

Parent and Caregiver Handbook
Francine Delany New School for Children
2026-2027



www.fdnsc.net

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Understanding FDNSC

What is a charter school?

A charter school is an independent public school. Francine Delany New School for Children (FDNSC) became a charter school in 1997. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction sponsors FDNSC's operating contract.

As a charter school, FDNSC has the ability to hire and dismiss, contract for outside services, define its own educational philosophy and curriculum, and control its own finances. Charter schools are held accountable by the state; in order to stay in operation, they must meet the terms of their respective charters.

Charter schools may not charge tuition. Per state law and board policy, Francine Delany New School for Children may not charge any fee that Asheville City Schools does not charge. FDNSC receives the same per-pupil money allotment from the state as other schools in their district and must attempt to maintain a racial balance that reflects the racial makeup of the local school district.

Charter schools focus on results, permit true decentralization, offer new professional opportunities for teachers, and provide school choice for families.

What is FDNSC's philosophy?

Francine Delany is a school to believe in—where the community works for the individual, and the individual learns to work for the community.

Our emphasis is on academic development and social justice.

It's a model of public education that really works.

- We believe that students learn best when they are actively engaged in an experientially rich, hands-on program of study.
- We strive to create a learning community that includes students, teachers, parents, and the community all working in partnership. Our classrooms serve as working models of this learning community.
- We challenge students to develop critical thinking skills and reach ambitious academic goals while developing self-respect and respect for others.
- We value curiosity and creativity.
- We believe that teachers function as guides and partners.
- We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory disability.

How is FDNSC governed?

FDNSC has three main bodies that govern the operation of the school.

1. The **Directorate** is responsible for discussing school issues and maintaining the vision laid out by the FDNSC charter. It consists of FDNSC general education and special education teachers, the Operations Coordinator, the Curriculum Coordinator, the Title I teachers, and the EC Coordinator. Its responsibilities include:
 - ensuring that the school conforms to state and federal laws,
 - making curriculum decisions,
 - managing the budget,
 - overseeing the admissions process,
 - disciplining students as outlined in our Safe School Plan, and
 - carrying out the philosophy of the school in instruction
2. The **Executive Council** is the administrative and operating body of the school responsible for the day-to-day management. It consists of Britney Ross, Operations Coordinator; Roslyn Clapp, Teacher Support Coordinator; Naomi Marotta, Intervention Coordinator; Teri Padgett, EC Coordinator, and teacher representatives Rachel Harris, Sam Rardin, Kelsey Goss and Dave San Juan. Their responsibilities include:
 - making final decisions with teacher input/recommendation (those that cannot be decided by the Directorate),
 - finalizing details/policies/proposals with teacher input,
 - managing faculty and staff,
 - handling emergency time-sensitive decisions that need action before the next Directorate,
 - acting as Directorate and non-voting Board members, and
 - ensuring that philosophy and theory of the school is followed as written in the charter.
3. The **Board of Directors** is the governing body of the school and safeguards its existence, values, and philosophy as stated in our charter. The Board has at least ten members: at least three non-voting members employed by the school, four parents of children attending the school, and three members from the community. The Board
 - establishes policies,
 - approves personnel,
 - oversees the budget, and
 - ensures that all of the school's affairs are consistent with state and federal laws.Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact a Directorate or Board member. The Board meets monthly via Zoom. Contact Britney (britney@fdnsc.net) for the link. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage parents to attend. Meeting dates: The third Thursday of every month, excluding December. Please refer to the school website for additional meeting dates.

Board Members for the 2025-2026 school year:

- **Teachers:** Dave San Jaun, Kelsey Goss, Sam Rardin, Naomi Marotta, Rachel Harris, Roslyn Clapp, Teri Padgett
- **Parent Members:** Sarah Brown, Bianca Gragg, Betsy Russakoff, Katrina Oliver
- **Community Members:** Lester Laminack, Patricia Waters, Ashley Cooper

What is the volunteer expectation for parents and caregivers?

We believe parents play an important role in our learning community. You can volunteer by chaperoning on field trips when needed, helping out in the classroom, lending a hand at the health fair, etc. Contact your child's teacher for other volunteer opportunities in the classroom. If you are interested in volunteering beyond your child's classroom, contact Administrative Assistant (office@fdnsc.net) to learn about other volunteer opportunities.

When volunteering on campus, you may learn about students' tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses. In order to provide a safe and caring environment, we ask that volunteers maintain a high level of confidentiality. Please do not share information you learn about children while volunteering with anyone but the child's classroom teacher. Volunteers volunteering directly with students may also be asked to complete a background check.

What are the expectations for parent and caregiver conduct while on campus?

We welcome parents and caregivers to our campus throughout the school year. If you wish to spend time in your child's classroom or to visit them during the school day, please make arrangements with your child's teacher and sign in at the office when you arrive.

You are also welcome to schedule meetings with your child's teacher as needed. During meetings and at all times while on campus, you are expected to treat school staff with respect and refrain from cursing or making defamatory statements, even when points of disagreement arise. School staff may choose to end a meeting if mutual respectful behavior is not maintained. Parents and caregivers who do not follow expectations for conduct may be prohibited from our campus.

Communication at FDNSC

How can I keep in touch with my child's teacher?

We value open and frequent communication between teachers, parents, and students. Below is a list of ways we can keep in touch.

- Teachers have two scheduled teacher/parent/student conferences for the purpose of evaluation twice a year. These meetings typically coincide with report cards. Look for notices from your child's teacher(s) and sign up for a conference time that works for you.
- Feel free to email your child's teacher with questions, observations, or comments. See back cover for contact info. You may also call the school (236-9441) and leave a message for the teacher.
- You can also schedule a meeting with your child's teacher. Please call the school, send a note with your child, or email your child's teacher to schedule an appointment before 8:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m. To protect the learning environment for all children, teachers do not schedule conferences during the school day (8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.) outside of set conference days. Sometimes Exceptional Children's conferences are scheduled during the day when no other time is available.
- Parents have the right to request, and the school will provide, information regarding the qualifications of the student's classroom teacher(s). If you would like to review your child's teacher's qualifications please contact teacher support coordinator, Roslyn Clapp, at roslyn@fdnsc.net.

Can I visit the school?

Yes! We want you to know what is happening at FDNSC. You are welcome in the classroom as a visitor or as a volunteer. Volunteering is a helpful way to become part of the learning community. Please ask your child's teacher to set up a schedule that is convenient to both of you. (*You may always join your child at lunch for a quick and informal visit.*) Always check in at the office to sign in and get a visitor's badge.

Are there community events we can attend?

Yes, we have open-houses, parents' nights, community events, and other activities organized through classrooms. FDNSC strives to create an open and friendly environment, and these community events are wonderful times to let your child be your guide and to meet the many people who make up this learning community. For more information about community events: check with your child's teacher, like us on Facebook, check the FDNSC website calendar, and/or read the FDNSC monthly newsletter.

Where can I go with problems?

As a parent, your concerns are important to us. If you have concerns, **your child's teacher is your first point of contact**. To initiate a conversation about a concern please email or call your child's teacher to set up a meeting. Either party may ask for an Executive Council Member to be a third party in these informal discussions. The Executive Council may facilitate the informal process with both parties before a formal grievance is started. The staff member(s) involved will be notified immediately upon receipt of concern. FDNsc may also provide professional mediation to help resolve the concern.

