis of sex except as such treatment is permitted by Title IX or the applicable regulations.

The requirement not to discriminate in the Education Program or Activity extends to admission and employment, and that inquiries about the application of Title IX and the Regulations to the Center may be referred to the Center's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary, or both.

Title IX Coordinator

Name/Title: Michael Milanovich, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator

Office Address: Western Area CTC, 688 Western Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Email Address: mmilanovich@wactc.net

Telephone Number: 724-746-2890

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed above for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator above.

ACCREDITATION

Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools

Disclaimer

The statements contained herein are for the safety, welfare and best interests of our students and are not contractual obligations. Verbal or other representations that are inconsistent with or not contained within these pages are not binding. Western Area Career & Technology Center reserves the right to change, without specific notice, offerings, policies, fees and other matters.

ACCIDENT-INJURY REPORTS

Any accident or injury, no matter how minor, must be reported to the Instructor. The Instructor must, with the assistance of the student, complete an Accident-Injury Form stating the nature of the injury and conditions which caused the injury. No personal first-aid treatment may be performed by Instructors or students.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Any adult or student in grades ten (10) through twelve (12) in the attendance area of Western Area Career & Technology Center may be considered for enrollment in Western Area Career & Technology Center. No student, otherwise eligible, shall be excluded on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or handicapping condition; nor will such a student be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the programs or student organizations of Western Area Career & Technology Center.

The attendance areas of Western Area Career & Technology Center include the following school districts: Avella Area, Burgettstown Area, Canon-McMillan, Chartiers-Houston, Fort Cherry, McGuffey, Peters Township, Trinity Area and Washington.

ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

The Annual Security Report may be found on the school website, www.wactc.net.

ARTICULATION PARTNERS

Western Area Career & Technology Center provides formal articulation agreements providing advanced placement options with the following post-secondary institutions:

- California University of PA
- Center for Emergency Medicine
- Community College of Allegheny County
- Community College of Beaver County
- Community College of Westmoreland County
- Culinary Institute of America
- Douglas Education Center
- La Roche University
- Laurel Business Institute
- Ohio Technical College
- **Statewide Articulation**
- Penn Commercial Inc.
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Pittsburgh Technical College
- Rosedale Technical College
- Sullivan University
- Triangle Tech
- Universal Technical Institute
- University of Northwestern Ohio
- Waynesburg University

Western Area Career & Technology Center is involved in the statewide articulation agreement program called SOAR. This program offers qualifying students advanced credit(s) with partnering post-secondary institutions in aligned CTE programs. Students may earn 9 to 25 credits. Students must pass all industry certifications with advanced standing and meet the required QPA both at WACTC and their home school. To view current advanced credit opportunities, please visit collegetransfer.net.

ASSEMBLIES AND INVITED GUESTS

Assemblies are scheduled for various purposes. All assemblies and invited guests are to be scheduled through the Executive Director or his/her designee. Students are expected to be courteous to guest speakers by being attentive and quiet.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

1. Student attendance and tardy patterns are very important parts of a student's permanent record. Potential employers carefully review high school records, and students with records of excessive absence and tardiness are usually considered undependable and poor prospects for employment.

2. School attendance is the responsibility of the student and their parents. When a student is absent from school, it is the duty of the parents or guardians to PROMPTLY furnish a written excuse of the student's absence. Whenever possible, parents should call the attendance office at (724) 746-2890, Ext 112, to report that their child will not be in school that day. In order for an absence to be excused, a doctor's note is requested.
3. A legal absence may be for non-attendance due to illness, death in the family, medical treatment or the like. In cases of chronic irregular absences school authorities will request a physician's statement showing such absences to be justifiable (State Regulation #13-411). These must be presented to the Attendance Office within 3 days of the student's return to school. Students who accumulate 10 or more total absences will need to provide a doctor's excuse for all absences.
4. Any student who has twenty (20) or more cumulative unexcused/illegal absences for the school year will receive no credit for any course.
5. For students to receive credit for a course, they must meet both academic and attendance requirements established and approved by the Joint Operating Committee. Student attendance and participation in a class is crucial to the learning process. Therefore, if a student has 5 or more unexcused absences in any class during a 9-week grading period, they will fail that particular class. Therefore, a student will earn a grade of 59% or lower in each class that the student does not meet the attendance requirements. If the student would have earned higher than a 59%, that grade would be lowered to 59%. If a student earned lower than a 59%, the lower grade will be assigned. If a student fails a semester course or a full-year course due to lack of attendance, they will receive an "NCA" (no credit awarded) for that class.

Student Responsibilities (Attendance)

1. Students are responsible for monitoring their rate of attendance and keeping track of their number of absences from each course.
2. Students must carefully review the reasons for excused absences listed in this policy.
3. Students are responsible for bringing all documentation for excused absences to the **attendance office within 3 days upon returning to school. State law mandates that all absences will be considered unexcused unless proper documentation is provided within 3 days.**
4. **Students must arrive to each class promptly. STUDENTS: BE ON TIME! (Please see the section on Student Discipline Code for further disciplinary actions regarding tardiness.)**
5. Students (including those 18 years and older) may **NOT** at any time sign themselves out of school without parental and administrative permission.

Attendance Procedures

1. The tardy bell rings at 9:15 AM and 12:15 PM. Any student not present in class at that time is either **tardy or absent**.
2. Any student arriving after 9:15 AM and 12:15 PM must sign in at the attendance office for their tardy consequence. Failure to do so may result in suspension and/or other appropriate disciplinary action.
3. No student is to leave the building at any time without authorization from building administration.
4. Any student arriving late or leaving early, who does not sign in or out, respectively, will be disciplined appropriately.
5. The attendance office or main office personnel will attempt to call the student's parents if the absence is questionable or even call the doctor's office to verify medical excuses if necessary. This does not make an absence excused.
6. Please see the below Tardy Consequences Chart. These consequences restart **Each Nine Weeks**.

Tardy Consequences Chart

Number of Tardies	Consequence	Further Description/Times
1-4	Warning	
5-8	Parking Permit Suspension	Administrative Determination
9-10	Parking Permit Revoked	Administrative Determination
10+ or More	Suspension	1-3 Days OSS and Parent/Student Meeting

Reasons for Absence

Legal reasons for absence include illness, a death in the family, medical treatment or the like. If a student is to be dismissed from school, a note should be brought to the attendance office the morning of the appointment. All other reasons for absence will be considered unexcused and illegal.

If the student is illegally absent for 3 days, the school is required by law to serve notice on the parents or guardian. Subsequent illegal absences may result in a find from the Magistrate's office.

Students are encouraged to return back to school after appointments. If they do so, the student will not be marked absent. Upon return, students must turn in a Doctor's excuse, Dentist excuse, DMV verification (we will copy your permit and/or license), etc., in order for the tardy or absence to be excused.

