

Annual Notices Required by Law 1/5/26

In Ohio, school districts are required by law to provide certain annual notifications to parents and guardians. These notifications ensure that families are informed about their rights, available services, and important policies. Here are some of the key notifications that schools must provide:

If you have any questions or need further information on any of the below Notices, policies, etc please contact HCS. Further information and policies can be found on our school website <https://hardincommunityschool.org/school>

Parents Bill of Rights In alignment with House Bill (HB) 8 and Ohio Revised Code (RC) 3313.473, effective April 9, 2025, we are proud to introduce our Parents' Bill of Rights policy. Please see Policy 235, and 203.4

Title IX Policy 222, 222.1

Any questions or complaints please contact:
HCS Coordinator Traci Conley Contact HCS 419-673-3210

Notification of Policy

HCS does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities, including admission and employment, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. Inquiries regarding Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Notification of Grievance Procedure

HCS has adopted a grievance procedure to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by Title IX and its implementing regulations. This procedure describes how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a complaint of sexual harassment.

Annual FERPA Notification In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the district is providing the following information about the rights of parents and eligible students regarding education records:

1. **Right to Inspect and Review:** Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by HCS. Requests to access records should be submitted to the school's main office.
2. **Right to Request Amendment:** If you believe that the education records are inaccurate or misleading, you may request that the record be amended. Please submit a written request to HCS administration. If the request is denied, you will be notified of your right to a hearing.
3. **Right to Consent to Disclosures:** HCS will not disclose personally identifiable information from education records without prior written consent, except in situations permitted by FERPA, such as disclosures to school officials with legitimate educational interests or as required by law.
4. **Right to File a Complaint:** If you believe that HCS has violated FERPA regulations, you may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
5. **Directory Information:** HCS may release certain directory information (e.g., student's name, address, telephone number) unless you request that this information be withheld. To opt-out of directory information disclosure, please contact HCS.

Special Education Services Notification HCS is committed to providing a supportive educational environment for all students, including those with disabilities. Below is important information about the availability of special education services and the process for accessing these services.

1. **Special Education Services:** Our district offers special education services for students who need specialized instruction due to a disability. Eligibility for services is determined through a comprehensive evaluation process.
2. **Evaluation Process:** If you suspect that your child may have a disability, please contact HCS to discuss a referral for evaluation. HCS will need your consent before conducting any evaluations.
3. **Individualized Education Program (IEP):** If your child is found eligible, the district will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) tailored to their needs. This plan will be reviewed annually, and you are encouraged to participate in all meetings related to your child's education.
4. **Parent Rights:** You have the right to participate in meetings, give or withhold consent, and receive information on procedural safeguards. A copy of the procedural safeguards notice is available upon request.
5. **Related Services and Placement:** Related services such as speech or occupational therapy may be provided as needed. HCS strives to educate students in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their needs.
6. **Transition Planning:** For students aged 14 and older, transition planning will be included in the IEP to prepare them for postsecondary education, employment, and independent living.

For more information or to discuss your child's specific needs, please contact HCS. You can also visit the Ohio Department of Education's website for additional resources.

Child Find Notification Policy 227,227.1

HCS is committed to ensuring that all children with disabilities receive the support they need to succeed in school. As part of this commitment, the district wants to inform you about the Child Find process and how it helps identify and support children with disability.

What is Child Find? Child Find is a process mandated by federal and state law to identify, locate, and evaluate children who may have disabilities and need special education and related services. This includes children from birth through age 21, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in school.

How to Refer a Child If you suspect that your child may have a disability and could benefit from special education services, you can refer your child for evaluation. You can start the referral process by contacting HCS.

What Happens Next? Once HCS receives your referral and consent, we will conduct a comprehensive evaluation to determine if your child has a disability and needs special education services.

Your Rights As a parent or guardian, you have the right to be involved in all meetings regarding your child's evaluation and eligibility for special education services. You will also receive information about your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Ohio law.

Additional Information For more information about Child Find, the referral process, or special education services, please contact HCS.

Title I Program Notification Policy 223, 223.1

HCS participates in the Title I program. Title I is a federal program designed to provide additional support to schools with high numbers of students from low-income families. The goal of Title I is to help ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education and achieve academic success.

