



**Scituate Public Schools**

Our Home Away From Home

**Scituate Public Schools**  
**Elementary Handbook**  
**2022-2023**

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**Cushing School**  
1 Aberdeen Drive  
Scituate, MA 02066

**Jenkins School**  
54 Vinal Avenue  
Scituate, MA 02066

**Hatherly School**  
72 Ann Vinal Road  
Scituate, MA 02066

**Wampatuck School**  
266 Tilden Road  
Scituate, MA 02066

### **Mission Statement of the Scituate Public School System**

The mission of Scituate Public Schools is to graduate well-rounded global citizens with the skills, passion, and confidence to make a positive impact in our world.

### **Welcome**

This handbook has been prepared to acquaint elementary parents and students with school policies, regulations, and procedures. The Scituate Public Schools website, [scit.org](http://scit.org), is an excellent resource for finding additional information for any of the topics included in this handbook. Please take the time to read this handbook carefully. Our handbook reflects a wide range of topics for this wide range in ages. It is our hope that, through an understanding and respect for school policies, members of our school communities will develop a sense of pride in themselves and their school.

***Scott Williams***  
Cushing School

***Julie Ward***  
Hatherly School

***Mary Oldach***  
Jenkins School

***Tracy Riordan***  
Wampatuck School

**Scituate Public Schools  
Administration**

<b>School Committee</b>	Mr. Peter Gates, Mr. Michael Long Ms. Janice Lindblom, Ms. Nicole Brandolini, Chairperson Ms. Carey Borkoski
<b>Superintendent</b>	Mr. William Burkhead
<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	Ms. Heidi Driscoll
<b>Director of Special Education</b>	Dr. Michele Boebert
<b>Director of Business/Finance</b>	Dr. Robert Dutch

The Scituate Public Schools comply with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 5 (“Chapter 622”) and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination in, and guarantee access to, all public schools and public school programs, courses, advantages and privileges without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, gender identity, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. If you would like further information on these laws, please contact the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, 606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway, Scituate, Massachusetts. The telephone number is 545-8750 ext. 320.

The Scituate Public School website ([scit.org](http://scit.org)) contains a directory of faculty and staff for each school, the school calendar for the year and school hours for each elementary school. Please call the Office of the Superintendent of Schools (781-545-8750 ext. 311) to request a translated copy of this handbook.

## **District Calendar**

The district calendar is updated frequently and may be found [scit.org](http://scit.org)

Mark your calendars for important report card dates:

### **Trimester (Start and End Dates)**

**Trimester 1: September 7th - December 2nd**  
**Trimester 2: December 5th - March 10th**  
**Trimester 3: March 13th - Last Day of School**

### **Report Card Dates**

**Trimester 1: December 9, 2022**  
**Trimester 2: March 17, 2022**  
**Trimester 3: Last Day of School**

## **Alcohol/Drug Free Workplace Policy**

It is the policy of the Scituate Public Schools to maintain an alcohol-free and drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of controlled substances or alcohol is prohibited at school functions or on school department property.

## **Allergies - Life Threatening LTA Policy**

The number of students with life-threatening allergies has increased substantially over the last several years. As with all students with special health care needs, it is important that children with life-threatening allergies are provided reasonable access to all education and education related benefits. Therefore, there are designated classrooms throughout the district that have food restrictions where consumption of certain foods will be prohibited. Notification of these restrictions will be communicated as soon as they are determined. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: School Health Services: Life Threatening Allergies.

## **Anti-Bullying Policy- Bullying Prevention: Policy JICFB**

### **Attendance Student Absences & Excuses: Policy JH**

**PHILOSOPHY:** The Scituate Public Schools believes that regular and punctual school attendance is critical to academic success and establishing positive lifelong work habits. Despite advances in technology, it is still impossible to adequately replicate the in-class experience for students who are absent from school. Students who are excessively absent are likely to fall behind academically, could experience school failure, and may eventually drop out of school. Parents play a critical role by ensuring their children regularly attend school.

**PROCEDURES:** Consistent with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, the Scituate School Committee has established [Policy JH](#). Each school principal will enforce this policy as follows.

1. To be considered present for school, an elementary student must be present for at least ½ of the school day.
2. When a child is going to be absent from school, the parent/guardian is expected to call the school office no later than one hour after the start of the school day. If the school does not receive a phone call from the parent/guardian, the school will attempt to reach the parent/guardian through a personal phone call or other automated means.
3. In all instances where a child is absent from school for any reason, a signed note from a parent/guardian must accompany the child upon return to school. Emailed notes from a **registered** parent/guardian email address will meet this expectation. Registered is defined as the official parent/guardian email address listed in ASPEN. The note must indicate the date(s) and reason for the absence from school.

4. The following absences are considered **excused** by the Scituate Public Schools **with proper documentation**:
- Short-term illness (less than 5 consecutive days) - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
  - Long-term illness (5 or more consecutive days) - Must be verified by a note from the doctor's office upon return to school.
  - Chronic Illness (a recurring, long-term medical illness or condition) - Must be verified by a note from the doctor's office on file with the school nurse stating the nature of the illness/condition and its possible effect on school attendance.
  - Dismissal from school by the school nurse.
  - Medical appointments verified by a note from the doctor's office.
  - Bereavement - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
  - School sponsored events such as assemblies, field trips, etc.
  - Court appearances – Must be verified by documentation from the court.
  - Religious holidays - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
  - College or private school visits (up to two days per term for high school juniors and seniors and up to two days per year for all other students) – Must submit documentation from the school or college upon return.
  - School imposed disciplinary consequences.
  - Extenuating circumstances approved by the principal.
5. A student will be marked tardy to school if he/she does not report to school by the posted start of homeroom period, or by the posted start of the academic day if no homeroom is scheduled. Being tardy to school is always considered unexcused unless a note from the doctor's office is provided upon arrival to school. Parents should attempt to schedule doctor's appointments before or after school hours. Students tardy more than ½ the school day (K-5) will be considered absent according to Massachusetts law. Disciplinary consequences may apply for students tardy to school.
6. Early dismissal should be avoided if possible. The only excused dismissals would be for reasons listed in #4 above. Doctor's appointments should be scheduled when school is not in session. If a student is dismissed early for a doctor's appointment they must return to school the same or following day with a note from the doctor excusing the absence.
7. Family vacations are **not** considered excused absences. Parents are asked to schedule vacations at times when school is not in session. In the event a family vacation can only be scheduled while school is in session, the parent/guardian is asked to provide a minimum of two weeks' notice to the principal and classroom teacher(s). Teachers are not required to provide work in advance of a planned family vacation. For school makeup policies please see below.
8. Consistent with Massachusetts General Law, when a student has reached **five (5) unexcused absences** in a school year, the principal, or his/her designee, will set up a meeting with the student and his/her parents in order to develop an action plan to improve attendance.
9. When a student is absent 10% or more in a marking period, even if the absences are considered excused, the principal, or his/her designee, may set up a meeting with the student and his/her parents in order to develop an action plan to improve attendance. As part of this plan, additional documentation may be required to explain excessive absences.

