



Student & Parent Handbook

2021-2022

Welcome to the Windham Regional Career Center

80 Atwood Street
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Main Office - (802) 451- 3586
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WRCC Sending Schools.

- Brattleboro Union High School
- Bellows Falls Union High School
- Leland & Gray High Union School
- Twin Valley Middle/High School
- Hinsdale High School

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the handbook.

Windham Regional Career Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Kate Margaitis, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Green Street School, 164 Green Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802) 254-3737 email: kmargaitis@wsesdvt.org

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WRCC School Policy

Student Records

The student record contains all information concerning a student and is kept by the school. Each student and/or parent/guardian has the right to see his or her own student records. Copies of any information in the records may be obtained upon request.

Directory Information Notice

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union and the Windham Southeast School District Board has designated certain information contained in the education records of its students as directory information for purposes of the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act (FERPA).

The following information regarding students is considered directory information: the student's name, address, telephone number, 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, honors and awards received, and post high-school plans of the student.

Directory information may be disclosed for any purpose in the discretion of the school system, without the consent of a parent/guardian of a student or an eligible student. Parents/guardians of students and eligible students have the right, however, to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information as directory information. In that case, this information will not be disclosed except with the consent of a parent/guardian or student, or as otherwise allowed by FERPA.

Any parent or student refusing to have any or all of the designated directory information disclosed must file written notification to this effect with the principal/director on or before the 15th day of each September. In the event that a refusal is not filed, it is assumed that neither a parent/guardian of a student or eligible student objects to the release of the directory information designated.

Amending a Record

A parent has the right to add information, comments, data, or any other relevant written material to the student's record. The parent should submit the additional information in writing to the principal /director with a written request that the information be added to the student record.

The Director or his/her designee shall within one week after the conference or receipt of the objection, if no conference was requested, render to such parent decision in writing,

stating the reason or reasons for the decision. If the decision is in favor of the parent, the principal/director or his/her designee shall promptly take such steps as may be necessary to put the decision into effect.

If the Director's decision is not satisfactory to the parent, the parent may file an appeal to the Superintendent. Such appeal shall be in writing and submitted to the Superintendent within five (5) business days of receipt of the principal's/director's decision. The Superintendent shall render a written decision on the appeal within two (2) weeks of receipt of the written appeal.

If the Superintendent's decision is not satisfactory to the parent, the parent may appeal to the School Committee/School Board by filing a written appeal within five (5) business days of the receipt of the Superintendent's decision. The School Committee/School Board shall conduct a hearing as required on the appeal as required by policy.

Notice on Transfer to Other Schools

Pursuant to regulations, notice is hereby given to parents/guardians and eligible students that the home school district forwards the complete school records of a transferring student to schools in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. Such transfer of records takes place without the consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student.

Destruction of Records

The records of a student at WRCC contain information not usually contained in the home school transcript and it will be destroyed ten (10) years after the student leaves the WRCC. This record contains a summary of grades, competency attainment, attendance, shop hours, and work co-op data germane to the time the student attended. Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than five (5) years after that student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school system. When the student transfers, graduates or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them.

Access to Student Work

During the course of the school year, personally identifiable student work may be displayed on bulletin boards, at fairs/shows, during Open House and parent-teacher conferences, and thus, will be seen by many different people, not just the student, the parent/guardian, and the teacher. In addition, as an instructional technique, students may be asked to edit, grade, review, and/or comment on another student's work.

School Delays and Cancellations

Radio stations WKVT and WTSA will announce the closing of school in bad weather or for emergency reasons. School delays and cancellations will also be announced over the automated phone system. WRCC generates its own automated call for WRCC

students. It is important that parents keep updated phone numbers at the school for the phone system to function properly. In the occurrence that WRCC's snow day status differs from the sending school, students, parents and administrators follow the sending school notification and related transportation implications.

Insurance

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union and the BUHS #6 School Board insures all students under a "school time" account policy. This plan will pay the expenses incurred, which are not reimbursable under any other insurance policy or service contract covering injury. A student who intends to file for insurance coverage must obtain and complete the required reports available via the general office. Such reports should be filed immediately following an accident or injury if coverage is expected.

School Safety

Our highest priority is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our students and staff. All school personnel wear identification badges for security purposes. We ask students and parents to assist us in maintaining building security by following campus regulations regarding visitors, exiting the building, and entering the building.

Body Fluid Exposure

Students may be exposed to diseases at school by coming in contact with someone else's body fluids (blood, urine, or vomit). In order to reduce the risk of contracting a transmittable disease (HIV, HEP B) at school, we ask students to come to the Health Office for treatment if they are bleeding or have had contact through their mouth, eyes, nose, or cut in skin with anyone else's body fluids. The student may be referred to a health provider if there is serious exposure.

Building Evacuation

At times, for reasons of safety, it may be necessary for school officials to direct students and staff to leave the school building or move to sheltered areas within the building.

