

Andover Elementary School Student Handbook 2026-2027



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ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT (Revised 2024)

AES is a small, community school that fosters a positive personalized-learning environment and emphasizes building relationships in a respectful, inclusive setting. We involve our surrounding natural resources, feed our bodies and minds, and provide tools for future success.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the Andover School Department receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the Andover School Department to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the Andover School Department decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the Andover School Department will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the Andover School Department as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the Andover School Department has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the Andover School Department will disclose education records with consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Andover School Department to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education**

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

During the year, Andover Elementary School may release information related to students and their activities. Such information will be in the category of Directory Information as determined by the Andover School Department and permitted in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Parents of students may refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of personally identifiable information with respect to that student as directory information. Such refusal must be stated in writing to the Principal of the school within two weeks of the distribution of each handbook. The following categories are permitted as Directory Information: the student's name, address, telephone number, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent previous educational institution attended by the student, and other similar information, including pictures and photographs of news releases, sports programs, etc.

PROCESSING PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONCERNS

The staff continually strives to maintain positive communications with all parents/guardians. It is very important for both the school and the child's parents/guardians to work together providing successful educational experiences.

Concerns should be dealt with at the closest level to the issue. When a concern arises which will need to be worked out follow this chain of command:

1. Contact the child's teacher
2. If the concern is either not dealt with or not satisfactory to address the concern, contact the Principal/Superintendent
3. If the concern is again not dealt with or still exists, ask to be on the Board agenda to be heard by the School Board. All matters dealing with students or personnel must be done in executive session.

SCHOOL RULES/EXPECTATIONS

Self-Control
On Task
Acting Responsibly
Respectful

Here at AES we are always working to create a positive, nurturing environment for our students. Our goal is to encourage students to make safe, respectful, and responsible choices across all school settings. Over the past 11 years we have worked to create school-wide expectations with a common language to support students' academic and behavioral learning. Our school will use and promote four expectations with students in all settings, buses, classrooms, halls, playground, cafeteria, and bathrooms. Students will be acknowledged for following these expectations:

- ~ Be Safe
- ~ Be Kind
- ~ Be Respectful
- ~ Be Responsible

Consequence System

We will use office referral slips for significant and/or repetitive misbehaviors. These sheets will enable us to communicate and monitor student behavior with each other, students, and parents/guardians. When your child receives an office referral slip, it is most helpful and has a positive impact on future referrals if you also review the details of the misbehavior with them and support the school's effort to help students learn appropriate behaviors. If you have any questions about the slip, please contact the school.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Promoting ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential component of the Andover School Department. The board is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and orderly school environment where students may receive, and staff may deliver quality education in which students may develop as ethical, responsible, and involved citizens. This Code of Conduct has been developed with input from school administrators, staff, students, parents and the community. **(See Policy JIC)**

The code of conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following standards for ethical and responsible behavior:

Respect - Responsibility - Citizenship
Honesty - Fairness - Caring

All students are expected to comply with the code of conduct and all related Board policies and the school rules. The code applies to students:

- On school property and on the bus
- While in attendance at school or any school-sponsored event, or
- At any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.



S.O.A.R. (SELF CONTROL, ON TASK, ACTS RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL)

In the Classroom	Safely: ~ use walking feet ~ stay in your work space ~ use materials and equipment appropriately	Respectfully: ~ Be a good listener ~ Maintain personal space ~ Be open & accepting of others	Responsibly: ~ come to class ready to learn ~ keep classroom neat & clean
In the Hallways	Safely: ~ use walking feet ~ look ahead	Respectfully: ~ keep to personal space ~ turn voices off	Responsibly: ~ stay in line ~ stop at intersections/doorways
In the Bathrooms	Safely: ~ be as quick as	Respectfully: ~ respect personal space	Responsibly: ~ use products appropriately

	you can ~ tell an adult if there is an issue	& privacy ~ flush ~ be kind & polite	~ dispose of waste properly ~ wash your hands
On the playground	Safely: ~ use walking feet ~ look out for others ~ find an adult if you need help ~ use equipment appropriately ~ wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear	Respectfully: ~ keep to personal space ~ respect each other's personal space ~ respect each other's play space ~ take turns	Responsibly: ~ line up with your class ~ use equipment appropriately ~ return equipment ~ agree to rules before starting a game

PORTABLE PERSONAL DEVICES/SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Certain portable personal electronic devices are not permitted at school.