Excused Absences

Death in the immediate family	OSS (Out-of-School Suspension)
Expulsion	Pre-approved vacation (Maximum 5 days per year)
Illness (with doctor's excuse)	Homebound schooling
Medical appointment (with doctor's excuse)	Court appearance
Parental request within district guidelines	Approved school events
Quarantine (with doctor's excuse)	Approved college visits
Religious observance	School Nurse excused

Unexcused Absence

Non-approved sporting events	Absences for personal reasons
Babysitting	Leaving school without permission
Fishing or hunting	Truancy
Gainful employment	Days identified as skip days
Hair appointment	Missing the school bus
Having a vehicle repaired or inspected	Non-related school activities (Scouts, clubs, athletics, and other outside groups)
Shopping	Others as determined by the administration
Non-approved trips	

*This list is not all-inclusive and does not preclude the classification of other absences as illegal or unexcused.

Students have the right to make up schoolwork missed as a result of an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to ask to make up missed assignments; however, the instructor must share in this responsibility. Missed assignments must be submitted within one week of the student's return to school. Assignments submitted beyond the one-week grace period or not at all will receive a zero (0), unless other arrangements have been made.

Daily shop grades missed may be made up through alternate assignments.

BEVERAGES FROM OUTSIDE

At no time shall a student bring an opened beverage into the school. Students who arrive to school with an opened beverage will be asked to discard it. Energy drinks are not permitted in the school.

Refillable water bottles will be provided to students. There are two water filling stations within the school.

BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

Textbooks, reference books, tools and equipment are the property of Western Area Career & Technology Center, unless purchased by the student as part of the shop requirements. Students are expected to take care of such items and any other school equipment they use. If a student loses or unreasonably damages any of these items, the student will be asked to pay for the loss or damage. Proper care and maintenance

of reference materials, tools and equipment and the building are important to each individual student and employee. A letter stating any student obligation which is not met will be sent to the home school and kept on file until the obligation is met. Certificates, official transcripts and job recommendations may be withheld until obligations are met. Any student not returning reference books, tools or equipment to WACTC will be referred to the District Magistrate.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Pride in your surroundings is important to everyone. Waste paper and trash containers are provided in each room. These containers are to be used by everyone. Do your part to keep WACTC a clean and cheerful place. Develop the habit of using the proper containers so that each student can be safe while attending school and while working at home and on the job.

BULLYING

Western Area Career & Technology Center is committed to providing all students and employees with a safe and civil educational environment, free from threat, harassment or bullying and strictly adheres to the Bullying Policy found on the school's website at www.wactc.net.

CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Students will be notified of school cancellations and delays through an electronic phone messenger. The messenger will send notifications to the phone number recorded in the student's profile in the school's Student Information System (CSIU). Announcements will also be shared with the nine sending districts. In the event a 2-hour delay is issued by the student's home school, the start time for the Morning Session at Western Area will remain the same – 8:50 AM.

CERTIFICATION TEST / NOCTI

All completers will be given a written and practical industry certification test — the NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) or the NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills). Students must take the required test to receive certification.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A student's parents and/or guardians will be contacted in case of illness or emergency; therefore accurate, up-to-date contact information is essential.

A student's change of address or telephone number should be reported to the Guidance and Administrative Offices. Change of Address forms are available in the Main Office.

COMPLETION OF SCHOOL

Graduating students receive diplomas from the home school they attend. Certificates of Completion are issued by Western Area Career & Technology Center to students who have successfully completed a program.

Students are completers when they:

- successfully complete a technical program and obtain an "Advanced" or "Proficient" score on an approved certification exam. Certificates for these students will bear the appropriate designation.
- obtain a 71% average grade for completing competencies and complete the requirements of a WACTC alternative assessment.

All other students will receive a certificate designating their hours of training and the competencies they have successfully completed.

CONCENTRATOR STATUS DEFINITION

- **Advanced Proficiency Status**

Successful completion of all technical program competencies as required for the Advanced proficiency status, obtain an "Advanced" score on an approved certification examination for the program, and accumulate a **minimum of 960 hours of training**.

- **Completer Proficiency Status**

Successful completion of all technical program competencies as required for the Completer proficiency status, obtain a "Proficient" score on an approved certification examination for the program and accumulate a **minimum of 860 hours of training**.

- **Basic Proficiency Status**

Successful completion of all technical program competencies as required for the Basic proficiency status, obtain a "Basic" score on an approved certification examination for the program and accumulate a **minimum of 750 hours of training**.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Western Area Career & Technology Center has provided for a method of instruction through the Cooperative Education Program. Cooperative Education is an opportunity for students to actually work in industry in their chosen field of study while they are completing their educational requirements. This form of education will be coordinated by the Cooperative Education Coordinator, Instructor and Administration. Students participating in the Cooperative Education Program must comply with the established rules and guidelines of the Cooperative Education Program. A student must have passing grades in **ALL** subjects in order to participate.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

A student discipline code serves two purposes. First, it deters a particular behavior on the part of students that is not permitted at the school. And second, it creates a conducive learning environment for all students in attendance.

All professional and nonprofessional employees have the authority to correct a student at any time if the action of the student will in any way have a detrimental effect on the operation of the school, other students or staff members.

All staff members have the responsibility for supervising students in the building and on school grounds. Should a serious problem arise, it should be referred directly to the school's Main Office.

DRIVING A PRIVATE VEHICLE

Transportation is provided by the home schools. Therefore, students driving to Western Area Career & Technology Center for work, extracurricular activities at their home school or for personal family reasons will be restricted to those students who have obtained permission from the Western Area Career & Technology Center Principal. **This permission must be obtained at least one (1) day prior to driving to the school. All student vehicles must park in the student parking lot only. Parking Pass must be purchased from the Main Office. An annual fee of \$50 is due at time of registration.**

Students operating motor vehicles on school grounds must obey all driving laws and school regulations.

1. Students who wish to drive to WACTC must first obtain permission from their home school, then apply for a parking permit from WACTC. A parking permit application is to be completed by the student with provisions for signatures of the student, one parent/guardian, the home school Principal and the WACTC Executive Director or designee. This application will be for full-time parking privileges at WACTC (\$50).
2. Copies of liability insurance, a valid driver's license and vehicle registration must be presented along with the completed application.