During these times, all students are expected to follow the directions of staff members. All passes, permissions, leaves, and privileges are cancelled during school evacuations.

Fire Alarms

Directions for evacuating the building are placed in all classrooms. Once out of the building, students should move quickly to the designated area. All driveways, parking lots, and walk-ways near the building must be kept open so that fire and emergency equipment may get to the building.

Other Evacuations

At times it may be necessary to evacuate the building for non-fire related reasons including bomb threats, weather emergencies, nuclear accidents, chemical spills, etc.

During these events, students will be given specific information over the public address system. Students are expected to respond as directed during such events. Following an evacuation, school officials will re-open the building when our Incident Command Center staff has determined that the situation has been resolved.

Precautionary Transfer

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation of the site and transfer of students to another location, students will be transported by bus. Students may also leave in their own cars, the cars of other students or with staff members provided parental permission to do so is on file. Permission forms are distributed in the fall and may be updated at any time. Please note that in a true emergency, the authorities would block access to the school site from the outside to facilitate evacuation.

Secure the Building drill

WSESU has recently adopted ALICE: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate as a procedure in response to a threat at the school. WRCC will continue to practice and train using ALICE throughout the school year.

Please note: In the event that the school is evacuated and the school closed for the day, it may not be possible to notify every parent. For this reason, parents and students should develop a family plan whereby the student will go home or to some other location and notify his/her parents of the situation.

School Resource Officer

There is a certified law enforcement officer whose primary assignment is BUHS/BAMS. As a member of our educational community, this officer has three roles: 1) law enforcement/safety specialist, 2) educator, 3) law-related counselor, mentor and liaison to the community.

Exit and Entry

During the school day, all outside doors are locked. Students and visitors must only use the main entrances of the Professional Training Building and the Trade & Industrial Center except in cases of a building evacuation. Please do not prop open doors.

Visitors

Any person visiting the WRCC must report to either the Trade and Industrial Center or Professional Technical Center General Office first, and sign in with the time and place and person to be visited indicated. Visitors will be given a visitor pass and must wear eye protective devices in shops engaged in activities that could be injurious to eyes.

Video Security Cameras CODE: LBP11

Brattleboro Union High School #6 Board of Directors authorizes the use of video/security cameras on district property, school vehicles, and school contracted vehicles. These cameras would be used to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to district property and/or passengers in district contracted or authorized vehicles. Cameras would also be utilized to safeguard district facilities and equipment; as well as equipment owned by staff or students.

The district shall notify staff and students through student/parent and staff handbooks that security cameras are in place within district property. Signs will also be posted in areas generally covered by video cameras. Examples of available camera views will be made visible to staff and students because the prevention of problems is a primary objective of the security system.

Video cameras shall be positioned to view all exterior areas of district property, including entrances, athletic fields, access paths, and all parking areas. Some cameras will be fixed by location while others will be programmable and/or can be directed manually and remotely. Interior cameras will be located in the largest public or common areas within the three-school setting. These areas include the gymnasiums, libraries, multi-purpose rooms, computer labs, entrance areas, auditoriums, cafeterias, hallways, the Hideaway, and the largest WRCC instructional settings. There will be no audio taping as part of the BUHS #6 video security system. Cameras placed on school buses will be utilized by the bus company to ensure student safety, bus and driver safety, and to prevent vehicle damage. Cameras installed by the bus company may be visible or hidden at the bus company's discretion.

Video recordings may become a part of a student's educational record or behavioral record. The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention.

Occupational Safety

Students, teachers, staff, and administration are individually responsible for wholehearted, genuine cooperation with all aspects of the safety and health program including compliance with all rules and regulations, and for continuously practicing safety while performing their duties.

This cooperation manifests itself in behavior that provides the following:

- Safety to yourself, peers, staff members or visitors.
- Compliance with all rules set forth by WRCC.

- Prompt reporting of all injuries and/or accidents.
- Prompt reporting of any unsafe situation in a shop or classroom to the instructor and/or administration.

Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment, for eyes, face, head and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, will be provided, and shall be used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption or physical contact.

Failure of students to comply with guidelines outlined here and as part of the occupational safety program within the shop will result in disciplinary action as outlined in school behavior code. Requests for financial assistance for items necessary to comply with the above guidelines may be made in confidence to the Guidance Counselor/Director. The personal safety and health of everyone at WRCC is of primary importance. The prevention of occupationally induced injuries and illness is of such consequence that it will be given precedence over any operation whenever necessary.

Eye Protection

The instructor will provide each student with a pair of safety glasses or cover goggles, in areas requiring eye protection. The student shall be responsible for his or her eye protective equipment. If a student loses, willfully abuses or damages his or her eye protective equipment, they are required to purchase eye protective equipment from the school. Students wearing contact lenses shall inform their instructor and are required to wear eye protection. Students wearing eyeglasses shall be issued and shall wear an approved cover goggle.