Title I Program Information

- **Support Services:** Title I funds are used to provide additional instructional services and support to help students succeed in reading, math, and other subjects.
- **Teacher Qualifications:** You have the right to request information about the qualifications of your child's teacher. This includes their licensing status, certifications, and academic degrees. Please contact HCS.

Parent Engagement Plan Parent and Community Involvement Policy/Plan As required by section 116(a) (1) (2) (B) (C) (D) (i) (E) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) EXPECTATIONS Hardin Community School agrees to implement the following requirements:

- The school will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, consistent with section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school will work with its parents to ensure that the required school-level parent Involvement policy/plan meet the requirements of section 1116(c) (4) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) (2) (D) of ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, we will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1116 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
- Establish a Team, composed of parents from the school, who will meet biannually to review, discuss and revise if necessary the Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan.
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Community Engagement policy/plan.
- The school will notify parents of the date of the meeting and invite parents to attend.
- Parents will be made aware that the school's policy/plan is being evaluated and given the opportunity for input.
- Notification will be provided to parents or guardians through the website .

ADOPTION This Parent Engagement Policy/Plan has been developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents of children participating in Title I. and will continually be in effect, with annual review. Revisions will occur as necessary for compliance.

Annual Report

HCS will provide an annual report on the school's performance and progress, including how Title I funds are used and their impact on student achievement. This information will be available by contacting HCS

Opportunities for Involvement

- **Parent Meetings:** HCS will hold meetings throughout the year to discuss the Title I program, our goals, and how you can be involved in supporting your child's education. HCS encourages your participation in these meetings.
- **School-Parent Compact:** HCS have developed a School-Parent Compact that outlines the shared responsibilities of parents, teachers, and students in

achieving academic success. A copy of this compact is available from the office at HCS

Lead Paint Notice Hardin Community School would like to inform all parents and guardians that there is no lead-based paint used anywhere in our school building. The health and safety of our students and staff remain our top priority.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact HCS

Health Care Notice 203.4, 235

In accordance with Ohio's *Parents' Bill of Rights*, we are providing you with this annual notification regarding the health services available to students at HCS .

Our school is committed to supporting the physical and emotional well-being of all students. The following health services may be offered during the school year:

Health Services Offered

- **Basic first aid and emergency care** provided by the school nurse or trained personnel
- **Health screenings**, including vision, hearing, and scoliosis (as required by state guidelines)
- **Management of chronic health conditions**, including medication administration with proper authorization
- **Immunization record reviews** and referrals
- **Health education** as part of the school curriculum, covering age-appropriate topics

Parental Rights

You have the right to:

- Be informed and give consent before your child participates in any ongoing or non-emergency health services beyond basic care.
- Review any health records maintained by the school.
- Opt your child out of certain health services by submitting written notification to the school.

Public Records Requests Policy 147

In accordance with the **Ohio Public Records Act (O.R.C. 149.43)**, HCS is committed to open and transparent governance. All public records are available for inspection and copying, unless exempted by law. Please visit Policy 147 on how to request public records

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Policy 276

HCS uses a district-wide framework of **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**.

PBIS is a proactive approach that teaches and reinforces positive behavior, with the goal of improving student outcomes and school climate. This framework aligns with **Ohio law** and is designed to support all students academically, socially, and emotionally.

To learn more about HCS's PBIS policy and procedures, including how to file a complaint, please visit Policy 276

District and State Testing Notice of District Policy on Student Participation in State Assessments

Hardin Community School students are subject to the administration of district and state assessments. These tests will provide the student, parents, teachers, district and state important information on the student's academic progress on the state standards. Upon request the school will provide, in a timely manner, the district's testing policy and state information mandated by section 1111(b)(2). When the results of state mandated assessment are sent to the district, those reports will be forwarded on to the parents. Any district assessment results will either be sent home with the student, mailed to the house or distributed during parent teacher conferences.

District's most recent State Report Card can be found at:

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/dorp/011324> Information on Ohio State's Test:
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing>

One Plan

In accordance with Ohio Department of Education requirements, Hardin Community School has developed a comprehensive *One Plan* that outlines the goals, strategies, and funding allocation for the federal programs under Title I-A (Improving the Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged Students), Title IV (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants), Title II-A (Teacher and Principal Quality), and IDEA B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B).

This plan is designed to ensure that our school meets all federal and state requirements to provide equitable and effective educational opportunities for all students.