While FDNsc encourages resolutions of complaints through informal means, it recognizes that, at times, a formal process may be necessary for some circumstances; such as when a parent believes that board policy or law has been misapplied, misinterpreted or violated or if the informal process did not produce satisfactory results. If the issue is not resolved at the informal level you may submit your complaint in writing to the Executive Council and a meeting will be scheduled with all involved parties. The Executive Council will immediately inform all parties involved that a formal grievance has been initiated. At that meeting, you will be assigned an Executive Council point person who will help you resolve your concern and develop a plan to move forward. FDNsc may provide professional mediation to help you and the staff member resolve the complaint or concern. Any parent who has questions about the options for proceeding with a formal complaint or concern may contact the Executive Council for further information.

What is FDNsc's stance on homework?

Homework should be used to support lifelong learning habits, open communication between parents and school, and allow parents to learn what is happening in class. Homework should be as stress-free as possible and reinforce what is happening in the classroom. If your child is struggling, or if you feel that your child needs additional homework, let your child's teacher know. We follow the 10 minutes guideline for homework. Homework should not take more than 10 minutes for grades kindergarten-first grade, 20 minutes for second grade, 30 minutes for third grade and so on. We recommend that students should not spend more than 60 minutes on homework in any grade. Middle school students may be expected to spend 60 minutes on homework above reading contracts.

What is FDNsc's messaging service?

FDNsc uses a messaging service through Infinite Campus to communicate inclement weather directions, school events/reminders and other pertinent information through text and email and occasional voice messages. Please update the administrative assistant in the office (office@fdnsc.net) if there are changes you would like to make concerning phone numbers and email addresses used for contacts.

Daily Schedule at FDNSC

When does school start?

Teachers are ready for students to arrive and begin their day at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:15 a.m. are considered tardy.

When can my child arrive at school?

Students should arrive between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. **Do not bring your child to school before 7:30 a.m.**; there is no supervision before 7:30 a.m.

If...	Then...
Your child arrives between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.	Your child should go straight to the Dogwood Building. Breakfast is served between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. each morning at no charge.
Your child arrives after 8:00 a.m.	Your child should go directly to their classroom.
Your child arrives after 8:15 a.m.	You must accompany your child to the office and get a tardy slip.

When does school end?

School ends at 2:30 p.m. for grades kindergarten through fourth grades and 2:45 p.m. for grades fifth through eighth grades. If you have a child in both dismissal times, please come at the 2:45 dismissal time.

When should I pick up my child?

Please pick up your child(ren) at the dismissal time that is assigned to your family. In kindergarten through fourth grades, please arrive at 2:30. If you have a child that is in fifth through eighth grades, please arrive at 2:45. If you have children in both dismissal times, please come at 2:45.

If you are late to pick up your child, you will be asked to sign them out from the late duty teacher. FDNSC may charge for afterschool care if your child is picked up late. If a child is not picked up, and we are unable to contact you or designated emergency contacts, as a last resort we will contact DSS and/or the police to help get the child home.

If you need to pick up your child before dismissal, please pick them up no later than 2:15.

For more information on riding the bus, please see the *Transportation* section in the *Frequently Asked Questions*.

Does FDNSC offer any after school care?

Yes, there is an after school program on site for students in kindergarten through 8th grades. The Delany Afterschool Program is available for a charge. For additional information, please see below. Questions about the program can be directed to Cory Finneron at cory@fdnsc.net. Several after school programs also pick up at our school if your child is enrolled.

The Delany Afterschool Program 2026-2027

Welcome to the Delany Afterschool Program. We are excited to welcome children into an environment where they can play and create, where they feel safe and supported, and where they can make friends and learn from new experiences.

This is a place for kids to develop their social skills. We work on conflict resolution skills, learning when to take a break, and how to express our feelings. We are inclusive and inviting in our group play and work hard to achieve the benefits of both competition and cooperation. We offer new and interesting experiences to your kid; just as division and multiplication might be new this year, we want your kid to make it across the monkey bars and experience perpetual tag for the first time! New friends and adventures, skits and successes, and tears and laughter are wonderful aspects of being a kid and part of afterschool.

Healthy eating and cooking skills are also a tasty treat in afterschool. Last year we munched on kale salad, made spaghetti, rolled sushi and baked cakes.

We encourage physical play. We build forts and crawl around, chase each other and run 'til we drop. We also have water days with sprinklers, water balloons, and shaving cream.

We encourage imaginative play. We allow kids the space to create their own games and are amazed at what they do.

About After School

After school is split into three age groups, kindergarten to 1st grade, 2nd-4th grade and 5th-8th grade. The three groups are separated until about 4:30 and then they mix during free time.

Every day kids get lots of time for free play and space to be themselves. We provide games, crafts, cooking activities, and brain teasers. Most of our activities are optional because sometimes kids just need to run around and scream and not have any structured time. We constantly offer guidance to help kids work out their conflicts. We work hard to provide a “family” space, a space to run around, and circle time to share both our good stories and our sad stories.

• Daily Schedule - K-4

- 2:30 to 3 - Circle – Time for silly announcements as well as group discussions on topics like Values, How Does Your Friend Feel?, or What Are You Proud Of?
- 3-3:10 – Snack
- 3:10-4:00 – Free Play and Activities
- 4:00-4:30 – Homework, read aloud and buddy reading
- 4:20 to 6 – Free Time
- 6:00 pm – Pick Up - All students MUST be picked up by 6:00pm.

• Daily Schedule - 5-8

- 2:45-3:15 - Recess on Playground
- 3:15 - Snack
- 3:30 - 4 - Homework/Quiet Time
- 4 - 6 - Free time inside or outside; cooking, craft and game time

Enrollment and Fee Procedures

- *The Delany Afterschool Program is open to FDNsc students.*
- *The Delany Afterschool Program is run through the school. This means any revenue created from the afterschool program will benefit your child in the classroom as well.*
- *Cory Finneron will be the After School Coordinator and the first point of contact for enrollment, payments, and any other questions or concerns. He can be reached at cory@fdnsc.net.*
- *Tuition will be due on the 15th of every month, for that month.*
- *Any child not paid in full by the 15th will not be allowed to return until their monthly balance is paid (this will allow bi-weekly payments, if needed.)*

Openings/ Closings

- *Regular Hours 2:30pm – 6:00pm* (late fee of \$1.00 a minute after 6pm)
- *Early Dismissal 11:30am - 6:00pm*
- *Teacher Workdays, Admin Days, and Conference days - 8:00am - 6:00pm*
- *After school will be closed on **ALL** school holidays and snow days.*
- *Snow days will be credited in June.*
- *When school is closed early because of bad weather, after school will be closed also.*

Other info

- *We aim for a teacher/ student ratio of 1 to 10.*
- *The Delany Afterschool Program will follow the Discipline Policy set forth by Francine Delany New School.*
- *Students must always be signed in and out when arriving or leaving the program. Signing in may be done by a teacher/assistant. Signing out must be done by a parent, legal guardian, or someone previously given permission to pick up the child (ID must be shown.)*
- *Students in sports and other extra-curricular activities will be signed in by their teacher or coach.*

Tuition Rates - Please email Cory (cory@fdnsc.net) for more information

Attendance Policy

We believe that each student should be on time and attend school every day. Regular school attendance is critical to your child's learning. At FDNCS, every day is essential to the learning process; therefore, we encourage every student to be at school every day. Students are responsible for collecting and making up any work they missed while out of school. Students or parents may arrange to pick up work missed during an absence after they return.