### **Make Up Work**

No student shall be unduly penalized for **excused** absences that occur because of reasons listed in #4 above. Elementary (K-5) and secondary (6-12) schools will establish their own developmentally appropriate policy for making up school work due to excused and unexcused absences. Elementary Make-Up Work Policy: It is the student's responsibility to make up all assignments and other work within one week of his/her return to school after an absence.

### **Absence Due to Religious Reasons**

The Scituate School Committee adopts the following policy in order to accommodate the religious needs of our students who observe religious holidays during the school year. No student shall be penalized because he or she was absent from school for religious observance. Teachers will not give tests or quizzes, or have programs that would place absent students at a disadvantage on religious holidays. Tests or quizzes shall not be administered on the day following a religious holiday unless the teacher has provided notice of such a test or quiz at least four (4) school days prior to the religious holidays.

A list of the religious holidays that will include, but not be limited to, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover (three holy days shall be included on the school calendar each year) shall be provided to each teacher at the start of the school year. This list will include the notation that the Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the day before the holy day.

Scituate Public Schools will consider religious holidays in preparation of the annual school calendar and these days will be listed on the calendar.

#### **Bicycle, Scooter, Skateboard Use**

Students who attend the Scituate Public Schools may ride their bicycles to school at their own risk. The school will not be responsible for the loss or theft of the bicycle, scooter, or a skateboard while on school property, therefore, locks are recommended. They are not to ride on school property. As with all students' personal property, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles.

#### **Bully Prevention Policy [File: JICEB](#)**

#### **Child Abuse & Neglect: Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect [Policy JLDBD](#) and [Policy JLDBD-R](#)**

#### **Busses ([POLICY EEA](#))**

#### **Student Conduct on Buses ([POLICY EEAEC](#))**

#### **Community Use of School Facilities**

Scituate community groups shall be permitted and encouraged to use school facilities for meetings and activities that do not interfere with the school programs. Applications for Use of School Facilities may be obtained from the district website under District Information/Forms and Fees. Responsibility for student safety and supervision during and after school programs rests with the sponsoring community group. [Building Use Forms and Information](#)

#### **Concussion: [Policy JJIF](#)**

#### **Controlled Substance & Alcohol Policy –Drug & Alcohol Use by Student [Policy JICH](#)**

#### **CORI Requirements- Background Checks [Policy ADDA](#)**

#### **Delayed Opening**

It is the policy of the School Committee to have school when the buses can safely operate. Due to a significant storm or an emergency, the Superintendent of Schools may delay the opening time for up to two hours rather than cancel school for the entire day. In such cases, morning bus pick-ups will coincide with the delay. Dismissal will be at the regular time.

If it is necessary to delay the opening of school, the major radio and television stations will be asked to announce the delayed opening. It is the parent's prerogative to make the final judgment as to whether or not to send students to school in cases of stormy weather. Parents should not call the school, the Fire Department, or the Police Department to verify "Delayed Opening" information. The district automated call system will also be activated by SPS with "Delayed Opening" information.

#### **Daycare Transportation: [See Policy EEA](#)**

#### **Discipline Policies and Procedures ([School Committee Policy JIC](#))**

The atmosphere of a school is a reflection of the attitude of its students and staff toward the school and a function of parental and social attitudes toward education and teachers. It is very important that an atmosphere of order, self-discipline, and mutual respect be encouraged. The administration and staff will work with students to develop the maturity and good judgment to regulate their own behavior and accept the consequences of their decisions and actions.

The Scituate School Committee believes that all students deserve every opportunity to achieve academic success in a safe, secure learning environment. Good citizenship in schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. They will be required to respect constituted authority, to conform to school rules and to those provisions of law that apply to their conduct.

### **Dress Code**

Scituate elementary schools has a dress code that is meant to emphasize the importance of personal dress and appearance that encourages a safe and positive learning environment for all. The following guidelines are meant to encourage that environment:

- Students should dress comfortably for school while wearing clothing that is well-suited for a school environment.
- Clothing will cover the torso, midriff and backside, and have sleeves or straps.
- Head and face will be uncovered. Appropriate headgear may be worn for warmth and protection outdoors, and inside for religious reasons or special circumstances.
- Clothing, drawings, and accessories that display or promote negative messages are not permitted. Those negative messages could include drug, weapon, alcohol, gang, or tobacco-related information, obscenities, put-downs, stereotypes, sexual innuendo, or offensive words or graphics.

Scituate Elementary Schools encourages all students to be proud of who they are and to express themselves appropriately. Violations of the dress code will require a change of clothing. Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The courts have ruled that the schools have authority to regulate students' dress and, in some cases, hair styling. Students who are dressed inappropriately for school will be requested to change their clothing. Parents may be called and requested to bring in appropriate attire for their children. Health regulations require that shoes must be worn at all times in a public building. Students who violate the dress code for the first time will be asked to call their parents to bring in appropriate clothing. The final decision regarding a particular student's dress lies with the administration.

### **Emergency Information for Students**

Emergency information for each student must be on file in the Aspen System so that parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or designated emergency contacts may be reached in case of illness or injury. Every attempt will be made to contact the parent(s) first before calling the emergency contact. It is the family's responsibility to keep contact information up to date. Please remember to contact the office if your home address, home, or cell phone numbers change during the school year as well as any changes in emergency contact information.