Personal Appearance/Shop Attire

The educational experience at WRCC is not only preparation for life, but also an experience in living. Therefore, we encourage a dress code that embraces moderation and avoids extremes. Students should wear clothing that is clean, neat, and appropriate for their technical training area, as defined by industry standards.

Policy on Possession of Knives/Weapons

It is sometimes necessary for students in certain Career Center programs to utilize small specialty knives in the course of the shop day. Knives or trade related tools will be issued to students via the tool dispensing rules authorized for the shop. There is no reason for a student to bring a knife to school or from WRCC to anywhere else.

Whoever, except as provided by law, carries on his/her person, or carries on his person or under his control in a vehicle, on a school bus, on school property, or at any school

sponsored activity, any conceivable weapon is in violation of the law. See BUHS Policy # 6 for more information.

Shop Tools/Instruments/Materials

Tools and instruments used in the shops and laboratories are supplied by WRCC. When tools, instruments or materials are removed from the tool crib or dispensary, the student to whom such items are issued is responsible for the return of such item(s) and will be charged for any lost or damaged item(s). Students are not permitted to take tools from the building, unless they are on an assigned work crew/detail. All tools assigned to and used by students require prior instructor approval.

Students who bring tools or supplies to be used in their shops are strongly encouraged to store their personal property in a toolbox or kit secured by a lock or in their lockers. WRCC will not be responsible for any tools or personal property brought onto school grounds or work sites.

Health Services

BUHS Health Services provide students with healthcare should the occasion arise in the school setting. In accordance with state law certain health requirements are necessary for all students. The school nurse's responsibility is to follow through with each student's medical record for compliance. The school nurse keeps Student Emergency Information Forms and relevant information is updated on a periodic basis. A student should not be in the nurses' room without a pass.

Administering of Medication

Throughout the school year students may require various medications due to short-term illness and/or medical conditions. In compliance with state regulations policies have been instituted to ensure the safety and health of all students needing medication during the school day. These policies include self-medications such as inhalers and Epi-pens. The following must be in place in order for medication to be administered during the school day:

- A written medication order must accompany all medications to be administered in school. This order must come from the student's physician, nurse practitioner or licensed provider. Students needing medication on a long-term basis must have this form renewed at the beginning of each school year.
- A consent form signed by parent/guardian.
- All medication must be delivered to the school nurse in a manufacturer labeled container by parent/guardian. Students may not deliver medication. Please ask your pharmacy to provide separate containers for home and school. No more than a twenty (20) day supply should be delivered to the school at one time. Questions regarding medication should be directed to the school nurse.

Accidents and Injuries

Any student who is injured at WRCC, on school grounds, or at any school activity must report the injury to the BUHS school nurse. Every accident and/or injury MUST be immediately reported, using an accident report form and signed by the person in charge, giving the date, time, and location of the injury. These report forms are available from the BUHS school nurse and/or in the Career Center Office.

If any student needs medical care, an insurance form must be requested from the BUHS school nurse and/or in the Career Center Office. Any student who goes to the doctor without her/his parent(s) or without notifying the school authorities will be responsible for his/her own medical care. Every injury must be reported prior to leaving school. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement may void insurance coverage.

WRCC Student Guidelines

Student Conduct

Student conduct and behavior consequences in the WRCC, as is true in any group of people who spend a good portion of time together, contain certain basic rules of good citizenship that must be observed to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. Working together we can create an atmosphere of trust and cooperation that will result in a quality education.

The following is a list of student conduct expectations:

1. Conduct yourself in a safe manner
2. Respect others and their property
3. Engage in non-disruptive behavior
4. Profanity is prohibited
5. Be positive and prepared to work
6. Actively participate in all program activities
7. Be honest

School administrators may adjust the Behavior Consequences to accommodate the circumstances of specific situations. Parents/guardians will be notified either in writing or by phone of disciplinary action taken or proposed to be taken. In all cases, students will be afforded the right to be heard prior to receiving consequences for behavior infractions.

Student Rights

Students have the right to:

1. Be spoken to in a respectful manner by staff at all times
2. A safe environment for learning in all school activities
3. A fair process in relation to having consequences administered for inappropriate behavior
4. A level of confidentiality relevant to the inappropriate behavior
5. Appeal any consequences for inappropriate behavior by using the appropriate process

Consequences Defined

All disciplinary issues at Windham Regional Career Center is carried out under the guidelines of BUHS #6 School Board policy which can be reviewed on the WRCC website (www.wrccvt.com)

Student Driving Privileges

Students are not permitted to drive to the WRCC without prior approval from the Director **and** the home school principal. Once this approval is granted, (Using the WRCC Student Driving and Passenger Permission Form) the student may apply for a Student Parking Permit.

Transportation is provided to/from WRCC and local high schools daily. Requests to drive will be evaluated on an individual basis. Any student who wishes to be a passenger of another student driver must also request permission to do so.