Missing just **two days a month** will put a learner in the category of "chronically absent". Even in early grades, research shows that chronic absenteeism is highly correlated with lower academic performance. We want to partner with you to help your child attend school regularly. Please reach out if there are ways we can support you and your child to achieve regular school attendance.

Because we believe so strongly in the importance of school attendance, our attendance policy goes beyond the North Carolina State Laws pertaining to student attendance by not excusing travel-related absences. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is committed to implementing a student attendance policy that is nondiscriminatory, discourages dropouts, and encourages regular attendance.

We consider your child present when your child is:

- a. participating in a school-sponsored field trips,
- b. involved in other activities initiated by and scheduled by the school,
- c. attending special school events which may require early dismissal from school, or
- d. attending an in-school suspension.

In this section, we will explain our policy by answering these questions:

- Which absences can be excused?
- How can I get an absence marked as excused?
- Which absences cannot be excused?
- When can an early release or a tardy become an absence?
- How many absences are "too many" absences?
- What is summer school and its attendance policy?

Which absences can lawfully be excused?

If your learner is absent for one of the reasons below, you can request that the absence be marked as excused. (These conditions are also true for any tardy or early release.)

- a. The student is ill or injured and cannot physically attend school. (See our *Health and Safety* Frequently Asked Questions.)
- b. The student has a medical or dental appointment. (The student should return to school with a note from the medical or dental office.)
- c. The student is absent because of the death of an immediate family member.
- d. The student is absent due to the observance of an event required or suggested by the student's religion.
- e. The local health officer or State Board of Health orders the isolation or quarantine of the student.
- f. The student is required to attend a court hearing.

How can I get a lawful absence marked as excused?

Absences must be documented to be considered excused. Please do your best to inform the school of your learner's absence by emailing attendance@fdnsc.net and your student's teacher by 9:00 AM, or as soon as possible. At any point in the year that a student's excused absences are for an illness or injury, FDNsc may require a note from the student's physician to excuse future absences. Absences will be handled in the following manner:

Number of Absences	Follow Up
Six (6)	Mailed Communication from Operations Coordinator
Ten (10)	2nd Mailed Communication from Operations Coordinator
Fifteen (15)	Meeting with Operations Coordinator
Twenty (20)	Meeting with Executive Council

Which absences cannot be excused?

Absences will be considered Unexcused if a student misses school for any other reason or if the proper documentation is not provided within 6 days of the absence.

We do not excuse any absences related to travel, however educational it may be. Additionally, it is not usually feasible for your child's teacher to provide missed work ahead of time. Teachers always do their best to help catch students up after an absence and can send missing assignments home once the student is back.

When can an early release or a tardy become an absence?

We expect students to arrive on time and remain in school the full day. Tardies and early releases cause students to miss important information and are strongly discouraged.

Students will be considered present for the day if they arrive before 11:30 AM or leave for early dismissal after 11:15 AM.

Three unexcused tardies will be equated to one day of absence. Three unexcused early releases may also equate to one day of absence.

How many absences are "too many" absences?

We believe that students benefit from being in class every day. If your child is out for 3 consecutive days because of illness, we may require you to provide a doctor's letter verifying the illness.

Any student who has more than 4 unexcused absences per semester may be required to complete additional assignments in order to be granted credit for the course. In addition, students may not be permitted to make up assignments missed due to unexcused absences.

Once your child has **10 absences** (either excused or unexcused), the Directorate may require the family to attend a meeting to discuss an attendance improvement plan. The Directorate may file a report of

School Attendance Law Violation if the child accumulates 10 unexcused absences. This entails a warrant being filed against the parent or guardian for violation of the compulsory attendance law G.S. 115C-378.

Any student with 20 or more absences in any class in a school year is subject to failure of that course or grade level because it may impact a student's academic performance. Teachers may use attendance as a component of a student's grade. However, **in no event may a student receive a failing grade in a class based solely on absences.**

Regular and consistent attendance for all students is required. In addition to a minimum academic grade of 60, teachers may include attendance as a component of students' grades in order to receive credit for a course. However, no student shall receive a failing grade based solely on attendance.

What is summer school and its attendance policy?

FDNSC's summer school program operates a five-day session for a fee.

During the summer school sessions, absence, tardiness, or disruptive behavior will result in dismissal from the summer school program. This may result in grade level retention.

School Safety

We strive to provide the entire school community with a safe, orderly, and caring learning environment. In this section, we outline items we prohibit from our campus. In addition, please note that bringing any of these items onto school property can result in disciplinary actions.

What is absolutely prohibited on FDNSC's campus?

We prohibit the following on campus:

- Knives (including pocket knives, folding knives, sheath knives, "Swiss Army" and "Leatherman" or other multi-tools that include knife blades)
 - Guns of any kind - BB, pellet, and toy guns are included
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
 - Electronic Cigarettes and Vape Devices
 - Drugs (including illegal, over-the-counter or prescription)
- If your child requires medication at school please see the *Health and Safety* Frequently Asked Questions.

Bringing weapons, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs to school will result in the following:

- We will suspend the student from school immediately.
- We may contact the police or take other legal action if appropriate or necessary.

Please note that bringing any of these items onto school property can result in disciplinary action. Also remember, if a student uses any object as a weapon and threatens, intimidates, or injures another student or staff member, the same consequences apply. We will immediately suspend the student and may contact the police.

Threats to bring weapons to school or to commit any type of violent act towards any student or staff member at school will be taken seriously and may result in suspension and contacting law enforcement, even if the threat happens off of school grounds.

What happens if there is an emergency on campus?

In the case of any emergency, all staff are trained to use our FDNSC Crisis Plan, which includes procedures for all types of emergency situations. Additionally, all staff have a state-sponsored emergency app on their phones that can quickly alert emergency responders to a situation on our campus.

All classes practice evacuation drills and lockdown drills. We ensure that these drills are introduced in age-appropriate and non-threatening ways. We tell our students that sometimes we need to stay safe inside if there is a problem outside, and that sometimes we need to stay safe outside if there is a problem inside.

If you have questions about safety at school, please contact our Operations Coordinator, Britney Ross.

Since tobacco is prohibited on campus, can I smoke if I'm at school?

No. We are a tobacco free campus. We prohibit all tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

This policy includes parents, staff, and contract workers of any kind.

Student Dress Code

Student Dress Code

Our guiding principle for the student dress code is that attire furthers the health and safety of students and staff, enables the educational process, and facilitates the operations of the school day.

- Clothing and shoes must be suitable for school activities.
- Clothing and shoes must not display alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or illegal drugs, nor be interpreted as dehumanizing.

Enforcement – Any school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of educational time. Staff concerns about student attire should be discussed discretely and out of earshot of other students. Staff will work to help students adhere to dress code.