To ensure safety of all children, skateboards, roller skates, A.T.V.s, snow machines, scooters, and roller blades are not allowed on the school property. Sports equipment brought to school cannot be used without permission from the principal or designee. AES discourages bringing items from home unless absolutely necessary.

EVENING EVENTS

- Students must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
- Student behavior expectations are the same as during school day functions.
- Students misbehaving at evening events will be subject to school discipline.

WALKERS

Parents can make the decision when their child/children are ready to walk to and from school. A note to that effect should be sent to the school office.

BICYCLES

- Students who are ready according to their families and staff may ride their bicycles to and from school provided they have written permission from their parent/guardian, and the principal approves.
- Students are expected to wear bicycle helmets, as it is Maine law.
- Students must follow proper safety precautions and school rules.
- Students must not ride the bicycles on the school grounds, but walk them across the driveway to the bike parking area.
- Students are expected to lock the bicycles in the bike rack.
- The staff is not responsible for bicycles left on the school grounds.
- The privilege to bring a bicycle to school can be revoked by the principal at anytime if he/she feels it is a safety concern, students are not being responsible riders, and for other behavioral concerns.

STUDENT DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Students should dress in a comfortable manner, which reflects well on both the student and the school. Students' apparel should always be appropriate. Clothing should be clean, safe, and conducive to the learning atmosphere of the school.

Examples of inappropriate dress are:

- midriff apparel
- short skirts or short shorts
- excessively ripped or torn clothing
- clothing that has questionable messages or disrupts the educational program
- pajamas are not appropriate (unless there is a designated Pajama Day.)
- hats, caps or other headgear inside school building unless it is personal protective gear.
- footwear which is noisy, distracting, or unsafe (ex: slippers, wheeled shoes, and flip flops)
- sunglasses worn inside the school
- any underwear items that show (ex: bra straps showing under shirt straps, or boxer shorts showing anywhere)
- sleeveless attire will be permitted if the opening for the arm fits snugly. No spaghetti strap tops are permitted.

Winter Clothing Expectations

Outdoor recess will always be held unless it is extremely cold or there is significant inclement weather. Children should wear clothing that is appropriate to the day's weather (hats, mittens/gloves, boots, and snow pants)

Winter boots should not be worn in the building. Please send a pair of sneakers for your child to wear in the building. If they have an old or extra pair that could be kept at school that may be helpful.

Extra hats, mittens/gloves, and sweatshirts are encouraged as we may have multiple outdoor activities and the temperatures in the building can fluctuate.

It's uncomfortable for students to wear jackets during the school day. Having an extra sweatshirt or sweater is encouraged. Our building temperature is known to fluctuate.

Students with inappropriate dress will be asked to call home for appropriate clothing.

GUNS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Federal law does not allow guns on school property. This includes guns in private vehicles during any hunting season. Parents and other adults picking students up at school should be aware of this law.

BOMB THREATS

The Superintendent of Schools and/or designee has full flexibility to deal with a possible bomb threat. The Superintendent of Schools may elect not to evacuate, may evacuate to other sites, may institute a lock down of the facility in accordance with recommendations acquired by training received on how to deal with prospective threats.

Students or others involved in making bomb threats will be subject to legal action and school disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school in accordance with state law. All bomb threats are reported to the Department of Education within 24 hours.

SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSIONS

The principal may suspend students from school up to 10 days for disciplinary infractions. Such infractions may include: possession, use, and/or furnishing of tobacco, tobacco products, alcohol, and drugs; possession and/or use of a weapon; destruction of school property; vandalism; fighting; inappropriate language or gestures; and/or other inappropriate behaviors not specifically defined by written policy.