### **Emergency School Closing**

In the event that there is a storm or an emergency develops during the school day that necessitates closing the school, there will be an early dismissal. Should this occur, parents are advised to have a plan in place directing their child or children where to go when there is no one at home. If it becomes necessary to close a school during normal school hours due to weather conditions or any other emergency, the following procedure will be used:

- The decision to close a school will be made as soon as possible by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
- The emergency school closing announcement will be carried on local cable television (Channel 22), radio station WATD 95.6 FM, and the district automated call system.

### **Entrance Regulations**

- **Kindergarten and Grade 1:** A child who will be five years of age on or before September 1 is eligible to attend Kindergarten in September of that school year. A child who will be six years of age on or before September 1 is eligible to attend Grade 1 in September of that school year.
- **Birth Certificate:** A certified copy of the child's birth certificate must be presented for entrance to school.
- **Health Requirements:** The Massachusetts Department of Health requires that all children attending public or private school (Kindergarten through Grade 12) be immunized against Hepatitis B, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, and screened for lead poisoning. In addition, all students must have been immunized against (two doses) the varicella virus (chickenpox) or have a physician's note stating that the student has had the disease. In compliance with the School Immunization Laws, the child will not be able to attend school in September unless all required immunizations are on file in the School Nurse's Office. The certification must be in the form of a written record that specifies the type of

immunization and indicates the month, day, and year of each vaccine. In the absence of an emergency or epidemic declared by the Department of Public Health, any child whose parent or legal guardian can demonstrate evidence that immunization conflicts with his/her religious beliefs shall be required to present a physician's certificate to be admitted to school (Chapter 76, Section 15). Additionally, in accordance with M.G.L.,c. 71, s. 57, upon entering kindergarten or within thirty days after kindergarten entry, the parent or guardian of each child shall present certification that the student within the previous 12 months has passed a vision screening.

**Childcare/Preschool**

Attendees <2 years should be immunized for their age according to the [ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule](#). Requirements listed in the table below apply to all attendees ≥2 years. These requirements also apply to children in preschool classes called K0 or K1.

Hib	<b>1-4 doses;</b> the number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins
DTaP	<b>4 doses</b>
Polio	<b>3 doses</b>
Hepatitis B	<b>3 doses;</b> laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	<b>1 dose;</b> must be given on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	<b>1 dose;</b> must be given on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

- **Records from a Prior School:** A complete copy of a new student's records from any school from which they are transferring must be provided to the receiving school.

**Equity in the Scituate Public Schools**

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (**Title VI** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (**Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972); or disability (Section **504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Pursuant to this, the Scituate Public School System, parents, students, and other interested parties provide the following information for use.

**Contact Information**

Assistant Superintendent  
 District Equity Coordinator  
 606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway  
 Scituate, MA 02066

Ms. [Heidi Driscoll](#)  
 (781) 545-8759 x 23313

The complete policy can be found on line at [scit.org](http://scit.org) or a hard copy can be obtained by calling the Superintendent's Office.

**Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) - Student Records: [Policy JRA](#)**

### **Field Trips**

There will be a time when classes, clubs, teams, or other groups will be taking field trips or making visits to other schools to represent Scituate Public Schools in activities. Transportation will be a school bus or commercial transportation, and all students will travel with the group unless there are specific arrangements made in advance through the office of the Principal. Since students will be representing Scituate, it is expected that they will act and dress appropriately for the occasion. In the case of field trips taken during the school day, students will be given a special form to be signed by their teachers and parents. The Administration and/or the student's teacher(s) have the right to approve or restrict a student from participating in a field trip (including overseas trips) based upon that student's tardy, attendance, and behavioral records.

### **Fire Drills**

The school is required by state law to conduct fire drills. Instructions are posted in each room. Exit from the building should be rapid and quiet. Listen for instructions after you are outside. Students must remain with their classroom teachers throughout the drill/evacuation. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or other communication devices during the drill/evacuations. Students who do not follow instructions during a fire drill will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Grades**

- Grades K – three, student grades are reported according to the rubric outlined on the report card.
- In grades, four and five student grades are reported as letter grades on report cards. Each letter grade represents a range of numerical grades as follows:

A+	97 and above
A	93.0 - 96.9
A-	90.0 - 92.9
B+	87.0 - 89.9
B	83.0 - 86.9
B-	80.0 - 82.9
C+	77.0 - 79.9
C	73.0 - 76.9
C-	70.0 - 72.9
D+	67.0 - 69.9
D	63.0 - 66.9
D-	60.0 - 62.9
F	59.4 and below
P	Pass
I	Incomplete

### **Harassment: Non-Discrimination Policy-Non Discrimination Regulation: AC-R**

If any Scituate Public Schools student believes, in good faith, that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment or any other form of harassment or discrimination described in the policies above, the individual has a right to file a complaint with the Scituate Public Schools through the Assistant Superintendent. This may be done verbally or in writing. Teachers or other staff members who observe incidents of harassment involving students should report such incidents immediately to the student's Principal or Assistant Principal. Administrators aware of harassment involving any employee should report such incidents to the Assistant Superintendent. To file a complaint, you may do so by referring to [scit.org](http://scit.org).

### **Hazing: Prohibition of Hazing: Policy JICFA**

### **Holidays**

Appropriate ceremonies and observances of national holidays and events of national, state, and local significance shall be encouraged and shall conform to statutory requirements of the Commonwealth. In addition, at various times throughout the school year, classes may set aside time for activities that celebrate certain holidays (e.g., Halloween, Thanksgiving). However, it is recognized that not all families wish to observe or have their children observe these holidays. These activities are ordinarily planned and parents should assume that some sort of celebration, in compliance with the SPS Wellness Policy ADF and SPS Life Threatening Allergy Policy, might occur during these times of the year. If you do not wish your child to participate in any holiday celebration, please write a note to the classroom teacher.

### **Home Instruction**

The Scituate Public Schools continue to respect the right of parents to educate their children at home. Home instruction is subject to the prior approval of the Superintendent following specific procedures. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent.

### **Home/School Communication**

Parents are an integral part of our school and as such, we strive to keep them involved and informed.

- A Expectations Night is scheduled at the beginning of the school year.
- A calendar of school activities can be found on-line at [scit.org](http://scit.org)
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teachers.
- Scheduled weekly office hours will be offered.
- Parents are encouraged to access student progress routinely via the Aspen Family Portal.