Applicability – This policy will be applied fairly and consistently without regard to race, gender identity, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation or other inherent traits or characteristics. Administration shall make reasonable accommodations for religious, educational, medical, or disability-related reasons and for cultural celebrations. This policy applies at all times when students are involved with school activities.

Device & Technology Procedures

(from Board Policy “Cell Phone and Bring Your Own Device” approved January 2026)

- Learners in grades K-4 must have signed parent permission to bring a phone or other electronic device to school. Please go to the office to obtain this form.
- In grades 5-8, the classroom teacher determines how cell phones and other devices should be stored during class time, such as in a backpack or communal location.
 - Any usage of cell phones and other devices, including earbuds, headphones, tablets, and smart watches, are a privilege provided by the teacher to the student for the purpose of accessing educational tools to support learning within the classroom.
 - During the school day, students may ask to use the school phone if they need to speak with a parent or caregiver.
 - If a student is not in a classroom (for example, walking around campus or on the playground), the student needs specific permission from a teacher to use devices.
 - Cell phones and other devices are not permitted for leisure, social media, or other non-school activities.
 - If a student does not follow this policy, then they may lose the privilege of bringing their device to school.
 - Devices are not allowed to be used on the bus including during field trips.

Discipline Policy

(Approved by the FDNSC Board of Directors on September 10, 2025)

We believe that students have a major role in making meaningful decisions about their schooling and in designing an educational community in which they feel connected to one another and to adults. Students must exercise self-discipline so that an appropriate learning environment can be maintained. Our Discipline Policy assumes that our expectations for student behavior are clearly communicated and failure to follow those expectations is a matter of student choice. Our plan reflects the belief that we should learn from our mistakes through logical consequences. Parents are a vital link in this learning process. We look forward to the support of the parents in helping us resolve any problems.

What is the student code of conduct at FDNSC?

Our student code of conduct can be found in the [FDNSC School Expectations Matrix](#). This document is shared with families and students and outlines the behavior expected in all times and areas of our school including in the classroom, on the bus, at specialist and electives classes, at whole school gatherings, at arrival and dismissal and while walking on campus according to our three core values of **community**, **self-control** and **stewardship**. Classroom teachers work with their students at the beginning of the year to create rules that model these three values. Students are expected to follow all classroom and school-wide expectations while at school and on field trips.

What are logical consequences? *(from [Rules in School](#) by Northeast Foundation)*

When children make mistakes in following the rules, the teacher will help them solve the problems caused by their mistakes through the use of “logical consequences.” Logical consequences are not punishments. They are ways to help children see the effects of their actions, repair the situation, and learn to do better next time.

There are three basic kinds of logical consequences:

Take a break – If a child is losing self-control, they go to an area of the room to cool off. The break is short. The child comes back after they have regained control. Children may go voluntarily to “take a break.”

Loss of privilege – If a child misuses a material or acts out during an activity, they will be told to stop using the material or doing the activity for a short period of time. The privilege will be restored when the child and teacher have talked about how to prevent a similar problem in the future.

“You break it, you fix it” – If a child damages something or hurts another’s feelings, they will try to fix the damage. In the case of hurting others’ feelings, the child might offer an apology of action - writing a card, helping with an activity, making an illustration, taking some other action beyond a verbal apology.

Our goal as teachers is to help children believe in their ability to create a caring learning environment. Learning to live by the rules they’ve created is an important step. Logical consequences are relevant, realistic and respectful. They help us learn from our mistakes in everyday classroom situations. FDNSC also employs **mediation** as a conflict resolution strategy. We use mediation to empower students in minor conflicts to create their own logical agreements. For more information about mediation and its role at FDNSC, contact your child’s classroom teacher.

What behaviors will require further disciplinary actions?

Below is a list of behaviors that are against school policies of nondiscrimination and safety. We will initiate disciplinary actions for any of the following:

- Actions that could endanger the safety of the student or another individual (e.g., violence, verbal abuse, threats of violence, disobeying bus rules)
- Actions that could damage school or personal property (e.g., graffiti)
- Actions, behaviors, and language that are socially unacceptable such as those that are sexually explicit, exploitative, or bigoted. (Examples include: teasing, bullying*, slurs, discrimination*, sexual harassment, innuendos, derogatory remarks, jokes, demeaning comments, mimicking, name calling, gestures, physical contact, stalking, and displaying or circulating explicit written materials or pictures including on clothing).
- Actions outside of school such as use of social media or electronic communication that interfere with the learning environment and school culture.
- Actions that threaten to disrupt the learning environment (e.g., excessive interrupting and refusing to cooperate)
- For actions that violate our Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy, the Title IX Coordinator will oversee the Title IX Grievance Procedure and disciplinary measures will be taken as required.

*FDNSC defines bullying and discrimination the following ways:

Bullying is any harmful or aggressive act toward an individual or group that is intentional and repeated. There is typically a real or perceived imbalance of physical power, social network, or verbal skills that favor the perpetrator(s).

Discrimination is an act by a student, staff member, volunteer, or parent that is insulting, intimidating, or demeaning to any student, staff member, volunteer, parent or group of people based upon actual or perceived characteristics of but not limited to: race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory disability.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Francine Delany New School for Children (FDNSC) does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to FDNSC's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. FDNSC's Title IX Coordinator is Naomi Marotta, 119 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC, 28806, naomi@fdnsc.net, 828-231-9441 ext. 1011

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to <https://fdnsc.net/title-ix/>.

What is the disciplinary procedure?

Depending on the severity of the behavior, the teacher may handle the problem in the classroom with the use of logical consequences or may enlist parent support to help solve the problem.

For chronic or more severe behaviors, we use the following disciplinary procedure:

- The teacher documents the behavior.
- The teacher uses logical consequences. Depending on the behavior, consequences may include a short time out of class, loss of privileges, opportunity for mediation, formal reflection and apology or other restorative action. Some behaviors, partially those that endanger the safety of

the student or other individuals, may result in in-school or out of school suspension. FDNSC does not use corporal punishment in any circumstances.

- The teacher contacts the parents.*
- The teacher, parent, student and a Directorate member meet to create a plan for student behavior, known as a behavior intervention checklist.* If a parent does not attend a scheduled behavior meeting, a Directorate member will act as the child's advocate in the meeting.
- The teacher and parents will meet to document progress on the behavior intervention checklist*.

* as needed

What is the procedure for short-term suspension?

In-school suspension allows a student to remain at school during the suspension and complete their class assignments in an alternative location, away from their grade level peers. Students serving in-school suspension will be provided a monitored space and all materials needed to complete assignments as well as a 30 minute lunch break and a 30 minute movement break (outdoors when weather permitting).

Students who receive out of school suspension (fewer than 10 days) will have the opportunity to take home materials needed to complete assignments at home and the opportunity to make up any tests missed during their suspension.

Before a suspension occurs, the student will have a chance to confer with the teacher or other school personnel about the reason for the suspension including the specific offenses and the evidence considered as well as have a chance to speak from their perspective about the situation. This conference will take place as long as there are not any safety concerns. If the conference cannot immediately happen safely, it will occur as soon as practicable. Caregivers will be notified by the end of the day that the suspension is imposed whenever possible, and no later than two days after the suspension is imposed. FDNSC will use reasonable means to notify parents of a suspension (phone call, email, in-person communication) in a language that they understand.