The principal or designee may place a student on in-school suspension. Students on in-school suspension will be placed in an area of the school where they will be expected to work on their regular school assignments. They will forfeit all specials and recesses. Students will also eat their lunch in the assigned area isolated from the other students.

Students who commit serious infractions, or a series of repeated less serious infractions, expulsion could be a consideration. Students under consideration for expulsion must go through an expulsion process called an expulsion hearing. This will require them to meet with their parents, Andover School Department administrators and the Andover School Board in executive session, and a determination following deliberation of the school board will occur.

TELEPHONE

The school phones are for school business only. Students must request special permission to use the phones and **only emergency use will be allowed**. **Students may not use phones in the classroom. All calls to parents will be done through the office during the school day.** Phone messages will be taken and passed on when the circumstances allow without interrupting classes.

INVITATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an effort to preserve instructional time, eliminate hurt feelings, and maintain school behavioral expectations for respect and kindness, invitations or announcements for out of school events, such as birthday parties, should be distributed outside of school.

VISITORS

Planned visits to our school by parents, legal guardians, and members of the community need prior arrangements. Visitors who will be interacting with students and or visiting classrooms must be approved volunteers. Applications for volunteers can be obtained in the school office. In order to avoid interruption of ongoing educational activities and in an effort to promote student and employee safety, **all visitors should report to the school office to sign the Visitor Log each time they visit.**

Anyone picking a child up at the end of the school day will meet them at the front entrance and stay in their car for the teacher to dismiss the student. Please do not pull out in front of one another as it becomes a safety concern. Just wait until the car in front of you pulls out. Do not enter the building to pick up your child. Please give prior notice to the school office for pickup arrangements that are not usual.

UNAUTHORIZED VISITORS

Persons entering the school building without prior authorization from school officials and persons who fail to report to the main office upon entering the school are considered unauthorized persons.

Unauthorized persons shall be reported to the building administrator. The unauthorized person(s) shall be asked to leave the premises.

Individuals having no school related purpose that remain on the school premises or at school sponsored events after being directed to leave shall be considered "trespassers." This shall apply to all students under suspension or expulsion unless otherwise authorized by the school administrator. Law enforcement personnel shall be contacted as necessary to deal with unauthorized persons.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, Policy IJOC

We encourage people to become a part of the educational experiences by volunteering. Please refer to Policy IJOC.

COURT ORDERS

Any parent or legal guardian who has court order papers that identify non-traditional custodial arrangements of Andover Elementary School students must provide copies of the court legal documents to the school principal. Access to children and their educational programs will be restricted to the directions of the court documents. If custodial arrangements change during the school year, please provide a copy to the school.

ATTENDANCE

It is as important for children to be in school as it is for adults to be in their place of work. When school is in session, children should be in school. Being in school is the child's responsibility and it is the parents' responsibility to help him/her be in attendance **and on time**. Maine law carries with it a need to report chronic absenteeism. Schools are expected to notify parents if their child reaches the level of non-attendance that classifies them as chronically absent. This absenteeism is for any reason, excused or unexcused. Families will be sent a letter when your child misses seven days of school for any reason. A meeting may well occur to determine how the school and parents can improve attendance of the student. In some situations, excessive absences could result in grade retention. While at school, a child is expected to participate in all school activities (physical education classes, outdoor recesses, etc.) unless the school receives a doctor's note explaining the reason for non-participation and the duration of this permission. A note from the parent will not serve the same purpose. Please do not send students to school if they exhibit symptoms of illness; students must be symptom free for 24 hours after an illness.

TARDINESS

It is very important that students be in school, settled, and ready to participate when the **8:00 a.m.** bell rings. The following guidelines will apply:

1. Students who are admitted with an acceptable reason by an adult will be considered *excused tardy*.
2. **Students who are admitted or have an unacceptable reason will have an *unexcused tardy*.**

ABSENCES

Students and parents are responsible for the material that is taught and assigned in the student's absence. When a child will be absent for more than two days, home assignments may be

appropriate. Please remember, however, that this will not always be possible, as many lessons require close teacher supervision. Some work, including the taking of grade level assessments, must be completed in school and may require that the student, upon returning to school, stay in at recess or after school in order to receive remedial instruction.