3. Written evidence of the need to drive must be provided such as Cooperative Education participation, a sports schedule, or a pay stub from an after-school job.
4. Driving privileges can be rescinded at any time by the home school or WACTC (a telephone call to either school can void this privilege).
5. WACTC will monitor all vehicles parked on school grounds. Students parking on campus are prohibited from displaying any flag, banner, sticker or other article on their vehicle that is likely to cause disruption or may be perceived as intimidating or offensive to others, such as swastikas, Confederate battle flags, etc.
6. Parking permits will be reviewed periodically and will be reapproved or rejected. Reasonable cause for parking permit cancellations will include days tardy, days absent, improper use of the vehicle and violation of parking regulations.
7. The speed limit on school grounds is 5 MPH. Students who speed will lose parking privileges.
8. Student cars shall not arrive more than 15 minutes before scheduled class time and shall be parked in assigned areas. All occupants must then proceed to the WACTC building **immediately**.
9. Smoking in cars on school grounds is prohibited.
10. Cars are not permitted to be used during lunch time or at any other time during the school day.
11. When parking permit tags are issued, they must be displayed at all times on the rear view mirror.
12. No passengers will be permitted except members of the driver's immediate family (brother and/or sister) unless granted permission in advance by the Administration.
13. Temporary parking will be handled through shop Work Orders or special permits issued by the Principal.
14. Vehicles being worked on shall not be used as a means of transportation to and from WACTC.
15. Any student who has his/her driving privileges revoked but continues to drive a vehicle and park on school property may have his/her vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

16. Drivers and passengers must sign in daily in the Main Office.

Any student, who may have occasion to bring a motor vehicle to any of the school shops for the purpose of work or repair, must obtain a Work Order before it may be removed from the student parking lot to the shop area. The vehicle must be returned to the student parking lot upon completion of the work. No student may be excused from class to supervise or watch repairs being made to his or her vehicle. The school is not responsible for vehicles or any item(s) left in them. **The student parking lot is the only area where a student is permitted to park.** Upon arriving on school grounds, drivers must proceed directly to the parking lot. Loitering in cars or in the parking lot is not permitted. Cars must not be used or moved while school is in session. A copy of the vehicle's insurance and owner's card must be attached to the office copy of the Work Order. **THE VEHICLE BEING WORKED ON MUST REMAIN AT SCHOOL UNTIL THE WORK IS COMPLETED.**

EARLY DISMISSALS

If an early dismissal is requested, the student must present a note from his or her parent or guardian stating the reason for the request and a contact telephone number for verification. No student will be dismissed as a result of an unverified telephone call. Students may only be dismissed at the request of an individual who has provided documentation as to being the parent or guardian of the student. No student will be permitted to leave the premises unless accompanied by an individual who has provided such documentation or whose name has been listed by the parent or guardian on the student's Emergency Contact Form.

The AM-Session students must bring the note to the Main Office upon arrival at school in the morning so that the early dismissal may be put into effect. PM-Session students should receive approval from the home school and present proof from their home school to the WACTC office. Permission to drive due to an early dismissal **MUST** be obtained at least one (1) day in advance.

Persons picking up students must sign the student out in the Main Office, and the student will be called from their shop/classroom. **Only those individuals or designees listed on the Student Information and Emergency Contact Form will be permitted to pick up students. Parents or guardians must inform WACTC of any designee changes in writing.**

Early dismissal from Western Area Career & Technology Center to participate in home school extra-curricular activities will be permitted when appropriate. The student is to make this request to their home school Principal. The Principal will then notify Western Area Career & Technology Center of that student's early dismissal.

Early dismissals are a privilege, and the Administration anticipates that students will treat them in this manner. It is the intent of Western Area Career & Technology Center not to inhibit a student's extra-curricular activities at their home school. Consideration of an early dismissal will be based upon its merit and the student's total achievement.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C.#7908), Western Area Career & Technology Center must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students.

The school must notify parents/guardians of their right and the right of their child to request that the school not release such information without prior written consent. Parents/Guardians wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent of the release of the above information to military recruiters or to institutions of higher learning must sign the appropriate form and return it to the Executive Director of Career & Technical Education prior to September 15 of the current school year.

FIELD TRIPS

Occasionally a field trip is scheduled (such as trips to observe industrial plants, equipment shows or to visit other schools). Students will be required to obtain the signature of a parent or guardian on a field trip permission form supplied by the school. WACTC will provide transportation for all field trips. Students are required to ride school-approved transportation.

When on a field trip, all school regulations will be the same as when on school property.

Good grooming, personal appearance, attitude and the conduct of students and school personnel should reflect self-respecting and responsible citizens. Instructors and students are to wear a WACTC shirt, shop uniform or professional attire on field trips. Strive to leave a favorable impression of yourself and your school. Remember, you are a guest of the organization while on a field trip; they do not have to receive us or invite us to return. At some time in the future you may be a potential job applicant at the place visited, and your host may be a potential employer.

FIRE DRILL INSTRUCTIONS

Evacuating the Building

Directions are posted in each room explaining the procedures to be followed during fire drills and other emergencies when everyone must leave the building. Learn the correct procedures, including alternate routes, for leaving the building from each area in which you have class, shop or laboratory practice.

When the fire bell rings, stop all moving equipment, close windows and doors and leave the room quickly and quietly. Leave books and other reference materials in the room. The exit door is to be held open by the first student in line. Close the door after the class has cleared the building. Remain in the assigned outdoor area until the Instructor takes roll and permission is given to reenter the building.

No preplanning can be inclusive enough to allow for all the situations that may occur in an emergency. Students are urged, therefore, to appreciate the need for absolute quiet during evacuation of the building so that information and directions may be given as is necessary.

Instructors should do the following:

- Instruct each class on the procedure for leaving the building.
- When leaving the room, close windows and doors and turn off power.
- Instruct each class to form as a group upon arriving at the waiting area.
- When each class has left the building and formed as a group, CHECK THE ROLL and display proper emergency information card to emergency personnel.
- Stay in the waiting area until notified what to do. Under no circumstances is anyone to return to the building until instructions to do so have been given.

All personnel must leave the building during a building evacuation, including office staff.

Evacuation Exits

Cosmetology, Rehab Aide/Sports Medicine	Main Exit, East Side
Guidance	Hall Exit, South Side
Health Occupations	Main Exit, South Side
Networking	Main Exit, South Side
All Other Shops	Nearest Outside Exit

FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

Each Instructor, along with other faculty and staff members, is interested in each student's achievements after leaving WACTC. To obtain this information, we will contact you generally by mail, e-mail or phone and ask that you complete a short questionnaire. The information provided is used to evaluate and make changes in the courses at Western Area Career & Technology Center. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will also do periodic surveys. Your responses to these surveys are important to decisions affecting Western Area Career & Technology Center programs.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Instructors are to provide a 9-week grade for each enrolled student. Each Instructor designates the importance of weighting each factor evaluated and averaged in determining the 9-week grades. Examples include daily grades, test scores, projects or shop grades. Progress Reports will be provided to parents and/or guardians whenever necessary.

All grades will be computed by percentages. Since each semester includes two 9-week grading periods, the first semester grade will be calculated by adding the percentages of the first and second 9 weeks and dividing by two. The same procedure will be followed for the third and fourth 9 weeks to calculate second semester grades. A cumulative average of the four 9-week grading periods averaging 59 or below will result in a failing mark for the year. Plus or minus grades are not used.

HEALTH SERVICES

The school will provide emergency health advisory service only. A registered nurse is on duty at all times. All students are to report to the Instructor in charge concerning any injury received while attending Western Area Career & Technology Center. More serious cases will be attended by either the family physician or the hospital.