Sending school students' cars must be parked in the **Technical & Industrial Center (TIC)** building parking lot during school hours or during any school function. If students arrive early, they are to leave automobiles and report to their class immediately. (BUHS students have parking space in front of the high school)

***Please note - Only Sending school students will be able to park their cars at the TIC. Parking space is limited to 16 slots assigned on a first come first serve basis.**

***Please note – No students are allowed to park in the church parking lot on Atwood Street**

Student vehicles will not be permitted in the Trade and Industrial Center parking area unless, the student is issued a pass (by WRCC administration) prior to bringing their car to the TIC. Cars found in the TIC parking lot without a car pass may be secured, **TOWED**, or any other action as the WRCC administration deems appropriate.

If a student misses their bus in the morning, they may drive or be driven to WRCC AFTER reporting their status to their home school principal and request permission to drive or be driven to the WRCC. If the home school principal grants permission, the student must then call the WRCC before leaving the home high school area to announce their departure.

Unauthorized and/or unknown vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Field Trips and School Activities

Field trips and other off campus school activities are an essential part of the learning process. All school related expectations, policies and practices are in effect during off campus activities.

Lockers

WRCC provides student lockers. For security, students should not give their combination to any other student. Only school approved or issued locks may be placed on lockers. Students should use their lockers daily to insure the safety of their property. Lockers are for the purpose of storing personal property, tools, and uniforms. Items that would be classified as valuables or large sums of money should not be left in lockers or carried on one's person. If it becomes necessary that valuables need be brought to school, they should be brought to either the Trade and Industrial Center office or Professional Technical Center office where the Director, or designee can place the items in a secure location. Lockers, desks or other storage units are the property of WRCC and therefore, are subject to inspection and search at any time for any reason. It is the student's obligation to keep them neat and orderly at all times. No locker is to be altered in any manner. Bumper stickers, posters, or ornaments of any type may not be placed on or stuck to any locker. Students will be responsible for and charged accordingly for any damage to their assigned locker or if they lose or damage the lock assigned to them.

Inspection of Students' Person and Property

A student shall be free from searches by school officials of his/her clothing and other personal property unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe that something is concealed that may be of immediate danger to persons, property or the educational process, is evidence of criminal or disciplinary violation or the possession of which is prohibited under state/federal law or regulation or under the behavior code of the WRCC. If school administrators believe there is reasonable suspicion, a proper search will be conducted. The search itself will be reasonable and not excessively intrusive when viewed in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Responsibility for Lost or Damaged Property

Each student is responsible for maintaining WRCC property issued to them including but not limited to: lockers, locks, books, safety glasses, safety equipment, tools, instruments, materials, etc. Such property will be returned in good condition, excluding normal wear. Replacement of lost or damaged items will be charged to the student responsible. In the case of intentional damage to school property, a student will be responsible for reimbursement and disciplinary consequences.

Student Visitors

Whenever a student wishes to have a guest visit the WRCC, that student must ask permission via the administration in the general office **three days in advance** of the day the visit will occur. Once permission is granted, the guest will receive a visitor pass that must be worn at all times. Graduates of the Career Center are likewise required to follow this procedure to provide staff prior notice in order to minimize instructional interruption. Visitors from schools in session are not permitted without special arrangements made by the Director and the home school principal. Visitors not following this procedure will not be granted access. The purpose of the visitor policy is to provide the prospective student visitor an opportunity to observe a specific shop area and provide for the security of the campus. In the event a student brings a guest to school without administrative permission the guest will be asked to leave.

Student Electronic Devices

1. The use of any and all electronic devices at WRCC is limited and will be regulated by staff and administration. Pagers and beepers must be approved when carried for legitimate reasons such as for volunteer service in fire or rescue departments. It is understood that many students possess cell phones and other electronic communications devices on their person. However, these devices must not interrupt the school day and may only be utilized by permission from the staff or administration. **Cell phones, pagers, beepers, and all other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away during class and teaching time.** Common usage times may exist when passing to/from classes (outside) and during lunchtime. Again, regardless if an electronic device is used during an approved time period, these devices **MUST NOT** interrupt any other student, classroom or teacher or each of the students involved will be subject to disciplinary procedures.
2. Phones, iPods, or portable music players may be used (with permission of the teacher/bus driver) on the bus (with headphones only). These items should typically be placed in the student locker upon arrival at the Career Center. Students in common BUHS/WRCC areas or in BUHS spaces will be subject to all BUHS rules & regulations.

3. WRCC instructors may allow the use of these or other devices to be used in an appropriate manner during WRCC class/shop time. The allowance of these devices should be addressed in individual class policy as directed by each instructor. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of electronic devices may result in administrative action.

WRCC Computers/Technology/Internet

In the ongoing effort to keep students up to date with current workplace technology, computer use is essential in all programs. Technology resources are to be treated in a manner of respect. The use of technology is an integral part of the educational process; however, at any time if this privilege is abused or violates acceptable use, the Director may revoke access.