The only legitimate excuses for absences are:

- Personal illness
- Emergency family situations
- Professional health appointments that cannot be made outside of the regular school day

The following require **prior approval** for *excused* absences and must be submitted in writing to the principal in advance.

- Observance of recognized religious holidays when school is in session
- A personal - or educational absence, including family vacations

Public Law Chapter 304 states that the parent or guardian is responsible for making sure that their child age 6 to the age of 17 attends school. If a student is absent for 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive days of school, the student is considered truant.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

Students well enough to attend school should expect to participate in all that is offered at school unless specifically excused from some activity by a doctor. Students who are sent home from school due to illness should not return to school until they are fully recovered and ready to participate in the full school program.

If the student was sent home with a fever or after vomiting, the student must be fever free or not have vomited for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE contact the office (not the teacher) each morning that your child is ill/absent, so we will know that your child is safe. This includes students in PreK.

STUDENT DISMISSALS

Dismissal time is 2:30 p.m. – family pick up will begin at 2:30 followed by the bus process. Written parental permission must be given before a student can leave school in any unusual manner (i.e. bus student-walking or with an adult other than the student's parent/guardian.) Adults must call ahead to the school office to pick up a child who is being dismissed before the end of the school day. All other dismissals will follow Board policy.

RELEASE OF STUDENT TO PERSONS OTHER THAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND KNOWN CHILD CARE PROVIDER

A student will be released only to parent, legal guardian or persons on the student Emergency Care Card **who have been authorized by the parent/legal guardians to pick up the student in writing.** When in doubt, the school personnel shall contact the parent to verify/confirm the authority of the person requesting the student.

The school personnel shall deny the release of any student to individuals who are not on the student's **Emergency Care Card.**

SNACK/RECESS/LUNCH

Students will be given a 10-15-minute snack break each day, this will be determined by the classroom schedule for the day. Students in all grades will be given various “brain-breaks” throughout the day in order to promote a healthy, active, academic atmosphere. Students are expected to have weather appropriate and safe clothing/footwear for outdoor recess. Students should bring their own snacks if they wish to have one. The school will not be providing the snack.

FOOD SERVICE AT AES

Andover School Department believes every student needs breakfast and lunch for maximum benefit from their educational day.

Andover Elementary School participates in the food program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State of Maine Department of Education and Cultural Services. The federal assistance under these programs allows us to provide some meals free or at a reduced rate, dependent on family income. Applications are sent home at the beginning of the school year but can be obtained at any point a family’s financial situation changes. These applications and qualified families allow us to have access to additional funding from grants, to apply for certain grants, and to provide additional resources to our school. If you qualify for the Federal Program, the school may be eligible for grants, and may receive additional Title Program funds. It is important that every family fill out the application if you feel you may qualify and to support additional resources for the school.

Andover Elementary is fortunate to have “The Hungry Kingdom” support the school in covering the cost of needed student breakfasts and lunches. It is so very important that families still file the form so we can access many other additional resources for the school. However, if circumstances with meals change in the future, we may need to ask parents to support meal costs. Please apply for subsidized lunches.

AES provides healthy, cooked on site meals for students each school day. All meals served meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cafeteria Expectations:

To help promote SOARing behavior and help instill manners we will use the acronym **SMILE** for behavioral expectations in the cafeteria.

- ☐ **S**tay seated until excused. Eat & drink at your seat
- ☐ **M**ake sure that you are kind to other at all times
- ☐ **I**nside voices must be used in the cafeteria
- ☐ **L**ease for lining up only when excused
- ☐ **E**veryday, clean up your own lunch space (table & floor). Take trays to assigned place.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

All materials and equipment are the property of Andover Elementary School. Students are responsible for the proper use of materials and equipment. Any person misusing or causing damage to school property will be expected to pay for any damaged materials and/or equipment plus face possible disciplinary measures. The value of the property and payment arrangements will be established by the Principal/ Superintendent of Schools.

LOST & FOUND

Articles that are found are placed either in a designated area. Students and/or their parents are encouraged to contact the school for lost items and retrieve any article belonging to them. Any unclaimed articles will be sanitized and are given to charities at the end of the year.