What is the procedure for long-term suspension?

In the case of a recommendation for a long term suspension (greater than 10 days), such as for the possession of a weapon, FDNSC will follow all procedures in accordance with NC Statute 115C-390.7

In accordance with the federal Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7151 and NC statute 115C-390.10, FDNSC personnel will recommend suspension for 365 calendar days of any student who is determined to have brought or been in possession of a firearm or destructive device on educational property, or to a school-sponsored event off of educational property.

Expulsion

In accordance with 115C-390.1, expulsion is limited to students aged fourteen and over and to extreme cases in which the student's presence on school property constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.

What is the procedure for students with disabilities?

In addition to the procedures outlined above, students with disabilities (under IDEA and section 504) who are removed from school for more than ten days are considered to have a change in placement. The school will inform caregivers of such change and of procedural safeguards for students with disabilities

as well as conduct a manifestation determination to determine if the student conduct was a result of the student's disability.

What forms might you see?

Teachers may use an informal note or email to communicate with parents. Official referral forms will be documented through Infinite Campus.

When does this discipline policy apply?

This policy will apply in the following circumstances:

1. while in any school building on any school premises before, during or after school hours;
2. while on bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
3. during any school function, extracurricular activity, or other activity or event (on or off campus);
4. when subject to the authority of school personnel; and any time or place when the behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline, or impacts the learning environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know if the school is closed because of inclement weather?	1. Watch WLOS-TV or check www.wlos.com for our school name. To sign up for text notifications go to the WLOS web site and click on the weather tab then go to text alerts. <u>We do not follow the Asheville City School system. You will see or hear our school name if school is canceled.</u> 2. If our name appears, it will specify whether FDNCS is: • Open with no buses on icy roads, • Closed or running on a 2 or 3 hour delay 3. A school wide phone message and text message will go out at 7:00 a.m. or as soon as the decision is made.
What will change if the school opens on a two or three hour delay?	When the school opens late because of weather, we will provide regular transportation on a delayed schedule. If you drive your child to school you may drop your child off between 9:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. for a two hour delay and between 10:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. for a three hour delay. There is no scheduled supervision prior to these times. The afternoon bus will run on its normal schedule. Breakfast WILL NOT be served. Please remember that we want you and your child to be safe. If school opens on a two or three hour delay, and your roads are too dangerous to travel, please send us a signed note or email within two days of your child's return to school and we will excuse the absence.
What if my child goes to an after school program?	Be sure to listen for your child's after school program and plan accordingly. Many times after school programs close when the schools close for inclement weather. The Delany Afterschool Program will close for FDNCS's inclement weather.

What if the weather turns bad during the day?	• Watch WLOS or go to wlos.com • A phone message & text message will be sent from the school messenger. • Feel free to pick up your child any time you believe weather is making roads hazardous. • If your child's early dismissal plan is different from their regular after school transportation, please let your child's teacher know in writing. Again, <u>check with your after- school arrangement to see if it provides service for early dismissal</u>. Your child's teacher must be aware of what you want your child to do.
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We live within the Asheville City School district, what are the transportation options for my child?	To help us keep our transportation budget affordable, we ask that parents who <i>can</i> transport their children or carpool with other families do so. If you live <i>within one mile of the school</i>, you must drop-off and pick-up your child. If you live <i>beyond one mile</i>, we may be able to provide bus service. Our bus service completes a one hour loop around the city with stops at different locations within the Asheville City School District limits. The main bus stops currently include stops at (or close to) the West Asheville Community Center, Hall Fletcher Elementary, the Arthur R. Edington Center, the Jewish Community Center, Claxton Elementary, and Isaac Dickson Elementary. Our bus may be able to accommodate other stops along this route. Please contact Britney Ross at britney@fdnsc.net for bus route questions. Bus routes are subject to change.
We live outside of the Asheville City School district, what are the transportation options for my child?	Unfortunately, we do not provide a bus service for families outside the City School district. Your child may be able to ride the bus to or from an existing stop.
If my child rides the bus, what should he or she know?	Safety for all bus riders is critically important. For this reason, all students must follow the rules below. Bus Safety Rules • Enter the bus in a quiet and safe manner • Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself • Keep noise at a low level or no talking if requested by bus monitor • Stay in your seat until the bus has come to a complete stop • Exit the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to your destination • No standing, no feet in the aisles, no lying down or changing seats • No food or animals

	Students must not distract the driver's attention through disruptive behavior Be sure that your child reads and understands the form we will send home during the first week of school. You and your child must sign and return this form by the end of the second week of school. Your child will not be able to ride the bus until you return this form.
What happens if my child breaks a bus safety rule?	Below are the consequences for breaking any bus rule: - First offense—1 day suspension from bus service. - Second offense—3 days suspension from bus service with mandatory parent conference prior to readmission to bus service. - Third offense—suspension from bus service for the remainder of semester (either January or the end of the school year). - Fighting, hazing or bullying on the bus is an automatic 5-day suspension from bus service. If a child is suspended from the bus, the family will have to provide transportation to and from school. We will <u>not</u> excuse absences from school because of a bus suspension.
What if I need to change how my child gets home?	If your child will go home by a different method or be picked up by someone different, you must notify your child's teacher in advance and in writing. If the teacher does not receive your written notice, your child will follow the regular method of getting home. We also cannot ensure that teachers will receive phone messages, texts, or emails during the school day. <u>Our suggestion is to put several trusted friends on your Family Data Sheet in case of an emergency. You can always update these sheets in the office.</u>
What should I do if my child needs medicine during school hours?	You must stop by the office and fill out a form giving us permission to administer the medicine. If your child needs prescription <u>or non-prescription</u> medicine, we must also have the current medication forms signed by a physician. All medication will be stored and dispensed in the office.
What will you do if my child becomes ill or is hurt during school?	If we believe your child is ill or has been hurt, we will call you immediately at the phone number listed on your <i>Family Data Sheet</i>. If we cannot reach you, we will use the <i>Family Data Sheet</i> to contact a person you designated as an emergency contact. In an emergency, we will call 911 while we are still trying to reach you. If the problem is an accident/injury, our staff will complete an accident report to keep on file. If the injury is minor, the classroom teacher will exercise judgment in making a decision to call you during the day. In most cases, we will alert you so you can view the injury yourself.

What if my child has a contagious condition such as pink eye, ringworm, or chicken pox?	To protect the school population, students with diseases that can spread easily must be kept at home until treatment renders the students non-contagious. • Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis): Student may return to school with a doctor's note; or when antibiotic treatment has started; or when the eye is no longer red and swollen, and discharge and itching has stopped. • Ringworm: Student may return to school after treatment has begun. • Chicken pox: Children may return to school after all lesions are scabbed.
How long should my child stay out of school if he or she has head lice or nits?	Your child must stay home until effectively treated and all lice and nits are gone. There are multiple treatments for lice. Please feel free to ask office staff for suggestions.
When should I keep my child home?	Your child must stay home if he or she: ■ has a fever of 100 degrees or higher; ■ has been exposed to a communicable illness; or ■ demonstrates any of these symptoms— nausea, vomiting, or symptoms of upper respiratory infection.
When can my child return to school after becoming ill?	Children must not return to school unless they have been free of fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours.
Should I worry about asbestos at the school?	No. Our campus has been certified as asbestos free. For more information, see <i>Required Annual AHERA Notification</i>
Can my child have a cell phone or electronic device at school?	No electronic devices are allowed at school without teacher permission. Grades 5-8 will follow the Bring Your Own Device policy. Students in K-4 should not have a device at school. If you feel your K-4 child needs to have a phone at school for after school purposes, please contact your child's teacher to request a Bring Your Own Device Special Use permission form. Students should not have their electronic devices out during any point of the school day, including breakfast, lunch, and recess. Misuse of the device may result in confiscation or revocation of this permission.