### **Homebound Instruction: [Policy IHBF](#)**

### **Homeless Students: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services: [Policy JFABD](#)**

### **Homework**

*The term "homework" refers to an assignment to be prepared during a period of supervised study in class or outside of class. The purposes of homework are to improve the learning processes, to aid in the mastery of skills, and to create and stimulate interest on the part of the student. Homework is a learning activity, which should increase in complexity with the maturity of the student. With increased maturity, learning should become an independent activity. This should be established through consistent assignments, which encourage students to investigate for themselves and to work independently as well as with others.*

- **Kindergarten:** Should be encouraged to talk about their day at school, and should be read to for 20 minutes.
- **Grade 1:** Should do an average of 10 minutes per day and should read independently, or be read to, for 20 minutes.
- **Grade 2:** Should do an average of 20 minutes per day and should read independently for 20 minutes.
- **Grade 3:** Should do an average of 30 minutes per day and should read independently for 20 minutes.
- **Grade 4:** Should do an average of 40 minutes per day and should read independently for 20 minutes.
- **Grade 5:** Should do an average of 50 minutes per day and should read independently for 20 minutes.

Homework is an extension of the student's daily instructional program and is assigned in order to meet the following educational goals and activities:

- To positively and meaningfully review, reinforce, and refine the skills and concepts that are taught in the classroom.
- To pursue independent or enrichment studies of the classroom curriculum.
- To develop in each student a sense of responsibility and accountability.
- Homework assignments should not include skills or concepts that have not been taught previously.

Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher with any questions or concerns about the role of homework in class or the overall quality of their child's preparation for class.

### **Lock Down & Shelter in Place**

The school will periodically conduct a lockdown drill or issue a "shelter in place" order. Students are expected to follow instructions of teachers and administration. Students must remain with their classroom teachers throughout the lockdown/"shelter in place" order. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or other communication devices during lockdowns/"shelter in place" orders. Students who do not follow instructions during a lockdown, lockdown drill or "shelter in place" order may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Lost and Found**

Each elementary school designates a specific area for lost and found articles. Periodically, unclaimed articles are donated. Parents are advised to be certain that all of their child's possessions are labeled (such as clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.).

### **Lunch Program/Food & Nutrition Services (POLICY EFC)**

The food service team will focus on food safety and providing safe choices for the well-being of all students. Our food service department will produce high quality, fresh, tasty foods with nutritional integrity. Our commitment is to provide students with a variety of menu choices, offered at an affordable price. Our goal is to support, educate, and encourage healthy eating habits and to work with families to do the same. We support learning by promoting healthy eating habits and providing good nutrition. Our food service team will treat all students with dignity and contribute to positive impacts on the student's daily experience.

Scituate Public School District participates in the National School Lunch program at all of our schools. Meals, foods, and beverages sold or served in schools meet State and Federal requirements, which are based on the USDA Dietary Guidelines. A hot topic in school lunch programs is the changes that are being implemented with the new law, the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. These new guidelines ensure that school lunches are healthy and well balanced.

Our school menus include:

- Whole Grain offerings
- Increased variety of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Focus on lean protein choices
- Smart snack options, A-list approved items
- Fat free and Low-fat Milk
- Reduced sodium content
- Smaller portion sizes with age appropriate calorie limits

Students are expected to:

- Talk quietly.
- Sit in their own seat.
- Respect other adults and children in the cafeteria.
- Children must comply with allergy provisions and restrictions as they relate to cafeteria policies and procedures.

### **Mosquito Spraying**

The Town of Scituate does spray school grounds for the control of mosquitoes on occasion. The school community will be notified of mosquito spraying via postings to the Scituate Public Schools website.

### **No Recording Policy**

In accordance with state and federal laws, staff, students, and parents/guardians must refrain from recording any video conference. In fact, it is a violation of the law to record without the consent of every participant. As such, our staff has been instructed to inform participants at the start of each video conference that teachers and students are not permitted to record these sessions.

### **“No School” Announcements**

It is the policy of the School Committee to have school when the buses can safely operate. The major radio and television stations will be asked to announce the cancellation of school as well as the district automated call system. It is the parent's prerogative to make the final judgment as to whether or not to send students to school in cases of stormy weather.

### **Observation of Special Education Programs: Policy IHBA**

### **Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO)**

EVERY parent of an elementary school child is a member of that school's PTO. The Elementary PTOs are support groups that enrich the children's educational environment. Through the interaction of parents, students, faculty, administration, and the entire community, the PTO is able to enhance the quality of education. Families are encouraged to become involved in their school's PTO programs and activities, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cultural enrichment programs
- Classroom and school wide volunteer support

- Fundraising
- Social Events (fairs, family meals, shows, etc.)
- Field Trips
- Book Fairs

**Physical Examination of Students: [Policy JLCA](#)**

**Physical Restraint ([POLICY JKAA](#))**

**Recess**

Weather permitting; children may be outdoors for recess. Safety considerations are also taken under advisement when the feasibility of outdoor recess is being determined. Students should dress appropriately. During winter months, this would include coats, hats, mittens and/or gloves and boots. Recess is at least 20 minutes long.

**Report Cards**

The report card is one way to indicate a student's progress. The school staff strongly encourages all parents to get to know their child through contact with the school personnel as often as necessary. Report cards are released online on a scheduled basis as indicated on the school calendar. Parent conferences are scheduled after the report cards are issued. At any time, however, parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher. Often this communication provides a means for overcoming obstacles that may interfere with a child's progress in school.

**Responsible Use Policy ([POLICY LJNB](#))**

**School Councils**

Each school will have a School Council. School Council is a representative school building-based committee composed of the principal, two parents, two teachers, one school committee representative and one community member. Each year, there will be an election. Council meetings are usually held monthly; dates and times of meetings are posted at Town Hall. Parents, staff, and students are encouraged to attend these meetings. The School Council develops a *School Improvement Plan* each year.

**School Health Services**

Scituate School Nurses strive to maximize each student's potential to learn and grow by providing the best possible care and ensuring healthy learning environments.