The *One Plan* is available for public review and is posted on our website for easy access. We invite all stakeholders—parents, educators, and community members—to review the plan and provide feedback.

Wellness Policy 453

Please view Policy 453 for HCS goals for wellness

Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy 264, 264.1, 264.3

- Our anti-bullying policies define bullying and provide procedures for reporting and addressing incidents. We also address cyberbullying and harassment comprehensively.
- We have policies in place to prevent and address discrimination and harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.
- You can find policy and consequences in the Parent and Student Handbook found on HCS website or visit the policy 264, 264.1, 264.2

Religion Policy 225

An excused absence for any of the below religion holidays or festivals shall not be reasonably withheld, up to a total of 3 school days of absences per school year. This list is nonexhaustive and will not be used to deny an accommodation for an absence due to a holiday or festival of the students faith or religious or spiritual belief system that does not appear on the list. See Policy 225

Holidays : Eid ul- Fitr, Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover, Eid ul-Adha

Academic and Political Neutrality Policy 238

HCS is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment for all students. In accordance with school policy, no student, employee, or job applicant will be required or pressured to express or affirm specific political beliefs, ideologies, or affiliations. Academic evaluations will never be based on a student's personal views on political or ideological matters.

This policy does not limit the school's obligation to follow anti-discrimination laws, uphold academic freedom, or evaluate employees based on their professional expertise. Educators may still engage in research and teaching that explore a range of topics, provided they adhere to professional and legal standards.

Additionally, any materials related to these topics used in student or staff training will be made publicly accessible, unless protected by law

Online resources and guidance

- [American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\)](#): The AAUP publishes policy statements and reports on institutional neutrality that discuss the concept's relationship to academic freedom.
- Heterodox Academy: This organization explores "institutional neutrality" and provides resources such as blog posts and videos to help universities navigate when and how to take a stand on public issues.
- University of Chicago's Kalven Report: This 1967 report is a foundational document on institutional neutrality and is frequently referenced in discussions and analyses. The full report is publicly available online.
- YouTube Discussions: Some academic groups and experts upload videos discussing institutional neutrality policies, their implications for academic freedom, and how they are being implemented on campuses.

This policy fully respects employee rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

Cell Phone Policy 234.1

Pursuant to HB 96 schools must adopt a policy that prohibits student cell phone usage on school property during the instructional day, except in an event of an emergency or when a student's IEP or 504 Plan permits use of a cell phone for learning or monitoring and addressing health concerns. Please see the policy for more information

Ohio Computer Science Promise (CS Promise) Program

Ohio House Bill 33 creates the Ohio Computer Science Promise (CS Promise) program. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, under the program, students in grades 7-12 can enroll, at no cost to the student, in one computer science course not offered by the student's secondary school per academic year and receive high school credit for the course. Any student grades 7-12 enrolled at Hardin Community School may participate in the program if the student meets the applicable eligibility criteria. Students in grades seven and eight may participate in the program for high school credit. Eligible provider applicants include Ohio's K-12 secondary schools, Institutions of Higher Education, and for profit and not-for-profit education providers with the necessary content and qualifications to provide courses.

This list of providers can be accessed by going to the link below. Only courses available on the Ohio Department of Education website CS Promise Provider and Course List will be accepted. Students can take one course per academic year between 7th-12th grade. All courses successfully completed under the CS Promise are for high school credit and can be used toward the graduation requirements in Math, Science, or World Languages and Cultures. Upon completion of the course, completion data will be sent from the provider to Hardin Community School. Any student wishing to participate needs to contact Ms. Moots at the school for further information and guidance in reaching the provider and setting up the course. List of Providers:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Computer-Science/CSPromise/CS-Promise-Provider-List>

Attendance Policy 251 We would like to share some important information about **House Bill 410 (HB 410)**, an Ohio law that focuses on improving school attendance and supporting students and families. The goal of this law is to help students attend school regularly and to provide positive interventions when attendance becomes a concern.

Under HB 410:

- A student is considered “**habitually truant**” when they miss **30 or more consecutive hours, 42 hours in a month, or 72 hours in a school year**

without a legitimate excuse.

- When a student reaches certain absence levels, the school is required to contact families and work together to develop an **Attendance Intervention Plan**.
- The law encourages **communication and partnership** between families and schools, rather than punishment, to address attendance barriers.