Can my child sell or trade items at school?	No. Students cannot sell or trade items such as candy, gum, cards, toys, etc. to other students on campus. Exceptions to this policy are items that the Directorate approves as school or class fundraisers.
Does FDNsc serve breakfast?	Yes. Breakfast is served in the Dogwood Building between 7:30 and 8:00. There is no charge for breakfast, but FDNsc would benefit from any donations for the breakfast program.
Does FDNsc serve lunch?	We contract with E1T1 for our school lunches. Orders are due on the Monday before the week you want the meals. You may order on the monthly form on the fdnsc.net website or ask for a paper form in the office. Order forms and payment need to be returned to your child's teacher by Monday morning.
Is there support for parents to purchase items for lunches?	Yes. Families may request to receive support to help buy lunch items by notifying Operations Coordinator, Britney Ross. To receive support families need to have an updated income form on file and be eligible for free lunch. Lunch support must be requested each school year.
Can I come on field trips?	Please check with your child's teacher. Most field trips are taken by bus, however, there may be times when it is necessary to take cars. In that case, please complete the field trip driver form. Turn in this form and the necessary documentation (driver's license and insurance information) to your child's classroom teacher. Be sure to keep your driver information up to date. While most of our field trips occur during the day, some classes have overnight field trips. Overnight field trip chaperones must be a parent/guardian of a child on the trip. Any requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted to the directorate in writing for approval at least one month before the trip. All overnight field trip chaperones must commit to attending the trip at least two weeks in advance of the trip in order to allow time for the school to complete a background check.
Can I bring my dog to school?	Pets should remain in vehicles at dismissal. Pets may visit your child's classroom with the prior approval of the classroom teacher. If you choose to walk your dog to school, please do not bring the dog into the arrival/dismissal area.
How can I contact other families in my child's class?	There are three options for communicating with other families: 1) Through the classroom teacher (email the classroom teacher and they will forward to the class) 2) Through the administrative assistant via School Messenger 3) Using the class contact list available from the office with the understanding that not everyone may be on that list.

Francine Delany New School for Children

Contact Directory

Office phone: (828) 236-9441 Press 0
School fax: (828) 236-9442

Office Email: office@fdnsc.net

School Website: www.fdnsc.net

Staff

	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Debbie Cottle, Admin Assistant	1000	office@fdnsc.net
David San Juan, Kindergarten	1015	dave@fdnsc.net
Kelsey Goss, 1 st Teacher	1016	kelsey@fdnsc.net
Lisa Vigue, 2nd teacher	1017	lisa@fdnsc.net
Jean Kelley, 3rd teacher	1018	jean@fdnsc.net
Amanda Dollar, 4th teacher	1019	amanda@fdnsc.net
Robyn Moser, 5/6 Teacher	1021	robyn@fdnsc.net
Hailey Blowers, 5/6 Teacher	1020	hailey@fdnsc.net
Rachel Harris, 7/8 Teacher	1022	rachel@fdnsc.net
Brady Rochford, 7/8 Teacher	1023	brady@fdnsc.net
Teri Padgett, EC Coordinator	1005	teri@fdnsc.net
Kerry Enloe, EC Teacher	1024	kerry@fdnsc.net
Sam Rardin, EC Teacher	1007	sam@fdnsc.net
Toerin Kintner, EC Teacher	1006	toerin@fdnsc.net
Melodie Meadows, speech	1012	melodie@fdnsc.net
Naomi Marotta, Title I/intervention coordinator	1011	naomi@fdnsc.net
Roslyn Clapp, Title I/teacher support coordinator	1004	roslyn@fdnsc.net
Britney Ross, Operations Coordinator	1001	britney@fdnsc.net
Kaitlin Briggs, Operations Assistant	1003	kaitlin@fdnsc.net
Tyrone Greenlee, mentor	1008	tyrone@fdnsc.net
Amy Alday, school nurse	1002	amy@fdnsc.net
Cory Finneron, After School Program	1014	cory@fdnsc.net

Appendix A--Parents Right to Know

Parents Right to Know

Title I schools must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications and state assessments as defined in the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

Parents have a right to know:

- The qualifications of their child's teacher
- Information on the level of achievement of their child
- If their child is being taught by someone who is not "highly qualified" and will be in that position for four or more weeks
- The school's parent policy and have input in the decisions that make up the school's policy
- How your child's school is performing

The [Title I Annual Right to Know](#) documents describe a parent's right to know and request their child's teacher qualifications and state assessment information.

For more information on how FDNSC is performing, please visit [Access to North Carolina School Report Cards](#). This report is usually released in November or December of each school year by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Additional progress reports are also available on our school website.

The Title I Program at Francine Delany

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to students to help ensure that all learners receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet academic standards. The Title I program provides instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

Francine Delany operates as a targeted assistance program, meaning that Title 1 funding is used to provide services to eligible students most in need of assistance as determined by objective criteria established by the school such as standardized test scores and the results of classroom assessments. Targeted assistance support at Francine Delany is based on effective strategies for improving student achievement and includes evidence based strategies to support student learning and family involvement.

Francine Delany New School for Children Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan

A. Definition and Purpose

For the purposes of this plan, parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

- (A) that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents and family members are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

In order to meet the goals of meaningful parent and family engagement, Francine Delany New School for Children agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. Francine Delany will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in our with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with ESSA. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Francine Delany will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
3. We will incorporate our school-parent compact) into our LEA plan.

4. Francine Delany New School for Children (FDNSC), to the extent practicable, will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. This will include providing information in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. FDNSC will make efforts to gather feedback from stakeholders (parents and family members, teachers, community members) on its parent involvement plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA and incorporate feedback and new ideas when revising the plan annually.