Telephone Privileges

Students will not be called to the telephone during school hours. Students will be given messages either before or at the end of class except in the case of emergencies. The telephone may be used by students during break or lunch or after school only, with permission given by the instructor or Director. Students will be given messages either before or at the end of class except in the case of emergencies.

Change of Address/Telephone Number

Should any student have a change in the following during the school year he/she should immediately report the change to the guidance office:

WRCC Attendance Policy

Rational for 2021-2022 attendance procedure

As students return to school for the 2021 - 2022 school year some students will not have taken part in in-person learning in close to eighteen months. Research shows that anxiety, depression, and other mental challenges are at an all-time high for youth. Many students have experienced some level of learning loss over the last eighteen months that has yet to be measured. Well over half the students at the Windham Regional Career Center will be new to the center creating additional stress and anxiety for some if not all. Windham Regional Career Center has to assume that attendance issues are part of a greater issue that needs to be solved if the student is going to be successful. The Windham Regional Career Center will work with students and families to support them in problem-solving to improve school attendance.

It is important that students and families understand the importance of building work readiness skills during the time that students are attending the Windham Regional Career Center. Part of work readiness is being in class on time each day as these are some of the most desired skills identified when we survey area employers. If a student is going to be late or absent the following steps should be taken.

Tardy:

1. The student should let their instructor know as soon as the student is aware that they are going to be late. This can be done a day or two before if the student has an appointment or via phone or email in the case of an unexpected event. The student should give the instructor some idea of when to expect the student.
2. If a student is tardy due to an appointment the student should bring a note from the service provider so the tardy is excused.
3. The student should check with the instructor to identify any work that needs to be made up.

Absent:

1. The student should let their instructor know if they are absent.
2. The student's parent or guardian should contact the Windham Regional Career Center attendance person to let the school know that their student will be absent.
3. Absences for health-related appointments, court, and sending school activities are excused with either a note or with permission from the sending school.
4. The student should check with the instructor to identify any work that needs to be made up.

When a student is:

Tardy:

When a student is tardy the teacher will have a conversation with the student to attempt to evaluate if there is a way the teacher can support the student in being on time. If there is an issue that needs to be addressed the teacher will contact the student's guidance counselor at WRCC or BUHS and the student's parent or guardian to set up a plan to address and resolve the issue.

If a student has been tardy by more than 15 minutes or more 3 times without reasonable explanation (weather, construction, car issues) or 5 times overall in thirty calendar days the student's teacher will schedule a meeting with the student, parent or guardian, guidance counselor, center director, and other team members. The goal of this meeting is problem-solving and addressing the situation before being tardy causes learning loss or becomes habitual. If the student is tardy due to an issue that can be

resolved with the support of others within the students sending district or other service providers those agencies will be contacted by sending school district personnel.

If the student continues to be tardy the team will continue to meet to attempt to address the situation with the support of staff from the sending district and the career center.

The student is responsible for making up any missed work with the teacher's support. Students will be given twenty-four hours to make up missed work.

Absent:

Each time a student is absent (excused or unexcused) it is the responsibility of the teacher and the student to work together to complete any missed assignments or for the student to learn missed concepts. Students will be given two days for every day they are absent to make up any missed work without consequences that impact their grade. If a student misses lab time the student and the teacher should work together to ensure the student is able to make up any missed learning. If a student is out for an extended period of time the instructor, student, guardian and director will develop a plan to address how the student will build the skills missed due to the absence once the student returns. The teacher should also check in with the student to try to ascertain if the student needs support to address barriers to school attendance and work with the sending school district to establish those supports.

When a student is absent from school or class more than 3 times in 30 calendar days or 7 days in a semester the student's teacher will schedule a meeting with the student, parent or guardian, guidance counselor, center director, and other team members. The goal of this meeting is problem-solving and addressing the situation before being absent causes learning loss or becomes habitual. If the student is absent due to an issue that can be resolved with the support of others within the students sending district or other service providers those agencies will be contacted by sending school personnel.

If the student continues to be absent the team will continue to meet to attempt to address the situation with the support of staff from the sending district and the career center. After the first meeting, the student's counselor or case manager will take the lead in scheduling meetings. The teacher will be responsible for tracking the student's attendance and reporting that and missed assignments to the student's counselor or case manager.

A student will only be removed from their CTE pathway for absenteeism or tardiness if their grades would make it impossible for them to reasonably pass the class at the end of the year. If the student is able to improve their grades (75%+) and attendance during

the second semester they are encouraged to reapply to the Windham Regional Career Center for the next year.

Safety and Safety Training:

Students must participate in their program's safety training and be committed to following the safety requirements and guidelines. If a student fails to participate in the safety training due to being absent they cannot participate in the shop or lab portion of the class until the training is completed. Students will be expected to work with the instructor to prioritize this training as soon as they return to class.