**In the school setting they:**

- Conduct health screenings: vision, hearing, and scoliosis.
- Assess for growth, health, and development.
- Provide emergency first aid.
- Control communicable diseases.
- Provide counseling for students and staff regarding health matters.
- Serve as a resource for student health issues and in health education.
- Assist in maintaining a safe school environment.
- Monitor required daily medication administration.
- Maintain safe environments for students with specific health concerns.
- Collaborate with Special Education Services.
- Serve as education team members.
- Develop and implement the health components of a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Provide in-service education to staff in special health care procedures.
- Meet with counselors and School Psychologists to provide the best environment for students.
- Act as an active participant in 504 processes (needs not covered under special education services).
- Serve as members of the Crisis Team.

**In the home setting they:**

- Act as liaison between home and school regarding health concerns.
- Make home visits when necessary.

- Take health histories.
- Monitor long-term illnesses.

**In the community setting they:**

- Act as liaison between home, school, and community resources.
- Act as liaison between healthcare providers and schools.

**Immunization Requirements**

All students must be completely immunized in order to attend school. Massachusetts' immunization regulations specify minimum immunization requirements for enrollment in school (105CMR 220.00). Those students with documented medical contraindications or documented religious beliefs are the only ones exempt from the immunization regulation. For medical exemptions, documentation from your health care professional is required. For religious exemptions, a parent must state in writing that vaccination conflicts with their sincere religious beliefs. However, any student who is not properly immunized will be excluded from school if there is a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak. The length of exclusion is determined by Department of Public Health guidelines and may vary according to disease. Massachusetts Department of Public Health school immunization information can be found [here](#).

**Physical Exam Requirement**

The State of Massachusetts DPH regulation 200.100 requires a physical examination within one year prior to entrance school or to provide a current physical within 30 days after a student transfers from another school system. The physical schedule in Scituate is as follows: Kindergarten, Third, Sixth and Ninth Grade.

**Communicable and Infectious Diseases**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has identified the following as being particular problems among the school population. This list is not all-inclusive. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Impetigo
- Streptococcal Infections (strep throat)
- Pediculosis (head lice)
- Chicken Pox
- COVID-19

If the school nurse suspects the presence of one of these, or any other contagious disease, the parent will be contacted and requested to seek the advice of his/her physician. In the case of a confirmed diagnosis of a communicable disease or infestation, the student will be required to stay out of school until the condition is treated and rendered non-communicable. Parents are asked to report all cases of communicable disease to the school nurse.

**Absence/Dismissals from School**

Parents are advised to keep their child home if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or greater, have vomiting, diarrhea and persistent respiratory or flu symptoms. Students who are prescribed antibiotics for strep throat need to be taking the medication for a full 24 hours before returning to school.

In the event that your student becomes ill during the school day, a parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the student. With parent permission, the student may be dismissed to another family member or friend provided proper identification is shown. If the school is unable to reach the parent, the emergency contact (designated each September in the emergency information) will be called to pick up the student.

- Children who are absent from school must bring a note from home upon returning to school. If the child is absent for five consecutive days due to a communicable and/or infectious disease (or for any health reason), she/he must bring a note from the doctor and check with the School Nurse.

**First Aid**

First aid is treatment given to protect the life and comfort of the student until authorized treatment is secured and is limited to first treatment ONLY. Following first aid, the student is to be placed under the care of his/her parent or guardian, upon whom rests the legal responsibility for subsequent treatment. If a student

becomes ill or injured at school, first aid will be administered in accordance with school policy. In the event a student becomes seriously ill or injured, every effort will be made to reach the parent. If a parent cannot be reached, the student will be transported via ambulance to the nearest hospital emergency room. Any illness or injury that occurs at home or after school hours should be evaluated by the student's own physician, urgent care or in a hospital emergency room. Per school committee policy, school nurses do not provide initial treatment for injuries that happen outside of school.

### **Life Threatening Allergies (POLICY EFAB)**

The Scituate Public Schools will work in cooperation with parent/guardians, students and physicians to minimize risks and to provide a safe educational environment for all students. Any student with a diagnosis by a physician that the child is at high risk of a life threatening allergic reaction and/or a medication order containing indications for the administration of epinephrine will be included in this policy. The focus of allergy management will be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. This policy and protocol will assist students to optimize full participation in educational programs and school-sponsored activities. Procedures shall be in place at school to address food allergy issues in the classrooms and gym, food services/cafeteria, for art, science and mathematics projects, crafts, outdoor activity areas, school buses and vans, field trips and before and after school activities and school sponsored events. The complete Life Threatening Allergy policy can be found on the district website [scit.org](http://scit.org)

### **Health & Wellness Screenings:**

School nurses and other trained staff will provide Massachusetts-mandated health and wellness screenings. The types of screenings and their schedules are set by the Massachusetts School Health Unit / Department of Public Health. Screenings include height, weight, vision, hearing, postural, BMI (body mass index), and SBIRT (screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment). Complete information on these screenings may be found [here](#).

Your school nurse will send detailed communication home prior to any screenings.

If you wish to opt your student out of these screenings, or if your healthcare provider has already screened them, a written request must be sent to school.

### **School Health Services-Administration of Medication: Policy JLCD**

#### **School Hours (2022-2023)**

- Elementary School hours are from 8:55 AM- 3:25 PM.
- Elementary school doors open at 8:40. There is no supervision before 8:40.
- Early Childhood Center (ECC) hours are 9:10 – 11:40 AM for the morning sessions, 12:25 – 2:55 PM for the afternoon session, and 9:10 – 2:55 PM for the full day session.
- Half days are held before Thanksgiving and on the last day of school where school starts at 8:55 AM and dismisses at 11:25 AM.
- K-5 early release dismissal time is 12:35.
- ECC early release dismissal time is 11:40 for AM and Full Day students. NO PM classes on early release days.

#### **School Property**

All students are required to return all textbooks, library books and materials, and any other school property at the end of the school year. Students are required to reimburse the school for any lost or damaged school property. Students who fail to return school property or reimburse the school for lost or damaged property may be subject to disciplinary action and may be excluded from extracurricular events held at the end of the school year.

#### **School Sponsored Events**

Decisions regarding a student's participation in an activity will be made after consultation with the teachers involved in the activity, the student's School Counselor or School Psychologist, parents, administration, and the student. The Principal will make the final decision.

- Students who choose not to participate in an activity and those excluded from the activity are responsible for completing assignments left behind by their teachers.