All students are to complete the Student Information and Emergency Contacts form located on the back cover to assist the office in handling an emergency if the need arises. **Students may not participate in hands-on activities without a signed parental emergency card.**

HONOR ROLL

Above average performance in the classroom, shop and laboratory deserves recognition. Students are concerned with personal recognition and their image among their peers (fellow students), school staff and the community. Therefore, students earning a "B" or higher grade in all courses taken at Western Area Career & Technology Center will be accorded Honor Roll recognition by WACTC. Students may also be nominated by their vocational Instructors for induction into the National Technical Honor Society. This nomination is based on grades, attendance and professionalism.

HOW TO APPLY

High school student application for admission to Western Area Career & Technology Center is made through the Guidance Office in the member school districts. An online application must be completed, and parental consent and permission from the member school district's Administration is necessary to enroll in any course. Parents/Guardians and students may also access the application on the WACTC website.

A student presently attending parochial school and residing in one of the nine member school districts may apply for admission to Western Area Career & Technology Center. This online application is to be submitted through the member high school serving the student's place of residence with the student becoming a part of the total student quota for that member school district.

Adult application for admission is made through the Adult Education Office at Western Area Career & Technology Center.

HOME PROJECTS – STUDENT CHARGES

All home projects and useful articles must be paid for by the student, and any project that becomes a useful home article rather than a practice exercise must also be paid for by the student. Each charge will be based on the cost of the materials. In the case of parts and materials for automotive repair jobs, the student is responsible for supplying the necessary parts and materials. **A minimum service charge of \$7.00, plus tax, will be applied to all service work.**

In an educational program where a required job or sequence of required jobs are assigned, the student will not be held responsible for the cost of materials consumed. All materials used will be listed on the Work Order. Items purchased by students will be marked "Purchased by Student".

INSURANCE

ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING WESTERN AREA CAREER & TECH-NOLOGY CENTER ARE URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INSURANCE PROGRAM OFFERED BY THEIR MEMBER HIGH SCHOOL.

The cost of this insurance is minimal. Individual physical and financial loss can occur through accidents. The Administration strongly urges every student to participate in their member school district's insurance program.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Western Area Career & Technology Center uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. This is accomplished through routine cleaning and maintenance. WACTC routinely monitors the school buildings and grounds to detect any pests that may be present. The pest monitoring team consists of the buildings' maintenance, office and teaching staff and includes students. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM coordinator who evaluates the "pest problem" and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to address the problem. Techniques can include increased sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing the pest, etc.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary and will not be routinely applied. When chemicals are used, the school will try to use the least toxic products when possible. Applications will be made only when unauthorized persons do not have access to areas(s) being treated. Notices will be posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for two days following the application.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in WACTC may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, parents/guardians must be placed on the school's Notification Registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the school in writing. Please include an e-mail address if you would like to be notified electronically.

If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided by telephone to any parent or guardian who has requested such notification in writing. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products; gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices or voids. Each year the school will prepare a new Notifications Registry. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director at (724)746-2890, Ext. 114.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER NETWORK SAFETY & USE POLICY

Western Area Career & Technology Center recognizes that the ability to use the information and communication resources provided by the Internet and other computer networks is an essential skill for students in preparation for higher education and the workplace. Technology provides access to computers and people worldwide including some materials not appropriate for an educational setting. Computer and network use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and will be removed if abused.

As part of a number of Federal and State laws, specifically the *Children's Internet Protection Act*, the Center is required to establish guidelines and policies related to Internet use, Internet technology protection measures and Internet filtering/blocking procedures. Although the Center cannot guarantee all inappropriate material will be excluded from view, the goal of these policies and guidelines is to provide protection for students and educators regarding Internet use.

Individual student access will be offered to high school and adult students only after completion and submission of the Internet and Computer Network Safety and Use Agreement and parents have been provided the guidelines for Internet use. Use of WACTC's network must be in support of education and research, ethical and lawful. Non-school related activities are not authorized.

The network will not be used for illegal activity, for-profit purposes, lobbying, advertising, transmitting offensive materials, hate mail, discriminatory remarks; or to obtain obscene or pornographic material. Students may not disclose or disseminate personal identification information about themselves or others when using the Internet (World Wide Web) or other forms of direct electronic communications. Students may not participate in chat rooms.

No use of the network will serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware or software will not be destroyed, modified or abused in any way. WACTC does not permit personal disks or games to be installed or played on any of the computers or the network. Users will not introduce, remove or copy any application or operating system program on any of the Center's systems. Inappropriate, unauthorized or illegal use (including hacking or attempted hacking) may result in the termination of the offender's privileges and disciplinary actions.

Blocking software will be used on the Internet to protect minor students from obscene material, child pornography, other visual depictions deemed harmful to minors (as defined by the *Children's Internet Protection Act*) and other categories deemed necessary by the Administration. Other Internet users will also have these categories blocked. The Executive Director may disable the technology protection measure if needed for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Failure to adhere to this policy can result in the suspension of Internet and network privileges, prosecution under State and Federal laws and disciplinary action as defined in the Pennsylvania School Code and the Center's policies, guidelines and procedures.

JOB PLACEMENT

The ultimate goal of career and technical education is for the student to become employed or qualified for employment in his/her chosen trade or related area. Classwork assignments, school activities and associations with Instructors and tradespeople provide opportunities for students to attain this goal. To obtain employment in a chosen trade, students must continually develop manual skills by studying and actual performance, develop a personal attitude adaptable to being employed in the trade and develop the desire to be successfully employed in the trade area. Skills, attitude and desire are among the factors in determining success and also the factors used in making recommendations.

Employment References

Every student will want or need to be recommended for employment or further training such as apprenticeships, technical schools beyond the high school level or college. We desire to provide the best possible recommendations for students but these recommendations are determined by a student's behavior, attitude, achievement, attendance and personal appearance while a student. Potential employers are highly interested in a student's attendance record and their personal appearance when attending WACTC. Reference information will be released with student approval.

Work Certificates

State law requires that every child attend school until he/she is 17 years of age, unless an application for a work certificate or domestic permit is made by the parent. The minimum age for obtaining a work certificate is 16, if the applicant desires to quit school; however, permits for part-time jobs and summer employment can be secured at age 14. Certificates for caddies may be obtained at age 12. Emergency permits can be secured at age 15, provided the child has a special permit by a physician and the parent's consent.

Application for a work certificate can be made in the home high school office. The applicant must apply in person with legal proof of age, such as a Baptismal or Birth Certificate. The form is to be filled out by the employer, signed by the parent and the student's physician and returned to the high school office. Upon completion of the application, a work certificate is issued and mailed to the employer. A work certificate is good only for that particular job. When changing jobs, a new application must be completed and a new certificate issued.

- An individual under the age of 18 and still in school must obtain a work certificate before working on a job.
- An individual who is 17 and has graduated from a secondary school is not required to have working papers.

LEAVING CLASS

If a student must leave the room or an assigned area of activity, the student must ask the Instructor for a written Hall Pass with the date, student's name, Instructor's signature, time the student departed the room, the area to be visited and marked with the time of return. All Hall Passes are to be returned to the Instructor. Students must sign out and in on the classroom Sign-Out/Sign-In form. Students are to return to class promptly when away from the classroom for any reason.