FIRE DRILLS/INTERNAL SAFETY DRILLS

Students will participate in several fire drills during the course of the school year. All classroom areas have fire escape directions posted which all staff and students will follow. Students must be quick, quiet and careful to ensure safety for all. Likewise, internal safety drills (lock down drills) will be conducted regularly throughout the year, so that students are prepared in the event of other kinds of emergencies..

SCHOOL EVACUATIONS

In case of emergency evacuations, students will be taken to a safe place away from the school. ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT will continue to provide transportation and will get students who walk back to the school area, though not on school grounds. Please do not call the school or the emergency site, as phones will be used for emergency purposes only. When an off site evacuation occurs, parents will be notified at the emergency number given to the school. Please note that parents should avoid initial student pickup to allow personnel to determine the duration of the event. It is very important that parents give the school an email address to contact them as this mode of communication is efficient and non-public. The school will not share the email address of parents even with other parents.

GLASS

Glass containers are not allowed on school grounds, in school buildings or on school buses. This includes soda and water bottles.

School-Wide Title 1

A schoolwide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I school; its primary goal is to ensure that all students, particularly those who are low-achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on State academic achievement standards. The emphasis in schoolwide program schools is on serving all students, improving all structures that support student learning, and combining all resources, as allowed, to achieve a common goal. Schoolwide programs maximize the impact of Title I.

At AES we meet regularly to create, implement and analyze an ongoing comprehensive plan for school improvement. All staff are involved in the creation, implementation, and analysis of this plan and this plan is tailored to meet the unique needs of our school and students.

*See appendix for school-wide Title I Parent Compact

Maine Assessment-ESEA

Parents are encouraged to review state assessment data and to review all assessment reports sent home up to three times a year. This is currently the Maine State Assessment and will continue to be given multiple times per year. Here is the link to the Maine DOE website for the ESEA Dashboard- <https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard>

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Education services range from full time classroom instruction to monitoring mainstreaming students within the regular classroom. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team recommends services for the remediation of learning, behavioral, and speech problems.

Specifically trained and fully certified special education staff render educational services. Resource Rooms provide individualized instruction in academic skills or assistance with behavioral adjustments.

Students receive Resource Room instruction for less than one half of their school day, spending the remainder of their time in a regular classroom situation.

A Speech and Hearing Clinician provides individualized therapy programs for children who have demonstrated a need in this area. Physical and Occupational therapy are also provided for educational purposes as determined by the IEP.

The School provides a School Social Worker that works with many students on a variety of issues and provides classroom lessons to deal with social and emotional concerns.

OPENING EXERCISES

Opening exercises include a school-wide recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag,
Of the United States of America,
And to the republic for which it stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible
With liberty and justice for all.

Parents may request alternative arrangements more suitable to their religion and/or beliefs.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS rules follow the same SOAR format as the school wide rules.

Bus Expectations

Students will be assigned seats by the bus driver, and changed only at his/her discretion throughout the year. All students will be expected to be safe, respectful, and responsible on the bus, and to follow boarding expectations.

1. All students shall be ready in the morning at the usual time for the bus to arrive at their homes. The bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
2. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students.
3. Students will obey the driver promptly and cooperatively.
4. The bus driver will assign seats, students are expected to take these seats.
5. When the bus is in motion, students should not stand, extend arms out of windows, move about, leave or enter the bus. Students need to be seated and facing front at all times.
6. NO food and/or drink are to be consumed on the bus without consent of the driver

S.O.A.R
On the bus

Safely: ~ follow bus safety rules ~ stay seated until the bus stops ~ keep the aisle clear ~ keep yourself and your property inside the bus ~ walk to and away from the bus	Respectfully: ~ listen to the bus driver ~ use a quiet voice ~ keep hands and feet to self ~ welcome all seatmates	Responsibly: ~ be on time ~ follow the bus procedure ~ keep bus neat & clean
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Boarding the bus

Loading:

- arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before bus time
- wait for the bus to come to a complete stop
- wait for the bus driver signal before crossing the street
- walk to the bus single file
- enter one student at a time
- go to assigned seat

Riding:

- sit in the seat bottom to bottom
- back to back
- feet on the floor
- face forward
- backpack in your lap

Unloading:

- wait until the bus stops & doors open
- Bus driver will dismiss students one at a time to exit the bus upon arrival at school.
- When unloading at your bus stop, exit one student at a time
- walk away from the bus
- wait for the bus driver signal before crossing the street

Drop Off Procedures

An adult must be present in order to drop off a student in PreK, K, or grade 1. If the family sends in a note, grade 2 students may be dropped off without an adult present. Grade 3-5 students may be dropped off without an adult or family member present.

Protocol for Inappropriate Student Behavior

First Incident: Bus driver gives student a verbal warning

Second Incident: Bus driver reports to the principal; principal sends a warning letter home to parents attached to a bus conduct report

Third Incident: Bus driver reports to the principal; principal suspends student from bus transportation for an appropriate time. A notification letter attached to a bus conduct report will be sent home to parents

NO SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS/CANCELLATIONS

Please note Andover School Department does NOT follow either RSU 10 or RSU 44 cancellations. If feasible, Andover School Department will activate a REMOTE Learning Day if students are out for certain conditions and weather situations.

Occasionally, school has to be canceled due to unsafe traveling conditions or other hazardous situations. School cancellations are announced usually before 6:00 A.M. through Class DoJo, posted on our Facebook page, and listed on TV stations (WABI 5, WCSH 6, WMTW 8, WGME 13).

Sometimes school has to be canceled after school is in session. **FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY PLEASE PREPARE FOR THIS SITUATION BEFORE IT HAPPENS.** Establish a plan for your child to follow in case school is dismissed.

- Provide one place for him/her to go if you cannot be contacted. (Fill out the Emergency Plan on the Personal Data sheet and return it to school.) Please update the emergency information if the data changes after the start of the school year.
- Make your plans very clear to your child.
- Parents will be called if dismissal happens during the day. If you can't be reached, we will try an emergency contact that is provided to us.

AGAIN!!! PLAN AHEAD AND BE SAFE.

ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT POLICIES FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The following policies are presented in summary only. Complete copies of these policies are provided in the school office or in the office of the Superintendent of Schools:

HARASSMENT POLICY AC, ACAA, ACCAA-R

These policies outline the Andover School Department position on harassment as well as procedures to be followed in the event of the occurrence of harassment.

HAZING POLICY ACAD

Hazing is prohibited. Maine law defines injurious hazing as “any” action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school. This policy outlines Andover School Department safeguards against hazing.

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY KBF

The Andover School Department recognizes the necessity and value of parent involvement to support student success and academic achievement. Several examples of how this happens are in the policy.

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY JFABD

The Board recognizes that homelessness alone should not be a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment. The Andover School Department will strive to ensure that homeless students are identified and provided access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students in the school system. In accordance with federal and state law and regulations, the school unit will provide homeless students with access to the instructional programming that supports achievement of the content standards of Maine’s system of Learning Results and to other services for which they are eligible. Students shall not be segregated into a

separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall they be stigmatized in any way.

TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION POLICY ADC, ADC-R

Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell, or distribute any tobacco products. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE POLICY JEA

Under state law, full-time attendance is required of all children from his/her 6th to 17th birthday. Attendance is very important in the attainment of a good education. **Parents/guardians should call the school each day that their child is absent.** The school secretary will contact parents/guardians who do not call during the day. Students who leave during the day must be signed out through the office by a parent/guardian. Someone in the office will call the student from class.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND TARDINESS, JEAA

This policy provides the reasons for school absence and the procedures to follow in the event that your child is absent.

GRADE RETENTION POLICY IKE

This policy outlines the importance of decisions made regarding the promotion and retention of students enrolled within the Andover School Department.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS POLICY JLCD

The administration of medicines in the Andover Elementary School is limited and controlled by law. Instructions on the procedure the school will follow to administer medication to your child can be obtained in the school office. (See policy JCLD for additional information).