B. School Parent and Family Engagement Efforts
Implementation of Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan

1. FDNSC will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Parents of learners receiving Title I support are invited to an annual meeting/presentation in which they will have the opportunity to learn about FDNSC's Title I program, its purpose, operation and activities, and parental rights under Title I. They will also have the opportunity to learn the goals of the FDNSC school-parent compact and give input on the Title I program and the school-parent compact. This meeting will take place annually during our Fall Open House evening. Further meetings will take place virtually as needed and requested by families.
 - Results of the stakeholder feedback (including parents and families, teachers, and other stakeholders) will be used to update and revise the program.
 - All families will be invited to join our Facebook page to receive frequent updates to events.
 - Weekly and monthly newsletters are sent home to inform families of happenings at the school.
 - All families will be entered into the school's automated phone/text/email system to receive frequent updates.
 - All families are given the opportunity to give feedback on their experiences at FDNSC via an annual survey. Survey results are analyzed and used to make positive changes to better meet the needs of the school community.
 - FDNSC will hold events with the explicit purpose of helping families connect to what their child is learning in the classroom including, Fall Open House, Learner Led Work Share, Parent-Teacher and 3-Way Conferences, and Parents as Partners classroom events in the areas of reading and math.
2. Francine Delany New School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - A school-parent compact will be developed using the current school improvement goals as a foundation. Parents and family members will be invited to give feedback on the compact as to how to best meet the goals of the school improvement plan and student and family needs.
 - The FDNSC Board includes parent members and reviews the School Improvement Plan annually and can make recommendations.
 - Parent survey results inform FDNSC staff about parent perspectives on the strengths and needs of the school and we use this information in the school improvement process.
 - Parents have the opportunity to participate in 3-way conferences to set goals,

address a child's needs, academic, social and emotional, and to collaborate as a team to bridge the gap between home and school.

3. Francine Delany New School will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- FDNSC staff will coordinate with the PTO to schedule learning events for parents on topics of interest (parenting support, social justice etc.)
- Through our staff development, FDNSC facilitates and encourages individual teachers to lead Parents as Partners events in academic topics to assist parents in helping their children at home.
- FDNSC provides flexibility to families in conference format (in-person, phone, virtual) and scheduling so that parents have the opportunity to participate in 3-way conferences to set goals and address a child's academic and socio-emotional needs.
- Announcements will be made to inform parents of meetings via newsletters, social media platforms and our whole school notification system.

4. Francine Delany New School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: (Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State operated preschool programs) by using the following practices:

- Teachers communicate regularly with parents to share information about classroom learning and to make sure strategies are consistent from school to home.
- Teachers offer Parents as Partners events in academic topics to assist parents in helping their children at home.
- Open House is offered every year for parents to view student's classrooms and see their work. Parents also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive assistance from teachers on how to help their child with homework.

Francine Delany New School will provide materials and training to help parents improve their children's academic achievement using the following strategies:

- We will inform parents of reading and math strategies through Parents as Partners events, classroom newsletters and open houses.
- Teachers utilize 3-way conferencing to share at-home strategies in reading and math with families.
- We teach the Digital Citizenship Curriculum from Common Sense Media which includes a parent engagement component informing families of how they can engage children at home in learning about healthy and safe media use.

5. Francine Delany New School will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, coordinators and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

- FDNSC maintains and collaborates with an active PTO which works to support families and build community within the school.

- Parents may present to the Directorate on topics of their choosing that they feel are of importance and would like to see something they feel is important such as, healthy body image workshops, movement in the classroom and empowerment of young people.
- We continue to keep our school size small so that we are able to have genuine positive relationships with parents and students.
- Staff has continual discussions throughout the year about keeping relationships positive with parents.

6. Francine Delany New School, in order to ensure effective engagement of families and to support a partnership among the school parents, and the community, will build a capacity for strong parent and family engagement with the purpose of improving student academic achievement through the following activities specifically described below:

- Francine Delany New School will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 the State's academic content standards,
 the State's student academic achievement standards,
 the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 the requirements of Part A,
 how to monitor their child's progress, and
 how to work with educators
- Through MTSS we have developed a system for communication with families about academic, behavioral and socio-emotional interventions their children receive, how they are delivered, and student progress towards meeting their tier 2 intervention goals, including interventions delivered by the Title I program.
- Teachers share strategies for reading, as well as links to reading resources through classroom newsletters. Information is also shared during parent night events. Each class hosts a Parents as Partners academic event so that parents learn how to appropriately monitor their child's progress in each grade. Our school report card is shared with the parent body each year. Local assessments are shared and reviewed with parents during fall and spring conferences. Based on these assessments, teachers and parents set individualized learning goals.

C. Annual Meeting And Program Evaluation

1. Francine Delany New School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policy.

- An annual survey will be sent to families and caregivers via email and paper by request. Surveys include a question specifically about the Title I program directed at families whose children participate in this program.
- All parents will be encouraged to complete the survey through multiple notices sent through accessible formats and in an understandable language.
- The FDNCS PTO will assist in engaging families and collecting feedback that can identify barriers to greater family engagement.
- Results will be shared through Directorate staff meetings and used to determine areas of improvement for the school.
- Title I surveys will be sent home each year to evaluate the satisfaction of the program for each child receiving Title I services.

D. Yearly Notice To Parents

School officials and Title I school personnel shall provide yearly and effective notice of the following information as required by law. The notice must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- School and Student Academic Achievement Reports
 - Distribute to all parents and the public, the state school report card containing information about the school, including the performance of the school on academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole
- Teacher Qualifications
 - At the beginning of each year, school leadership shall notify parents of students who are participating in Title I programs of the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child
 - School leadership of the school shall provide timely notice (within the first 9 weeks of school) informing parents that their student has been assigned or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements at the grade level or subject area in which the teacher has been assigned
- Parental Rights and Opportunities for Involvement
 - Provide notice to parents of the school's written parent and family engagement policy, parents' right to be involved in their child's school, and opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in the school
 - Provide notice to parents of their right to request information regarding student participation in state-required assessments
 - Conduct a parent/teacher conference, annually (at a minimum) k-8th grade, during which individualized student goals written by the students parent, teacher and the student themselves shall be discussed as they relate to the individual child's achievement and the school-parent compact
 - Provide frequent reports to parents on their child's progress
 - Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, and participate in their child's class and observe classroom activities
 - Ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practical, in a language that the family members understand

E. Website Distribution Of Information

FDNSC will make the following information available on its website:

- Information about the the NCDPI issued school report card
- Information about the right to request teacher qualifications
- The Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- Information about each required state assessment including
 - subject matter assessed
 - the purpose of the assessment
 - the source of the requirement for the assessment
 - the amount of time students will spend taking the assessments
 - format for distributing results

Exceptional Children

Child Find:

As a public charter school, Francine Delany New School for Children follows all state and federal regulations governing, locating, identifying, and evaluating children with Disabilities.

Special Education Services:

Francine Delany develops and implements Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students eligible for services to ensure every student has free and appropriate access to education. Parents of students with identified disabilities should contact the Exceptional Children Program Coordinator, Teri Padgett (teri@fdnsc.net), upon enrollment. Parents who suspect their child may have a disability should contact Teri Padgett (teri@fdnsc.net) or their child's classroom teacher at any time. **Parents who suspect their child may have a disability can request in writing for their child to be evaluated for eligibility in the Exceptional Children's program.**

Dispute Resolution:

Concerns for the education of students with special needs can be addressed by Francine Delany's Parent Grievance Procedure. If the concerns are not resolved with satisfaction or a parent wants Exceptional Children dispute resolution information, the information can be found on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction – EC Division's website at <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/>.

Social Justice Statement

FDNSC is an inclusive community that is committed to promoting social justice and preserving the inherent worth and human dignity of every person. As individuals and as a school we will:

- Practice fairness and equality for people of every race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, religious belief, political view and other identities.
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical and contemporary issues.
- Build a community of critical thinkers who are active in the world.