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class in which they are enrolled at Windham Regional Career Center. Further, the WRCC faculty and administration believe it is the individual student's responsibility to get to classes on time.

Absenteeism and tardiness of a few students can impact instruction to all the students that do attend a given class and do arrive on time. Teachers and administration are committed to providing essential basic education, as well as the most varied and challenging courses they can offer. WRCC also offers a wide variety of student activities, and students may need to make choices about participating in these activities.

We believe that students who miss class cannot expect to achieve at the same level as if they were present, particularly in classes which incorporate daily participation into the course grade.

Students may lose the option for a numerical passing grade for a course if they are absent for more than 10 classes in a semester course that meets every day or for 5 classes in a semester course that meets every other day. Students may lose the option for a numerical passing grade for a full year course if they are absent for more than 20 classes. In the event that the student passes the course after exceeding 10 absences, their course grade is recorded as an S and a grade of 60% is used for the purposes of GPA calculation. School sponsored activities are not included in the total.

In order to earn a numerical passing grade after exceeding 10 absences, a student must provide documentation from a health care provider, court clerk, etc. for the additional absences, and must make up the written work. "Participation" grades for missed classes, however, are nearly impossible to make up and this should be a topic of conversation between a student who really must miss some classes and the teacher of the missed classes. Written work must be made up according to a schedule agreed to by the student and the teacher, with 2 days per missed class as a general guide to this process.

When students take responsibility for making up work they miss during an absence, teachers will help them depending on the teacher's availability and the guidelines and limits in each course syllabus and/or published course requirements.

The school will notify parents/guardians when a student has reached 7 non-school sponsored absences in a class.

Definitions and Understandings

“Tardiness” means arriving to class without a pass or arriving late to school without a documented excuse.

“Absence” means missing more than half of the scheduled time of any class for any reason other than school sponsored activities.

“School-sponsored” activities include such things as school trips, school athletic contests, school activity trips, documented college visitations, school music auditions and festivals, restorative justice meetings, required testing, student council events, and other special events advocated or required by approved school activities.

“Documented Absences” would include documented illnesses, a death or other tragic family event, a medical appointment, court appearance, or those days associated with a religious holiday not recognized by the school calendar.

Even in cases of documented absences, “participation” aspects of a course may eventually affect the grade earned and awarded.

Absences considered as “unexcused” would include such things as sleeping late, family vacations, private or non-school concerts/performances, non-school sponsored athletics, shopping trips, preparing for other school sponsored activities, and undocumented and repeated illnesses.

Suspensions are neither excused nor unexcused.

Absences based upon a request to participate in a family vacation are strongly discouraged and should not be contemplated unless other absences are at a minimum or unless teachers agree that there is an excellent chance that work will be made up successfully. Students must talk with their teachers to get an understanding of the coursework they will miss before their departure. It must also be understood by students and parents that teachers will not be expected to provide advance work assignments to students who will be missing classes if that work is not yet available for students who will be in attendance.

After school participation on days students are absent

Students must be present at the beginning of Block 2 and attend their classes the remainder of the day in order to participate in any school sponsored activity scheduled that same afternoon or evening. If a student cuts a class on a Friday, he/she may not participate in any school sponsored activity on a Saturday. If they have an excused absence on a Friday, they can participate in a school sponsored activity on a Saturday.

Decision on how to make-up work/certification of make-up work

It is school policy that students are allowed to make up work for the reasons outlined and according to stipulations listed above. The process, schedule, grading, and certification that the work has been made up will rest exclusively with the teacher.

Class Cuts

A class cut is a conscious decision to miss more than half a class without an acceptable excuse. Each class cut will result in:

- A zero for the class (participation, tests, quizzes or work due that day). For the purpose of remaining current in the class, the student should request assigned work and hand it in for feedback.

When a student cuts a class, teachers will assign a meeting, contact a parent and send an office referral. If a student cuts repeatedly, the teacher will schedule a meeting with the student, their parent or guardian, the WRCC guidance counselor, the WRCC director, and at least one representative from the student's sending school.

Students dropped from courses due to cutting may have their schedules changed and be required to leave school after their last class or when they have no scheduled class. Transportation in such cases is the responsibility of the student and family.

Attendance and cuts in Windham Regional Career Center courses will be dealt with by WRCC staff and administration in accordance with WRCC policies and procedures.

Truancy

We want all students in school to receive an education as required by Vermont Law on compulsory attendance. When a child (ages 6-16) is enrolled in school and fails to attend without sufficient reason, that child can be considered truant under Vermont law for compulsory attendance. Part of that responsibility is to follow up by phone calls, letters, and meetings when students are absent and, if truant, to follow the state truancy laws and send the truant officer to the student's home.

Home School Releases or Activities Impacting Career Center Attendance

Students are encouraged to behave in a manner that demonstrates an appropriate commitment to the workplace and career success. Stated more directly, WRCC is like work, and students need to be here. To eliminate confusion and provide some consistency, the following guidelines will be implemented at the WRCC.