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS POLICY JICH

The School Board and staff of Andover School Department support a safe and healthy environment for students, which is free of the detrimental effects of drugs and alcohol. Accomplishing this goal requires a cooperative effort among school staff, students, parents/guardians, law enforcement and organizations concerned with the use of drugs and alcohol by school-aged youth.

WEAPONS, VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY JICIA

This policy outlines procedures to be employed in the event of the occurrences that impact on school safety.

BOMB/BOMB THREATS POLICY EBCC

This policy outlines the school boards stance on bomb threats. Whether real and carried out or intended as a prank, a bomb threat represents a potential danger to the safety and welfare of the students and staff and to the integrity of school property. Any bomb threat will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and will be treated accordingly. School officials will react promptly and appropriately to information concerning bomb threats and initiate suitable disciplinary action.

CHILD FIND POLICY IHBAC

A policy that seeks to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction who are school-age, five through the school year in which they turn 20, and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance, including homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences

or seven consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade are identified, located, and evaluated.

STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY IJNDB, IJNDB-E

This policy and the rules that go with it provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited use of computers in the schools but does not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users. This policy will be sent home as a separate communication, as well as a signature page. Please review the policy with your child and return the signature sheet to the school office. We will cover student computer/device use during a parent meeting which will cover specifics should remote learning occur in the future.

AGREEMENT TO PUBLISH STUDENT INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE POLICY IJNDC-E

This policy outlines that the school needs written parent approval to publish personal information on the internet.

LIBRARY MEDIA POLICY IJJ

The library is an important part of any school. No materials are to be taken from the library unless it has been properly checked out. Students will be billed for any unreturned items and will not be allowed to check any materials until the items are returned or a payment arrangement has been made.

QUESTIONING AND SEARCHES OF STUDENTS POLICY JIH

Maine State Law grants police officials the right to meet with students at school. When police officials request to question or search Andover Elementary School students, the school administration will make every effort to be cooperative with them. The Board of Directors seeks to maintain a safe and orderly environment in the schools. School administrators are authorized to question and/or search students in accordance with policy and procedures.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH: STUDENT SUBMISSION TO SURVEYS, ANALYSES, OR EVALUATIONS POLICY ILD

This policy explains the students and parents' rights when it comes to surveys and research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY JIC

Ethical and responsible behavior is an essential part of the educational mission of our schools. To that end, the Board has developed this system-wide Code of Conduct with input from the school, staff, students, parents and community. The Code defines our expectations for student behavior and provides the framework for a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment.

BULLYING POLICY JICK

Bullying, including "cyberbullying," is not acceptable conduct in the Andover school system and is prohibited. Retaliation for the reporting of incidents of such behavior is also prohibited.

"Bullying" and "cyberbullying" have the same meaning in this policy as in Maine law:

Bullying includes, but is not limited to a written, oral or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students that:

- Has, or a reasonable person would expect to have, the effect of:
- Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property.
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property.

ANNUAL NOTICE OF STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS AND INFORMATION RIGHTS POLICY JRA

Andover School Department shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and all other federal and state laws and regulations concerning confidentiality and maintenance of student records and student information.

ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ANDOVER HEALTH SERVICES

In order for parents/guardians to assist with the implementation of the health guidelines, the following information is listed for you:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY JLCC

Reference to Policy JLCC

- Students with a diagnosed communicable disease or with symptoms of a communicable disease will be temporarily excused from school. The parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified and asked to take the student from school whenever possible.
- Students who have a fever of 100 degrees or higher, are experiencing vomiting, or have diarrhea, will be sent home.
- Students returning to school after a diagnosed communicable disease should be symptom free for at least 24 hours unless the primary care provider provides written documentation approving school attendance before symptoms have abated.