- When a student is excluded from an event, that student and his/her parents must confer with an administrator to determine a plan of action that will help the student to improve his/her behavior and allow the student to participate in future events.

### **Searches & Interrogations: Policy JIH**

#### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is an Act, which prohibits discrimination against persons with a handicap in any programs receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:

Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities which include functions such as:

- Caring for one's self
- Performing manual tasks
- Walking
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking
- Breathing
- Learning
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Standing
- Lifting
- Reading
- Concentrating
- Thinking
- Communicating
- Working
- Bending
- Operation of major bodily function

Has record of such an impairment

Is regarded as having such an impairment

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Scituate Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system. The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

#### **Section 504/Behavior**

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as prescribed in this handbook. Additional requirements concerning the discipline of a student on a section 504 Plan are as follows:

- When it is known that a student on a Section 504 Plan is likely to be excluded from his/her program for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year, the Section 504 Team will convene to determine whether the student's misconduct that leads to the change in placement is a manifestation of the student's disability.
- If the conduct was a manifestation, the school may conduct or review a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan. If such an assessment was already conducted, the behavior intervention plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Additionally, if the behavior was a manifestation, the student will return to the placement from which he/she was removed unless the school and parent agree otherwise.
- If the behavior was not a manifestation, the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the extent they would be applied to a student not eligible for Section 504.

Additional information concerning Section 504 including the right to receive an evaluation, the procedural protections afforded to parents and students, a more detailed description of the special rules relating to suspension and expulsion, and access to Section 504 records may be obtained from the District Section 504 Coordinator:  
Ms. Tammy Rundle, Scituate Public Schools  
606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway Scituate, MA 02066 (781) 545-8750 x 370

**Security Camera Policy: [Policy ECABB](#)**

**Sex Education: Parental Notification-Parental Notification Relation to Sexual Education: [Policy IHAM](#)**

**Special Education/IDEA**

The provisions of state and federal special education law (MGL Chapter 71B and 603 CMR 28.00, formally Chapter 766 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or “IDEA”) are designed to help eligible students between the ages of 3 and 22 years of age who have not yet received a high school diploma and who are not making effective progress in general education due to the existence of a qualifying disability. Qualifying disabilities include: autism, developmental delay, physical, emotional, health, specific learning, communication, sensory (hearing and/or vision impairment), intellectual, neurological, and multiple disabilities.

The purpose of special education is to help children who have qualifying disabilities make effective progress in school in the least restrictive setting. In accordance with the provisions of the state and federal special education laws, after receiving parental permission, an evaluation is conducted to determine whether a child has a special need that requires special education and, if so, what form will that special education take. The following questions must be answered as part of that evaluation:

- Does the student have one or more documented disabilities?
- Is the student not making effective progress in school as a result of the disability or disabilities
- Does the student require special education (specialized instruction) in order to make effective progress?

Those services are described in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for that student. Additional information may be obtained from the Director of Special Education.

Once a student is determined eligible, the TEAM develops goals and describes services required to meet the goals. Those services are described in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for that student. Services cannot be provided without parental consent. Additional information may be obtained from the Department of Education website (see technical assistance here): [Is Special Education the Right Service?](#), Contact your school's principal or Team Chair or the Director of Special Education.

**Special Education/Behavior**

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as prescribed in this handbook. State and Federal Laws require that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation team to have special needs and whose program is described in an Individual Education Plan (IEP). State and federal special education laws prescribe additional requirements concerning the discipline of a student with special needs.

When it is known that a student with a disability is likely to be excluded from his/her program for more than 10 cumulative days (or less than 10 if there is a pattern), in a school year, the Team will convene to determine whether the student’s misconduct that leads to the change in placement is a manifestation of the student’s disability.

- If the misconduct was a manifestation, the school must conduct or review a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan. If such an assessment was already conducted, the behavior intervention plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Additionally, if the behavior was a manifestation, the student will return to the placement from which he/she was removed unless the school and the parent agree otherwise or special circumstances exist (unless the behavior meets certain guidelines allowing an alternative placement) [DESE Laws on Suspensions](#) [Discipline Flow Chart](#)
- If the behavior was not a manifestation, the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the extent they would be applied to a student not eligible for special education, except that a student eligible for special education, who is removed from his/her current educational placement, is entitled to

continue receiving educational services to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to make progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

In special circumstances, the school may move students to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days without regard to whether the behavior that led to the removal was a manifestation of the student's disability. These special circumstances are:

- A student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency
- A student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency
- A student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency.
- Additional information concerning special education including the right to receive an evaluation, the procedural protections afforded to parents and students, a more detailed description of the special rules relating to suspension and expulsion, and access to special education records may be obtained from the Director of Special Education.

#### Suspension

- Students who are suspended for ten days or fewer will be informed by an administrator of the charges against them, and provided an opportunity to respond. If a student is suspended, she/he may not appear on school grounds for any purpose during the school day or participate in or attend any extra-curricular activities during the period of suspension. The family/caregiver will be notified. If a student appeals a suspension, a hearing with the Principal will be held as quickly as possible. Students who are suspended for more than ten days will have the right to a formal hearing with representation at the student's expense and with the right to present evidence.

Expulsion is provided for under Massachusetts law in one of three ways:

- Mass. Gen. Laws Ch.71 sect. 37H provides for long-term suspension or expulsion for controlled substances, weapons and assaults on school staff (M.G.L. c. 71 s. 37H is discussed at length later in this handbook.)
- Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 71, Section 37H3/4. (a) This section shall govern the suspension and expulsion of students enrolled in a public school in the commonwealth who are not charged with a violation of subsections (a) or (b) of section 37H or with a felony under section 37H1/2.
- M.G.L. c.76 s.17 states that a school committee cannot permanently exclude a student from the public schools for alleged misconduct without first giving him and his parent or guardian an opportunity to be heard.

#### **Student Directory Information**

The Scituate Public Schools may release directory information without the consent of the eligible student or parent, provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after this notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent.

The Scituate Public Schools designates the following items as Directory Information: student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans. The Scituate Public Schools may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless the School Principal is notified in writing to the contrary by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year.