When a home school district has a half-day or early release (other than a school closing):

- Students are strongly encouraged to attend their Career Center program.

WRCC Academic Policy & Guidelines

General Expectations

The teacher is the classroom manager, initiating and terminating instruction according to plan, and maintaining a learning environment consistent with sound educational practice, school rules, and board policy. Teachers communicate the course objectives, expectations, procedures, and rules to students in writing at the beginning of a course.

A course description of clear expectations will be provided to each student in a class and available for parents upon request. It should include:

- Course goals and objectives
- An outline of course content
- Course requirements such as required reading, projects, papers or participation.
- Texts and/or other core instructional materials
- Expectations/classroom rules and policies including behavior, attendance, grading, and academic honesty
- A statement outlining which transferable skills are met within the course.
- Office hours

Assessment

The major objectives of assessment are to evaluate student learning, inform instruction and to evaluate the educational program and practices. The teacher is ultimately responsible for determining grades even when students are involved in the evaluation process. Students' performance on tests and other graded assignments such as papers, projects, and presentations are assessed in accordance with the proficiencies set for the course.

The following serve as guidelines for assessment and grading:

- A grading policy
- A retake policy
- Formative and summative evaluations
- Criteria for assessment being given on or before it is due
- Review, practice, and guided work sessions as appropriate to the performance being assessed
- Regular feedback, through formative assessments, to students to help improve their performance
- Evaluative and grade assessments and other student work on a timeline communicated to students
- Provide feedback on the student's writing (mechanics, clarity, and effectiveness)

regardless of the subject matter

Legal Statutes on Discrimination & Harassment

Policy of Non-Discrimination

It is the intent of Windham Regional Career Center that its Board and its employees will not discriminate against any intended beneficiaries of statutory protection (including but not limited to students, employees, parents, guardians, other members of the community or applicants for employment or admission, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the school district) on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and marital status in admission and access to, or treatment or employment in, any of the high school programs and activities, policies, procedures, practices and to the extent provided by law.

Any person having inquiries concerning the Brattleboro Union High School District #6 compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact the Equity Coordinator, Ms. Kate Margaitis, School District Equity Coordinator, Green Street School, 164 Green Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802) 254-3737 email: kmargaitis@wsesdvt.org

Policy of Unlawful Harassment

It is the policy of Windham Regional Career Center to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of disability, gender (sex), marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation. [BUHS Policy F23, Vermont Statutes 16 VSA Section 565] This policy includes language for sexual harassment, BUHS #6 Policy. It is a violation of this policy for any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the School District to harass a pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel through conduct or communication on the basis of disability, gender (sex), marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion gender identity, or sexual orientation. School personnel are required to take prompt action and report any act of harassment as defined by this policy to their building administrator. If the complaint involves their building administrator(s), the report should be made directly to the School District Equity Coordinator, Kate Margaitis, or the Superintendent. (For purposes of this policy, a school personnel includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the School District). The School District will act to investigate all complaints, formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment due to disability, gender (sex), marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy.

Reporting Discrimination & Harassment

Any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or violence under this policy, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct prohibited by this policy, is entitled to make an internal complaint to be responded to pursuant to this policy and/or to pursue additional remedies provided by federal and state law.

Nancy Wiese, WRCC Director and Anne Doran WRCC Guidance Coordinator are the designated individuals to receive complaints of harassment pursuant to 16 V.S.A. 565c(1).

Complaints of harassment also may be made to the following agencies:

Vermont Human Rights Commission
14-16 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
(800)-416-2010 or (802)-828-2480 (voice)
(877)-294-9200 (tty)
(802)-828-2481 (fax)\
Email: human.rights@state.vt.us

Office for Civil Right, Boston Office
US Department of Education
33 Arch Street Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02110-1491

Examples of Harassment

Examples of harassment include, but are not limited to, physical aggression or force, the threat of physical aggression or force, demeaning comments or behavior, slurs, mimicking jokes, gestures, name-calling, graffiti, or circulation of written or visual material, stalking, sexual advances, use of nicknames emphasizing stereotypes, comments on manner of speaking, negative references to customs, and derogatory comments regarding surnames.

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment which involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when one or more of the following conditions are present

- a. Submission to that conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of that person's position.
- b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a component of the basis of decisions affecting that person

- c. The conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's performance or creating and intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

WRCC Action

Upon receipt of a complaint from a student, parent or school personnel, the Director or WRCC School Counselor will resolve, either formally or informally, any complaints which involve students, within ten days.

Action taken may include a reprimand, written warning, detention, suspension from school, training, education or counseling, or recommendation to the School Board for expulsion. If the complaint involves school personnel, the Director shall inform the parents/guardian of all students involved, conduct a formal investigation, and report the outcome of such investigation within ten working days of the receipt of the complaint.