Corridor restrooms are to be used by only those students from Electrical Occupations, Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning and Networking. All other students are to use the restroom facilities in their shop areas at all times. The corridor restrooms are not to be used when changing classes or when entering or exiting the school.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles which are found should be taken to the Administrative Office. Students should report the loss to their Instructor and the Main Office. Unclaimed articles will be disposed of at the end of the school year.

McKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS

It is the responsibility of each school district to appoint a McKinney-Vento Liaison who will assist students that are experiencing housing difficulties. Information regarding the homeless act can be accessed via the WACTC website - www.wactc.net - under the tab "Resources." Our School Counselor also serves as the Homeless Liaison and should be contacted with any needs or concerns involving homelessness or housing difficulties. The School Counselor can be reached at (724) 746-2890 Ext. 122 or via email at tskirpan@wactc.net.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day Western Area Career & Technology Center receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the WACTC Principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The WACTC official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask WACTC to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the WACTC Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want to change and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the WACTC Principal decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, WACTC will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for the amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to WACTC officials with legitimate educational interests.

A school official is a person employed by WACTC as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Joint Operating Committee; a person or company with whom WACTC has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another WACTC official in performing his or her tasks.) A WACTC official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, WACTC discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The school is permitted by law to disclose directory information without written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. Directory information which may be released may include the student's name, date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; the most recent and previous education agency or institution attended by the student; and other similar information.

Parents/Guardians or eligible students have the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of directory information by providing written notice to the Executive Director within the first two weeks of the school year.

- The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by WACTC to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

NUISANCE DEVICES

The use of items that may cause a nuisance and/or a distraction to the school environments such as pagers, radios, laser pointers, beepers, head sets, cellular phones and CD and MP3 players is prohibited. Portable radios, CD players and MP3 players must be secured in lockers during class time and are not permitted to be used during shop and laboratory time. **Earphones are not permitted in the shop/laboratory areas.**

Cell Phone Policy

Upon arrival, students will report to their program area and place their cell phone in their assigned cell phone holder. The cell phone holder provides a key to lock their cell phone up during class time. Students are not permitted to have their cell phones out during class time. Violations of this policy shall result in progressive disciplinary action:

- First Offense – Device will be taken to the front office for the remainder of the day and may be picked up when a student is ready to leave school.

- Second Offense – Device will be taken to the front office and must be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Third Offense - Device will be taken to the front office and a meeting will be set up and may/will result in the device to be left in the front office daily and/or dismissal from WACTC and return to student's home school district

Parents may call the main office to reach their student. Use of cell phones for legitimate educational purposes is permitted, but only under the direction of the student's teacher and with approval from administration. Parents/Guardians are responsible for retrieving confiscated cell phones during regular school hours. Such items will be stored securely in the Main Office. Medical exemptions will occur with a physician's note, stating why the student may keep possession of the phone and for what purpose.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Students should conduct ALL office business between **9:00 and 9:15 AM and 11:20 and 11:30 AM** for the AM Session and between **12:00 and 12:15 PM and 2:20 and 2:50 PM** for the PM Session. This includes work order approvals, requesting early dismissals, visitor pass approvals, etc. Permission must be given by the Instructor before the student goes to the office. Students may schedule an appointment to see Administration or the School Counselor prior to the start of class.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are encouraged and students are expected to invite their parents to attend school functions. When parents feel a need to meet with an Instructor to discuss student progress, problems, conflicts, etc., a parent-teacher conference is suggested. Conferences should be scheduled through the Main Office with the time and place for such meeting established to the mutual satisfaction of both the parent and the Instructor. Such conferences are highly recommended and welcomed by the faculty.

PERMANENT RECORDS

Students' official school (cumulative and permanent) records are kept by the student's home school. Student transcripts may be requested by many potential employers, apprenticeship programs and technical schools and colleges. The grades and credits students earn while attending Western Area Career & Technology Center will be entered on their record at the home school. Western Area Career & Technology Center will keep a permanent record for each student who attends. This record will contain course grades received, attendance and sometimes Instructor's comments concerning work completed while a student is enrolled in WACTC.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Personal appearance ranks high in evaluating an individual. Good grooming is an essential part of each student's life. Good grooming, including hair care, reflects a self-respecting and responsible citizen who, hopefully, will develop into a desirable employee in the future.

Styles of haircuts can endanger life. Most industrial work involves working with injurious liquids, abrasives, grease, dust or moving equipment. Haircuts for students should be such that the hair does not fall below the eyebrows and does not present a safety hazard. Hair must be contained. Potential employers and interested persons are encouraged to visit and observe the students and activities at Western Area Career & Technology Center. First impressions made upon visitors will impact the image of our school and our students with potential employers.

Work Clothing and Student Dress

Students are to dress in a safe and appropriate manner as required by the student's technical program. Student dress during travel to and from WACTC should conform to home school standards. All students in technical programs must wear the required shop uniform. Clothing should be modest and not suggestive, unclean or depict vulgar, obscene or inappropriate material. Ripped clothing is not permitted. Clothing should not promote drugs, alcohol or tobacco. **Any article of clothing with a waist must be worn at the waist and not reveal underclothing.** Clothing should not have pins, chains or any other items hanging due to safety reasons.

Hats may not be worn at WACTC except as a requirement of certain shop uniforms and are to display the shop logo only. At no time will students be permitted to wear hats not approved by the Instructor and/or Administration. Shop requirements/regulations may require tattoos to be covered and piercings to be removed. At no time are shorts or improper footwear permitted in the shop or classroom.

All laboratories and classes located within the building require students to wear special clothing suitable for working in the trade. Each Instructor will specify the required student dress for their instructional area. Facilities are provided for changing from regular clothing into work clothing. Due to safety concerns, students arriving for class without a uniform may serve an in-school suspension for the day.

Students are asked to remember that frayed and loose-fitting clothing creates a safety hazard. Shirt tails are to be kept in at all times, and torn clothing must be repaired or changed before proceeding with any work.

Because of the type of work done within the school, sandals and open-toe shoes are not permitted. In general, the requirements of industry shall be met with regard to the footwear worn by the students.

You, the student, are responsible for furnishing, caring for and washing of your personal work clothing. Remember that clothing care and cleanliness helps to create a desirable attitude in individuals while providing a favorable image to visitors and potential employers.

PHOTO/PRESS POLICY

From time to time, students are interviewed and photographs, slides, movies or videotapes are made of the students in the educational environment or participating in a club activity. These items may be used in publications, presentations and for the purpose of educational training and public awareness of career and technical education.

At no time is there compensation for the use of these written or visual materials. WACTC is released of all claims or demands of any nature whatsoever arising from or with respect to the use of any interviews, photographs, slides, movies or videotapes. This release shall be in effect unless a written notice is received from the student's parent/guardian prior to September 15 of the current school year. Such termination shall not affect the use of any written or visual material obtained before the notice of termination.