#### **Student Records: [Policy JRA](#)**

### **Substance Misuse Prevention Policy: Policy - JICH**

The purpose of the Scituate Public Schools Substance Misuse Prevention Policy is to ensure that our entire school community is aware of the district's comprehensive, evidenced-based approach to prevent the use of substances, and intervene early to support students and families considered at risk. School staff plays a key role in identifying and referring to students with substance use related problems and working with their families. Educators and school counseling personnel will work in collaboration with substance use counseling professionals and mental health specialists to meet the needs of those students most at risk. Collaboration between schools and community behavioral health providers address student-specific issues, including interventions such as small group, individual supports, and school re-entry plans. These efforts support school staff including consultation in general, as well as student-specific challenges and plans for school and community provider responses when necessary. District involvement with the community prevention coalition, Scituate FACTS, the regional collaborative South Shore FACTS through South Shore Health System's Youth Health Connection, and the Plymouth County Suicide Prevention Coalition, provide these critical networks. The complete policy and resources can be accessed on the SPS website.

### **Support Team**

The Support Team is a team of educators, with varied backgrounds, who have been trained in a proactive and systematic problem solving approach to address the needs of our students. These teams are focused on creating, monitoring, and refining individualized instructional and behavioral interventions to students in the regular education setting. More information regarding the Support Team may be obtained by contacting the School Psychologist at your school.

### **Telephone use**

Students are welcome to use the student telephone in the main office if they need to contact a parent/guardian during school hours.

### **Tobacco-free schools (POLICY JICG)**

Massachusetts State law 37H prohibits the use of any tobacco products on school grounds by any individual. The Scituate Public Schools enforce this law.

### **Transportation- Student Transportation: Policy EEA & Policy EEAEC (JICC)**

#### **Transportation: Student Conduct On Buses**

The school bus and bus stop are an extension of the school itself and rules regarding behavior are the same as in school. It should be understood that the right of a student to be transported to and from school is a privilege dependent on good behavior. Students are expected to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the expected time of pickup. Buses will not wait for chronically tardy students. School administration may take away this privilege if there are violations of these rules or if students engage in any other action, which jeopardizes the health and safety of those riding the bus including the driver or at the bus stop. Examples of these actions include but are not limited to: distracting the driver in any way, causing a disturbance on the bus that distracts the driver or using any electronic device that distracts the driver or contributes to the driver being distracted. Students may also be suspended from school or be assigned detention depending on the nature of the violation.

When students are assigned to a bus, they should ride only on that bus. Students should go home on their assigned bus and leave the bus at the neighborhood bus stop. Students should remember that the bus is an extension of the school and that the same rules of good behavior, consideration, respect, and cooperation are always in effect. Students reported for misconduct might have their transportation privileges revoked. Parents should completely review the following rules with their children:

- *Students may not eat on the bus.*
- Arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the anticipated pick-up.
- Keep pets and large toys off the bus.
- Please keep the family pets at home; pets should not be at the bus stop.
- Stand as far off the road as possible until the bus has arrived, stopped, and opened its doors. Do not run or fool around while waiting for the bus. If you have to cross the street to board the bus:  
1) wait for the bus to come to a complete stop; 2) wait for the driver to signal you that it is ok to

cross the street, and; 3) look both ways before crossing. Turn off all electronic devices i.e., cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc.

- Board the bus in single file; allow the younger children to board the bus first. Do not push anyone.
- Take a seat quickly and remain seated until the bus reaches its destination.
- Do not throw any objects in or out of the bus. Do not hang out of the windows.
- Pay attention to the bus driver's instructions and do not distract the driver's attention from driving the bus.
- Be courteous at all times to the driver, fellow students, and passers-by.
- Do not use profane, loud or abusive language, boisterous talk or other noises that might distract the driver.
- Do not smoke, light matches or chew tobacco.
- Keep clear of the area around the bus where the driver may not be able to see you. If you drop something under the bus, don't try to get it. Report your problem to the bus driver.
- Keep the area around the bus and bus stop neat and acceptable.
- Exit the bus in a single file. Do not use any electronic devices i.e. cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc.
- After you exit the bus, go directly home.
- Students may only ride their assigned buses. If there is a family emergency or medical situation, parents should notify the school Principal and other transportation arrangements might be made.

Students are expected to behave in a manner, which will provide for optimum safety of the individual student as well as the safety of other students aboard the bus. When a student is reported for violating a safety rule in and around a school bus, school officials will review the situation with the student. Parents will be notified of the behavior. Depending on the severity of the offense and the frequency of violations, the student may receive a warning, a brief suspension from the bus or suspension for the balance of the school year. If a student is participating in the "Fee Based Transportation Program" and is suspended from the bus, the fee **WILL NOT BE REFUNDED**.

#### **Fee-Based Transportation Program**

Students in **Grades K-6** who reside over 2 miles from their assigned school are eligible for town-paid (free) bus transportation. This determination is mandated by the State of Massachusetts (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71 Section 68). All other students in Grades K-12 will have the option to participate in the fee-based transportation program. The two-mile distance is measured from the end of the driveway of the student's home to the closest entrance-way of the school, using the shortest means by public roadway. All students who are NOT eligible for town-paid busing will have the option to purchase a bus pass through the "Fee-Based Transportation Program." (i.e., K-6 students living two miles or less from their assigned school and all students Grades 7-12, regardless of distance.) Information about the fee-based transportation program can be found on the Scituate Public Schools website.

#### **Scheduling/Routing/Bus Stops**

The Transportation Office is responsible for establishing the schedules and bus routes and are evaluated annually. Routes are posted on the Scituate Public Schools website and published in the Scituate Mariner before school starts.

Students will walk to a common bus stop. Students are not entitled to street-by-street or door-to-door pickup or delivery. All stops will be at corners, whenever possible, to make them fair and consistent for all. Bus stops are set up in accordance with School Committee policy and State law. In the case of new residents, you may be in an area that might require issuing a new bus stop. Until the area is reviewed and, if a new stop needs to be added, students should go to the closest bus stop until a new one is established by the Transportation Office. Parents are responsible to assure their child is at the correct bus stop. Any child standing at unauthorized locations or bus stops may not be picked up.

#### **Valuables at school**

Students should not carry large amounts of money or other valuable articles to school. If an exception arises, leave the money or article in the office for safekeeping until the end of the day.