Upon completing the investigation, and upon determining that harassment has been committed, the Director/Superintendent will take appropriate action, including but not limited to, a warning or written reprimand, remedial action such as counseling, training or education, a suspension from duties, or a recommendation of dismissal to the School Board.

Except in the case of suspension, non-renewal or dismissal, the Director/Superintendent will meet separately with the complainant and the school personnel involved in order to secure their written acceptances of the actions to be taken. If both parties agree to the intended actions, the Director will carry out the actions and shall complete a report for the actions for inclusion in the employee's personnel file.

If the student complaint, (the student or his/her parent/guardian), or the school personnel involved disagrees with the action to be taken, the Director/Superintendent will make his/her recommendations for action directly to the School Board for appropriate hearings and action.

If an adult files a complaint of harassment against a student, the Director/Superintendent will investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint either formally or informally, within ten days of receiving the complaint. If a formal investigation is pursued, the Director/Superintendent will inform parents/guardians of all students involved.

If the Director/Superintendent determines that harassment has occurred, the Director/Superintendent will take appropriate action that may include: reprimand, written warning, detention, suspension from school, remedial action, such as training, education or counseling, or recommendation to the school board for expulsion from school.

Informal Resolution

If the complainant and respondent are both students, they may agree to a meeting facilitated by a school employee. If each student involved agrees the situation has been resolved by such a meeting, the school employee will report to the Director/superintendent only that the matter has been resolved informally. If any student does not agree that the situation has been resolved, the student may proceed to a formal investigation by making such a request to the Director/Superintendent.

Retaliation

Retaliation for reporting harassment or cooperating in an investigation of harassment is unlawful under VSA, section 4502 (a) (5).

Student Services & Counseling

Office Hours

Students may need or request additional assistance in making up missed work or in understanding class material. It is expected that teachers will make themselves available until 4:05 p.m. to these students on a regular basis through published office hours after school at least two days per week.

Academic Scheduling

WRCC member school counselors will assist students in developing schedules that assist to meet local graduation requirements and prepare students for their career development. The WRCC Counselor will collaborate with the member schools and all students to enhance course selections that are relevant and supportive of the student's career and technical educational plan. All course changes will be made through school counselors in accordance with member school procedures. All WRCC program selections must follow the Admissions Policy procedures. The Director has final approval on all student course enrollments.

Dropping classes

Career Center students will not be able to drop any class after two weeks of the semester start date. Only unforeseen circumstances may be approved by WRCC director and counselor.

Career Services

Career Services are available to all students through the WRCC Counselor (Anne Doran) located in the PTC main office. Counseling is offered to assist students make suitable decisions regarding educational and career and technical plans, to overcome personal difficulties and to assist in developing strengths. A student may make an appointment to see a counselor by:

- Stopping at the home school or WRCC Counseling Office before school, at break time, or after school to obtain a pass.
- Requesting a pass from your teacher who will call the WRCC Counseling Office to determine when a student may be seen.

Career Counseling

WRCC will assist students with developing job skills, making informed career choices, becoming familiar with the workplace and its demands, selecting high school courses that correspond to these career choices, and assisting in post-secondary planning, securing work-based opportunities and job placement.

Substance Abuse Counseling

Any student requesting assistance should arrange for an initial screening meeting through his/her guidance counselor or the school nurse. Every effort will be made to direct the student to the appropriate program within their respective community.

College Placement Assistance

The WRCC works closely with community and state colleges to facilitate student choices. Many WRCC programs have agreements with post-secondary institutions that will give successful students college credit for specific levels of achievement within the WRCC program.

Dual Enrollment

The Windham Regional Career Center offers dual enrollment college credit in specific program areas. Dual Enrollment advantages include the opportunity for students to begin earning college credit while still in high school by taking courses in a career pathway that is articulated through Community College of Vermont (CCV), Vermont Technical College (VTC) or other post-secondary schools. Interested students should speak with the sending school and WRCC Counselor while planning this aspect for the following year.

WRCC Apprenticeship Program (Co-op)

The WRCC Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity for extending Career Center learning into paid or unpaid positions in the local workforce during or after school hours. Grades are based on the employer's evaluation of the student outlined on the Work

Based Learning Plan. After school and summer Coop placements are also encouraged and available on a limited basis. It is strongly recommended that students participating in Co-op take out the home school sponsored "student accident plan" approved by the School Board in their home school in the event there is no family accident insurance in effect.

Please see Linda Quay (Located in WRCC Main Office) WRCC Co-op coordinator for a detailed list of requirements to participate in a Co-op.

WRCC Student Leadership & Organizations

Technical students have the opportunity to participate in Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) activities that are affiliated with the program in which they are enrolled. These activities, which develop leadership skills, will occur during the class time as part of the program of instruction. Organizations affiliated with our programs include: National FFA Organization, SkillsUSA and Future Business Leaders of America.