REPORT CARDS

Each student will receive a report card from Western Area Career & Technology Center at the close of each nine-week grading period. A copy of this report card will be provided to the home school with the grade becoming a part of the student's permanent record. Students should take report cards home and discuss their achievements with their parents and friends and the teachers at their home school. Teachers, counselors and administrators at WACTC are highly interested in every student's progress and achievement in their home school. WACTC letter grades and their meanings are:

- A 100 - 91 Superior Work
- B 90 - 81 Above Average Work
- C 80 - 71 Average Work
- D 70 - 61 Passing, Below Average Work
- F 60 - 0 Failure. Work Not Acceptable and Credit Cannot Be Granted
- I Incomplete. Work must be made up in a reasonable time or failure will result. (A reasonable time is by the close of the following 9-week grading period.) If an Incomplete occurs during the fourth 9-week grading period, students must make up the work within 15 days after the last scheduled day of school. If the work is not completed, the final grade will be an F.

SAFETY

Safety must be a concern of everyone in the school, at home, place of employment and in any place where individuals meet. An Act of the State Assembly requires eye safety devices. **THE LAW REQUIRES THAT EVERY STUDENT WEARS SAFETY GLASSES OR SOME OTHER EYE PROTECTION WHILE PERFORMING IN SHOPS, LABORATORIES AND CLASSROOMS WHERE CHEMICALS, GASES AND OTHER DANGEROUS ELEMENTS ARE PREVALENT IN THE AIR.**

Students are required to wear safety glasses at all times in areas requiring their use. Students are required to purchase safety glasses and be responsible for keeping them in their possession or in a designated storage space. Safety glasses are not to be removed from the school at any time. Visitors and Instructors

of areas requiring safety glasses are also required to wear them at all times. Proper masks must be worn when required. Students who do not use or refuse to use required safety devices will not be permitted to work in shops, and will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Each shop or laboratory area has its own rules, requirements, regulations and policies for the safety of students and the safe use of equipment used within that area. Students are to adhere to all safety rules and regulations.

SEARCHES

School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of student property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that represents a material threat to school routine, poses a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students, or is prohibited by the Joint Operating Committee policy or by law, or that the search may disclose evidence of a violation of WACTC rules, regulations or laws.

- Student property may include, but not be limited to, school lockers, purses, book bags, coats, luggage, cars and other such belongings.
- Such searches of student's property will be done by a school official of the same sex in the presence of a second witnessing school official, if possible.
- This search may include the order for the student to empty the contents of his/her pockets and/or to turn such pockets inside out. This search shall not include the removal of any of the student's clothing except for coats, shoes and outdoor garments.

Where school authorities have reasonable suspicion that a student has on his/her person materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, a pat-down search of such a student's person may be done by an administrator of the same sex, in the presence of a second witnessing school official. This pat-down search will be performed in an isolated area. If possible, the student's parents/guardian will be notified prior to a pat-down search. The complete policies for Locker and Vehicle Searches can be viewed on the school website at www.wactc.net.

SMOKING AND USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The Joint Operating Committee recognizes that smoking presents a health hazard which can have serious consequences both for the smoker and the nonsmoker.

"Tobacco" shall mean a lighted cigarette, (tobacco, vapor or electronic), cigar, pipe or any other lighted smoking product as well as smokeless tobacco in any form. "*Tobacco use*" includes the use of smokeless tobacco in any form or smoking, including cigarettes (tobacco, vapor or electronic), cigars, pipes or any other lighted smoking device, facsimile or imitation thereof. Tobacco items discovered by any member of the school staff or Administration will be confiscated and **will not be returned at any time or for any reason.**

In order to protect students and staff from the safety hazards of smoking and from an environment noxious to non-smokers, and because the Joint Operating Committee cannot, even by indirection, condone the use of tobacco by students, the Joint Operating Committee prohibits possession of cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other smoking equipment and the possession of smokeless tobacco in any form, and the smoking or use of tobacco by students in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses and during any school activity before, during or after school hours, whether or not on school grounds or in school facilities.

Any pupil who possesses or uses tobacco may be subject to prosecution before the District Justice who may impose a fine, court costs and/or community service and require participation in rehabilitative activities.

The school's Administration has the authority to use its discretion in the initiation of charges or citations against students who commit a tobacco use or possession of tobacco offense. In addition, the school's Administration has the authority to impose disciplinary actions against the offending student based on current school discipline policies and procedures.

The school's Executive Director shall establish procedures with local law enforcement agencies and the District Magistrate for enforcement of Act 145 and school policy.

Because of the exemplar role played by the adult members of the school community, the Joint Operating Committee prohibits smoking by staff members and visitors during any part of the regular school day and at any school-sponsored event on school property.

A student convicted of possessing or using tobacco in a school building, on a school bus, on school property or during any school activity before, during or after school hours, whether or not on school grounds or in school facilities, may be fined a minimum of \$50.00, plus court costs, or be admitted to alternative adjudication.



Western Area Career & Technology Center

688 Western Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317 | (724) 746-2890 | Fax (724) 746-6966 | www.wactc.net

June 9, 2025

Michael Milanovich, Executive Director

Dear Student:

This letter is for the purpose of informing you of our school's policy on the possession or use of tobacco in school.

WACTC defines **"tobacco"** as a lighted cigarette (tobacco, vapor or electronic), cigar, pipe or any other lighted smoking product as well as smokeless tobacco in any form. **"Tobacco use"** is defined as using smokeless tobacco in any form or smoking, including cigarettes (tobacco, vapor or electronic), cigars, pipes or any other lighted smoking product or any facsimile or imitation thereof. Tobacco items discovered by any member of the school staff or administration will be confiscated.

The law defines **"possession"** or **"use"** of tobacco products or smokeless tobacco by a student in a school building, on a school bus or school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district as a summary offense, and school districts must initiate prosecution. The student will be sentenced to pay a fine set by the District Justice. Students who are smoking or in possession of tobacco will be referred to the Magistrate.

- The first offense shall result in an out-of-school suspension for one day and a prosecution under Act 145 of 1996.
- The second and each subsequent offense shall result in an out-of-school suspension for three days and a prosecution under Act 145 of 1996.

You have been taught the health hazards of using tobacco products. We hope that you will refrain from the practice of using all tobacco products. If you are in need of help or counseling, please ask a teacher, a counselor, the nurse or me for a referral. Above all, do not force the residual health effects of this habit upon others. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

James Purtell, Principal

Serving the school districts of
Avella Area, Burgettstown Area, Canon-McMillan, Chartiers-Houston, Fort Cherry, McGuffey, Peters Township,
Trinity Area and Washington through the education of their children.

Equal Opportunity Education

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in student activities at Western Area Career & Technology Center as well as their home school. Student organizations at Western Area Career & Technology Center may include: American Welding Society – BattleBots - National Technical Honor Society - SkillsUSA/VICA

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Administration, Guidance staff and members of the faculty are available to students to discuss problems and complaints at any reasonable time.

A grievance may be initiated if a student has a serious complaint regarding academic concerns or policies or procedures of Western Area Career & Technology Center or against the personnel administering the program.