**Vandalism: [Policy ECAC](#)**

**Visitors ([POLICY KI](#))**

All visitors must enter through the front door. Visitors must buzz in and identify themselves for admittance and sign in at the front office and sign out when leaving the building. Visitors will be issued a pass that must be worn while in the building and returned to the office when leaving. Teachers who are expecting visitors will meet them in the office and escort them to their destination.

**Weapons: [Policy JIC](#)**

**Website**

The Scituate Public Schools website contains the answers to many questions. Please follow this link and click on your home school [scit.org](#).

**Wellness ([POLICY ADE](#))**

## **Appendix A: Early Childhood**

### **Preschool Philosophy**

We recognize that each child is a unique individual with an individual pattern and timing of growth and development. Our curriculum is designed to provide for active involvement by children in their own learning process. We strive to promote children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills. We achieve this goal by engaging children in a context of play, manipulation of the environment, concrete experiences and interactive communication with peers and adults. Each classroom includes students with disabilities and provides a secure, non-judgmental environment where children may explore, experiment, discover, confirm, create, and learn. Our approach to learning is multi-sensory and children participate in a variety of activities and materials that are appropriate to each child's age and background.

Families are viewed as an integral part of the education process. A partnership between parents and schools is essential in order for children to reach their full potential.

For additional information about the Early Childhood Center and the Scituate Public Schools, refer to the SPS website.

### **Admission for Children with Disabilities or Developmental Delays**

A parent who has a concern about a particular area of a child's development, should call the Early Childhood Center Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at (781) 545-8790 ext.119 to discuss the possibility of an evaluation, provided free of charge, for Scituate children 3-5 years of age. After an evaluation in one or more areas, a Team Meeting with specialists and the parents will be scheduled to determine eligibility for special education services.

### **Tuition**

A fee of \$2,500.00 for the half day program and a fee of \$5,000 for the full day integrated program (subject to increase) per year is assessed for typically developing children who participate in Early Childhood Program. A non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 serves as a commitment to the school year program and tuition after your child has been accepted to the program.

### **Registration**

In order to participate in the public school program, you must complete the online registration form on the SPS website found at: [Registration](#)

### **Payment**

Remaining tuition balance is divided into four installment payments. Payments for the Early Childhood Program can be made by check, money order or online. Checks are payable to: Town of Scituate. For online payments go to the SPS website [online payments](#). After reading the instructions, click on the School Department menu item and select the appropriate payment selection. Failure to make timely payments could result in termination of your child's placement.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is the responsibility of the parents/guardians for our preschool program unless your child's IEP services require transportation related to a disability need. Children cannot be dropped off early and must be dismissed on time as teachers have other scheduled commitments. Anyone other than a parent picking up a child must have identification and prior parental permission to do so. If you should require a change in the dismissal time or pick up routine, please call the Early Childhood Office and send a note to your child's teacher.

Families with children not riding in the special education van must follow the arrival/dismissal procedures below. Parents will drop off and pick up at the front entrance of the Wampatuck School where teachers and paraprofessionals will greet you at your car, you will take your child from the car and we will escort your child to their classrooms. At pick up you will take your child from the teachers and paraprofessionals to your car to buckle them in. This arrival/dismissal practice is to address safety concerns for your child with regard to traffic concerns and limited parking space available.

If your child is involved in school transportation you need to follow these rules for safety. When the van arrives at your home, parents need to be prepared for the driver and bring the child to the van to buckle him / her into the seat. The driver will bring the child to school to be met by a staff member who will bring the child to the classroom.

Upon the return trip the reverse will be in effect. Parents must be ready for the return of their child to meet the van and to unbuckle their child. Exact pick-up and delivery times will be determined during the first week of school.

Due to the ages and needs of this young population it is not possible for the drivers to leave the children unattended at any time. Although we empathize with parents who occasionally have trouble being home at the time of the student's arrival, it is the responsibility of the parents to make other arrangements on that day. Due to tight use of school buses and vans, it is impossible for the van / bus to deliver the children to a different address on any given day. If a childcare provider cares for your child in their home every day, special arrangements can be made for transportation to that address by contacting the program director before classes begin.

Parents, please remember that school vans follow the same guidelines as school buses. You may not pass the van when the lights are flashing, even in the school parking lot.

### **Behavior / Discipline**

The philosophy of the program is based on the belief that respect for the child should be demonstrated and guidance provided to help the child develop self-control and the ability to make better decisions in the future.

We believe that children learn discipline from techniques such as:

- Positive phrasing.
- Setting clear, consistent and fair limits for classroom behavior.
- Learning to value mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Redirecting children to more acceptable behavior or activities.
- Praising children when they do adopt more acceptable behavior.
- Listening when the children talk about their feelings and frustrations.
- Picture reinforcements and predictable schedules.
- Guiding the children to resolve conflicts and modeling skills that will help them solve their own problems.
- Reminding the children of the classroom rules and their rationale as needed.

Please make us aware of any unusual home circumstances that could affect your child's behavior.

### **Snacks**

There will be a snack time during each session. The children should bring in a small, healthy snack to eat during this time every day. Suggested examples are a small piece of fruit, pudding, crackers and cheese, yogurt or applesauce. It is important to adhere to classroom teacher's notices of specific food restrictions as some children may be prone to severe allergic reactions to the presence of specific foods. If your child is in a peanut free classroom, you will receive specific guidelines of ingredients to avoid and specific standards to follow. A great resource for food allergies and safe snacks can be found here: [SnackSafely.com](http://SnackSafely.com). Food cannot be heated in the microwave for children's snack / lunch. Juice can also be sent in but must be in a non-glass container because the children prepare their own snacks. Please provide proper utensils, napkins, cups, spoons, forks and so forth. Food containers should be labeled with your child's name.

Snack time is a part of the regular curriculum and provides an opportunity to teach proper habits in nutrition, as well as the proper social and self-help skills involved in eating. The children should carry a lunch box or backpack to school daily to carry snacks as well as important notices and other papers.

### **Outdoor Recess / Playground**

Outside play is a regular part of the daily school routine. It is important that children be dressed for the weather with appropriate layers, jackets, hats and mittens. Please also provide the school with a full change of clothes, (including undergarments) pants, shirts, hat, and mittens. Classes will not go outside if the temperature is below 30 degrees (considering the wind chill factor). Safety considerations are also taken under advisement when feasibility of outdoor recess is being determined.