We are committed to ongoing learning, raising awareness, and fostering dialogue around issues of social justice. Our guiding principles of social justice are compassion, awareness, patience, purpose, and confidence.

Appendix E--AHERA Notification

To: All Parents and staff of Francine Delany New School for Children

From: Britney Ross, Operations Coordinator

RE: Required Annual AHERA Notification

Date: 8/20/2023

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires all schools to inspect building materials for the presence of asbestos. AHERA excludes schools from the inspection requirement if the school was constructed after October 12, 1988, and has a signed statement from the architect or project engineer responsible for constructing the school stating that no-asbestos-containing materials were specified for use in the construction of the school. Our school has been provided such a statement for all buildings built after 10/12/88.

However, the office building (119A) and the Pjs building (131) were built before this date. Francine Delany New School contracted with ECS Southeast, LLP to survey those buildings to determine what portions of the building's materials contain asbestos. Asbestos has been widely used for many years in building construction. Francine Delany New School for Children believes that complete and periodic surveys of all facilities is the most prudent approach to assuring protection to all personnel and building occupants.

Samples were collected by ECS and submitted for laboratory analysis and found that these older buildings contain limited amounts of assumed non-friable (non-airborne and, therefore, nonhazardous) asbestos. Francine Delany New School for Children uses the proper controls to prevent these materials from becoming friable (airborne).

Our facility is in compliance with the state and federal AHERA regulations concerning asbestos and Britney Ross is the LEA designee. The EPA requires us to notify you annually that we are aware of the AHERA regulation and are in compliance.



Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on [Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106](#)

Welcome to the Francine Delany New School for Children Guide to Student Achievement. We welcome and encourage our parents to stay involved in their child's education. Below is helpful information about opportunities for parents to connect to their school and school community..

Helpful Links:

- [State Board of Education Policy](#)
- [FDNSC Policies Page](#)

FDNSC's Parents' Guide to Student Achievement

Student Achievement Category	Information and Resources at FDNSC
How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	. The following are the relevant State requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level: https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_115C/Article_8.pdf (See Part 1A, pp. 15-28)

What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?

All public schools in North Carolina operate under the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study](#) (NCSCOS), determined by the State Board of Education. These standards represent the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade or course. North Carolina has established a **Standard Course of Study** for the following subjects:

Arts Education,
Career Technical Education,
Computer Science,
English Language Arts,
English Language Development,
Student Success Standards,
Healthful Living,
Information and Technology,
Mathematics,
Science,
Social Studies, and
World Language.

Local districts, schools, and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, and books. **This section contains information regarding adopted texts and/or curriculum materials that are utilized to teach the NC Standard Course of Study:**

**more detailed information about curriculum and alignment to NC standards may be viewed at your child's school*

How will a parent learn about their child's progress in school or with a class?	FDNSC shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including providing copies of quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Feedback on behavior and organization is also provided on every report card. FDNSC sends paper copies of report cards home with every student. State Assessments: Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests are made available to parents. A paper copy of each student's individual student report is sent home for each end of grade test. In North Carolina, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. FDNSC uses the NWEA MAP assessment to assess growth for all students K-8 in the areas of reading and math. This assessment takes place three times a year and the results are shared with families at parent/teacher conferences. To see your child's individual profile, contact your child's teacher or the curriculum coordinator.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents may look up the licensure status of their student's teachers using the NCDPI Licensure Verification website. Or by contacting Roslyn Clapp, teacher support coordinator 828-236-9441 roslyn@fdnsc.net
What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	The following are statutory school entry requirements, including required immunizations: Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64") Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources Recommended Immunization Schedules Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements

	Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements
How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process. We encourage parents to: - Ask questions daily about your child's school day. - Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. - Connect with teachers to understand your child's progress. - Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. - Attend different events at your child's school to stay connected and learn how to support them. Parent Guides for Academic Standards: The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home. English Language Arts Parent Guides English Language Development Parent Guide Math Parent Guides: K-5, 6-8 Social Studies Parent Guides K-8 Guide, Science Parent Guide (coming soon) Reading and Literacy Support: Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5: (1) Phonemic awareness (2) Phonics (3) Vocabulary (4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact your child's school. DCRI Printables for Families

How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?	FDNSC supports a K-8 implementation of digital citizenship lessons to ensure that our students learn online safety and responsibility. These lessons can be taught to children at home to help support positive digital citizenship. Information on lessons and resources can be found here: Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship FDNSC is also committed to teaching students about social justice using the Learning for Justice Social Justice Standards FDNSC also teaches social and emotional learning using resources from The Responsive Classroom.
How can a parent help their child set lifelong learning goals and reach high expectations?	FDNSC is committed to embedding Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills, and respect for others. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found here: NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.

How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school. Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning (NC Rethink Education Program) Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following NCDPI website.
What services are available for parents and their children?	Family Literacy: Families are encouraged to access the NC Digital Children's Reading Initiative, found at this link as part of the NC Department of Public Instruction Office of Early Learning. This online resource provides families with access to digital texts and online libraries for children in PreK through fifth grade. In addition, each of our Title I elementary schools host events with a literacy emphasis each year. Tutoring: NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science and ELA, and is offered via a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester. Mentoring: FDNCS offers a mentoring program. Teachers can make referrals on a family's behalf for their child. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to refer them to the mentoring program at FDNCS Counseling: FDNCS has a partnership with local counselors to help connect students with the support they need. To begin the referral process for your child, contact your child's teacher. Afterschool: FDNCS has an afterschool program that serves children in grades K-8. Use this link for more information.

What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	FDNSC believes in strong family and community partnerships as a foundational component of student success. There are several ways for parents to be involved in decision making at the school and district level, as outlined in the policies below. Please contact your child’s school for school-specific opportunities to be involved, including options to serve as a school volunteer. See the following FDNSC Policies and Information pages Title I Parent and Family Engagement School Improvement Plan PTO and Volunteer Information page
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What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?

FDNSC provides 8th graders who have demonstrated high achievement in math to take Math I as an 8th grade student. For details about qualifications for this opportunity, contact the office at FDNSC.

FDNSC provides a rigorous and differentiated program of study for all learners. If you are interested in further challenging opportunities for your child, contact your child's teacher.

Career and College Promise: Career & College Promise (CCP) is North Carolina's dual enrollment program for high school students. This program allows eligible NC high school students to enroll in college classes at North Carolina community colleges and universities through their high school. Students who successfully complete college courses earn college credit they can take with them after graduation. In many cases, students can also earn dual credit by meeting high school graduation requirements with college courses.

North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS): The North Carolina Virtual Public School is a supplemental service to the public schools of North Carolina. They provide asynchronous coursework in traditional and special-interest courses facilitated through the Canvas Learning Management system. For more information, see <https://ncvps.org/>

Governor's School: Each summer, NC Governor's School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites. For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact the district AIG Specialist or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.

What school choices are available for my child?	Traditional Public Schools Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by Local Board of Education. Asheville City Schools Buncombe County Schools Henderson County Schools Charter Schools Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge tuition. Charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system. If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts. Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority.
What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents Project Child Find

What is the
contact
information for
the schools and
district office?

Francine Delany New School for Children

119 Brevard Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806
828-231-9441
Fax 828-231-9442
www.fdnsc.net

What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Immunizations Health Assessment Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting
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