- The first step in the grievance procedure is to discuss the problem with the person involved.
- If this action does not result in resolution of the problem, the student should then discuss the situation with the assigned School Counselor.
- If the matter is still unresolved, the student should present the grievance, in writing, to the Principal within ten (10) scheduled school days of the occurrence. The Principal will confer with the faculty and will reply in writing within five (5) scheduled school days giving the decision of the total faculty.
- If the student is unsatisfied with the decision of the Principal, the grievance should then be submitted, in writing, within ten (10) scheduled school days of the Principal's response, to the Executive Director of Vocational Education of Western Area Career & Technology Center for resolution. A written reply will be made within five (5) scheduled school days giving the final decision.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the Administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

No student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the right of teachers, students, administrators and all others involved in the educational process.

Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner so as not to offend or slander others.

It is the responsibility of students to:

- Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with them.
- Be willing to volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
- Dress and groom themselves so as to meet fair standards of safety and health, and so as not to cause a substantial disruption to the educational process.
- Assume that until a rule is waived, altered or repealed, it is in full effect.
- Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
- Be aware of and comply with state and local laws.
- Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
- Attend school daily, except when excused, and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
- Make all necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school.

Student Responsibilities as copied from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Basic Education Circular No. 130.

STUDENT SERVICES

Pupil Personnel Services are provided for those students who are identified as handicapped or disadvantaged. The Perkins program is coordinated with that of each member school district. Guidance is a process of helping individuals help themselves.

SUSPENSIONS

Students will receive suspensions as listed for the following:

NOTE: For certain minor infractions, student(s) may receive a documented warning for first offense or in-school suspension. This table serves as a guide for discipline procedures only.

DESCRIPTION	BEHAVIOR	ACTION
Level I		1-Day Suspension
Minor misbehaviors on the part of a student which interfere with orderly classroom procedures or operation of the Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violation of a safety regulation - Non-defiant classroom disruptions (<i>failure to complete assignments, failure to carry out directions, failure to comply with regulations</i>) - Unauthorized use of tobacco product (1st time) (See <i>Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products</i>) - Unauthorized absence from the classroom or shop - Use of nuisance device (1st time) - Inappropriate public display of affection - Violation of the Center's driving regulations and/or unauthorized passenger(s) - Possession of obscene literature (<i>literature will be taken from the student and given to parent(s) and/or guardian(s) or proper authorities</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student will be required to make restitution for any damages - Letter will be sent to the parents and/or guardians and information provided to home school - Discipline record will be maintained in student's file - Nuisance device will be retained in the Main Office until end of school day - Loss of driving privileges for 3 days <p><i>For certain minor infractions, student(s) may receive a documented verbal warning for a first offense or in-school suspension. This serves as a guide for discipline procedures only.</i></p>
Level II		3-Day Suspension
<p>Frequent occurrence which tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school.</p> <p>Not a direct threat to the safety of others; however, the educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second occurrence of Level I behavior - Classroom, hall, locker room, or shop disruption or violation of a safety regulation - Fighting (1st time) - Disrespectful action or speech toward school staff or another student when it disrupts the educational process or class activities; violates the rights of others; or involves rude, vulgar, or obscene language or actions - Unauthorized absence from school grounds - Bullying (physical, verbal, psychological, relational or cyber-bullying) - Vandalism of the school or another student's property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter will be sent to the parents and/or guardians and information provided to home school - Discipline record will be maintained in student file - Parental conference will be held - Any nuisance device will be confiscated and turned over to parent(s) or guardian(s) - Student will be required to make restitution for any damages
Level III		5-Day Suspension
Harm to another person and the consequences pose a direct threat to the safety of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second occurrence of behavior in Level II - Third occurrence of behavior in Level I - Repeated or excessive rude, vulgar, or obscene language towards faculty, staff or another student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter will be sent to the parents and/or guardians and information provided to home school - Discipline record will be maintained in student file - Informal hearing will be held

DESCRIPTION	BEHAVIOR	ACTION
Level IV		10-Day Suspension Referral for expulsion and/or potential reassignment
These acts might be considered criminal but most frequently will be handled by a disciplinary mechanism in the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second occurrence of behavior in Level III - Third occurrence of behavior in Level II - Fourth occurrence of behavior in Level I - Illegal use or possession of, or under the influence of, any alcoholic beverage, drug, narcotic, or other foreign substance in the school or on school grounds (1st time) - Stealing (1st time) - Possession of an instrument or implement that is classified as a weapon on school premises or on a student's person; attempts to sharpen, use, or make a weapon ("weapon" will be defined in accordance with Act 26, PA School Law Governing Student Possession of Weapon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter will be sent to the parents and/or guardians and information provided to home school - Discipline record will be maintained in student file - Student(s) will be required to participate in a Student Assistance Program - Student will be held liable and be required to make restitution for the stolen property - Informal hearing will be held in compliance with Act 26.
DESCRIPTION	BEHAVIOR	ACTION
Level V		Reassignment
Misbehavior that jeopardizes the safety of others will not be tolerated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second occurrence of behavior in Level IV - Third occurrence of behavior in Level III - Fourth occurrence of behavior in Level II - Fifth occurrence of behavior in Level I - Setting off a false alarm - Making a bomb threat - Assaulting a member of the staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A letter will be sent to the parents and home school - Discipline record will be maintained - A formal hearing will be held <p><i>Under certain circumstances and/or for certain violations, it may be necessary to recommend a student for reassignment to the sending school or to an alternative facility. Such recommendations can only be made by the Executive Director and/or designee and require sending district approval.</i></p>

TELEPHONE CALLS

No personal telephone calls will be accepted for students. In the event of a serious emergency at home, the Western Area Career & Technology Center Administrative Office can be called to contact the student. Only calls of an emergency nature will be delivered to the student. Only emergency calls may be made by the students on the office telephones. **CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE USED.**

TOOLS

Various shops may require that students purchase tools for their training. All tools purchased by the student must remain in the student's locker. Students will be responsible for maintaining and securing their tools.

Students are not permitted to take tools out of the shop for any reason until the student completes the course, graduates and has made full payment. Due to the nature of the majority of the tools, when students graduate, they will not be permitted to transport their tools home on the school bus.

TRANSPORTATION

Each school district provides transportation for students attending Western Area Career & Technology Center, and all students are expected to ride the transportation provided by them. Upon arrival students must remain on school grounds. **PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK ON SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM ADMINISTRATION.** Students dropped off by someone other than school transportation must sign in at the Main Office before reporting to class.

TUITION COSTS

High school students attend Western Area Career & Technology Center at no tuition cost except for safety items and uniforms, which are required in some programs. In the Cosmetology program, a kit must be purchased.

UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Students receiving failing grades are placed on academic probation for forty-five (45) days. If unsatisfactory progress continues beyond the probationary period, the student's training will be immediately interrupted and all those concerned will be notified accordingly. Students placed on academic probation may be denied driving privileges or work permits.

Reassignment may result due to unsatisfactory progress.

VETERANS INFORMATION

Leave

A leave of absence is granted to adult students who wish to temporarily interrupt their training for personal reasons. A request for leave must be made in advance, in writing, or time away from school will be considered an unexcused absence. The Veterans Administration will be notified immediately when a veteran student is granted a leave of absence.

Absences

Students should attend a minimum of 85% of all scheduled classes to attain satisfactory progress. A student who accumulates more than 15% absenteeism (including tardiness) is deficient and should be counseled by the institution. If the problem continues, the student may be subjected to termination of his/her Veterans Administration educational benefits.

Class Cuts

Class cuts are not permitted and shall be recorded as unexcused absences.

Make-Up Work

Make-up work is not permitted for the purposes of receiving Veterans Administration training allowances.

Tardiness

Any student not physically present at the start of his/her scheduled class period will be considered tardy. Excessive tardiness, such as three times in any five-day period, is subject for cause for discontinuance of training. Each occurrence accumulates and is included in total absenteeism reported.

Unsatisfactory Progress

Students receiving failing grades are placed on probation for sixty (60) days. If unsatisfactory progress continues beyond the probationary period, the student's training will immediately be interrupted and all those concerned will be notified accordingly. Students dismissed because of unsatisfactory progress may apply for re-entrance; however, each case will be considered on the basis of the facts involved.

Refund Policy

In the event a veteran or eligible person fails to enter the course, or withdraws or is discontinued therefore at any time prior to completion, the amount charged to the veteran for tuition, fees and other charges for a portion of the course shall not exceed the approximate pro rata portion of the total charges for tuition, fees and other charges that the length of the completed portion of the course bears to its total length.

Credit for Previous Education and Training

Appropriate credit is given for comparable previous education and training, and the training period will be shortened accordingly.

VISITORS

The school is open to visitors for legitimate educational or business reasons, but all guests must first stop at the Main Office for permission, and such visits should be limited to 15 minutes. All visitors must secure a visitor's pass from the office. This pass must be worn in a clearly visible manner at all times. Organized groups are also welcome as visitors if arrangements are made in advance with the Administrative Office. These visits should not be for the entire day.

Prospective students wishing to visit WACTC should make arrangements through the Guidance Office at least one (1) day prior to the visit.

WEBSITE

The WACTC web site is www.wactc.net. Information regarding the school, activities, projects, and other pertinent information may be found on the website. A current School Report is also available for viewing on the web.

WITHDRAWAL

Students withdrawing from school before the end of the school year should notify the office several days in advance. The Guidance Office will verify that all books and school property have been returned and financial obligations satisfied. An exit interview will be conducted by the Guidance Department.

A copy of the student's current grade average will be sent to the home school. Normally the home school will forward a transcript of grades to the new school, if necessary.

WORK ORDERS FOR PROJECTS

All Work Orders must be approved by the Administration and the Instructor of the shop where the work is to be done. The Work Order must be obtained prior to the work being performed. Any student who has violated the school's safety, discipline or attendance policy may be denied a Work Order.

Western Area CTC – Grading Scale

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
ATTITUDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and high level of cooperation • Attitude very positive toward task • Works without direction and completes task at hand • Group work effort enhanced by presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and somewhat cooperative • Positive attitude toward task • Works with minimal direction and completes task at hand • Group work effort somewhat enhanced by presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe but less than cooperative • Attitude not positive toward task • Requires direction to complete task at hand • Group work effort adversely effected by presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsafe and uncooperative • Negative attitude • Requires constant direction and attention • Does not complete tasks • Disruptive and interferes with group work effort
PROFESSIONALISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dresses neatly and appropriately • Excellent communication; uses appropriate language • Assists other students and provides leadership • Exceeds expected effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dresses somewhat appropriately • Good communication; language somewhat appropriate • Contributes to the effectiveness of the group • Contributes expected effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dresses acceptably • Average communication; language less than appropriate • Contributes little during group activities • Less than expected work effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsafe and inappropriate dress • Poor communication; language inappropriate • Does not contribute to the effectiveness of the group • Little or no effort displayed
WORK ETHICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctual and on time • Focuses upon task • Self-motivated • Responsible and reliable • Self-directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat punctual and timely • Focuses upon task most of class time • Displays some motivation • Somewhat responsible and reliable • Requires minimal direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than punctual and delays starting assignments • Requires monitoring to remain on task • Displays some motivation • Displays low levels of responsibility and reliability • Participates when personally interested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not punctual and must be reminded to begin assignments • Difficult to keep on task • Displays little motivation • Not responsible and unreliable • No participation
WORK PERFORMANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates best effort • Excellent use of time • Well prepared • Excellent quality of work • Tasks completed within allotted time • Excellent critical thinking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some effort • Completes task within allotted time • Somewhat prepared • Good quality of work • Displays some critical thinking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates little effort • Achieves acceptable level of task completion • Not adequately prepared • Poor quality of work • Poor critical thinking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effort • Task not completed • Unprepared • Unacceptable quality of work • No display of critical thinking skills



WESTERN AREA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

2024 – 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 2024 9/7				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

In-Service: 20, 21
First Day for Students: 22

Teachers 9 | Students 7

September 2024 29/27				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

Labor Day: 2
Open House: 19

Teachers 20 | Students 20

October 2024 52/49				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

In-Service: 7
OAC/LAC Meetings: 15
End of Grading Period: 25

Teachers 23 | Students 22

November 2024 71/67				
M	T	W	Th	F
				A+
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Report Cards Distributed: 1
In-Service: 27
Thanksgiving Break: 28-29

Teachers 19 | Students 18

December 2024 85/81				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Thanksgiving Break: December 2
Holiday Break: 23-31

Teachers 14 | Students 14

January 2025 106/102				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	A+
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

New Year's Day: 1
End of Grading Period: 13
Report Cards Distributed: 17
Martin Luther King Day: 20

Teachers 21 | Students 21

February 2025 125/121				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Presidents' Day: 17

Teachers 19 | Students 19

March 2025 146/141				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	A+
31				

In-Service: 10
End of Grading Period: 21
Report Cards Distributed: 28

Teachers 21 | Students 20

April 2025 164/158				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

NOCTI: 9, 10
NOCTI Senior Performance: 11
In-Service: 11
OAC/LAC Meetings: 15
Spring Break: 17, 18, 21, 22

Teachers 18 | Students 17

May 2025 185/179				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NTHS Induction: 2
Certificate Ceremony: 15
End of Grading Period: 23
Memorial Day: 26

Teachers 21 | Students 21

June 2025 188/180				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

Student Last Day: 2
In-Service: 3, 4

Teachers 3 | Students 1

	In-Service Day
	First and Last Day for Students
	No School
	Open House
	End of Grading Period
	OAC/LAC Meetings
	NOCTI
	NTHS Induction
A+	Report Cards Distributed
Cap	Certificate Ceremony

In the event school is cancelled, and all Flexible Instructional Days are exhausted, make-up days will be scheduled in the following order: January 20, February 17, April 17, April 22. If additional days are needed, school will be extended beyond the last scheduled day.

JOC Approved: April 24, 2024