MEDICATION

Reference to Policy JLCD

- Dispensing of medication on school premises is discouraged. Whenever possible, the schedule of medication administration should be altered to allow a student to receive all prescribed doses at home and parents are encouraged to work with their doctor on timing of medication. The first dose of a newly prescribed medication must be given at home, not at school.
- Absolutely, no medication will be dispensed by school personnel unless written permission has been granted by the child's parent/guardian.
- An annual written request for prescription medication to be administered throughout the school year is to be submitted by the parent/guardian AND health care provider.
- All medications must be delivered to and picked up from the school in its original container by the student's parent/guardian. Students shall not be permitted to carry and self-administer prescription medicine in school except under very special circumstances i.e. students with asthma, diabetes, and severe allergic reactions. The physician and the school nurse will coordinate this.

ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY ECB

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the notification registry. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications

recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff. The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used.

Annual Notice Regarding School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policies

Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our school focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal, good turf and plant care, and--as a last resort--pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Pesticide Use

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk approach available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and advance notice will be sent home with students.

Your Right To Know

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified about certain pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications during the regular school year. In addition, for pesticides applied anytime during the year, notices will also be posted in the school and on school grounds two working days before until 48 hours after the application. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of pest monitoring, pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting the school at 392-4381.

For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm.

ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ASBESTOS NOTICE

As required by Federal law this Annual Notification of Asbestos-Containing Buildings Material (ACBM) is posted. Andover Elementary School has been inspected for the presence of ACBM. A written plan for the management of the ACBM's has been developed. The asbestos management plan identifies the type and location of ACBM's in school buildings and outlines operational procedures for proper building maintenance to minimize exposure to asbestos hazards. The school also maintains records of all asbestos re-inspections, surveillance activities, and response actions. These records are available for inspection at Andover Elementary School.

Annual Notification of Asbestos-Containing Building Materials

Andover Elementary School may have known or unknown suspect asbestos-containing building materials that are managed in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) EPA 40 CFR 763. A written plan for the management of these materials has been re-organized by Environmental Safety & Hygiene Associates Inc. Of Westbrook, Maine.

The AHERA Management Plan is available for inspection by the general public at Andover Elementary School. The plan may be inspected during normal office hours; an appointment should be made. Copies of the plan can be provided at a cost of \$0.15 per page.

The Management Plan is a guidance document outlining, operational procedures designed for the proper maintenance and safety of all people who work, study, or are otherwise present Andover Elementary School

Note: If a policy subsequently implemented by the Andover School Department or its administrator conflicts with anything in this handbook, the Andover School Policies take precedence over the handbook.

JICJ PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS

The intent of this policy is to support a focused learning environment, minimize distractions, and promote student social and emotional well-being by setting expectations regarding the use of student personal cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices (PEDs) during the school day.

This policy applies to all student personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network connection connectivity capabilities, wearable or handheld.

BELL TO BELL PROHIBITION

All students, from Pre-K through Grade 12, are prohibited from using cell phones and other personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network connectivity capabilities for the duration of the entire school day, from starting to dismissal, except as otherwise permitted in this policy.

Students are not permitted to carry/wear or access personal cell phones, smart watches, or other PEDs during the school day.

- Prior to the starting bell, cell phones and other PEDs must be powered off and remain off and stored as determined by the building administrator.
- Exceptions to the prohibition on use may be granted for monitoring or management of a health condition in accordance with a health care provider's order as incorporated into the student's individual health plan (IHP) (e.g., glucose monitoring); implementation of a student's IEP; a documented Section 504 accommodation for an individual student (e.g., use of assistive technology); in language support services for emergent English language learners when no other translation option is reasonably available; or in an emergency situation as authorized by the building administrator in accordance with the school unit's health and safety and emergency management plan.

At all grade levels, violations of this policy will result in the following actions determined by number of offences.

First Offense: A verbal warning and direction to turn the device off, and store the device out of sight/reach.

Second Offense: The student will hand over the electronic device to the superintendent or designee for the remainder of the day.

Third Offense: Repeated violations will require a parent/guardian meeting and/or result in additional interventions or disciplinary consequences.

In the event of a school emergency, the school/district will communicate with parents as promptly as possible in accordance with the school unit's Health and Safety and Emergency Management Plan.

The school unit will not be responsible for loss, theft, or damage to students' personally owned cell phones, smart watches, or other PEDs brought into schools or onto school property, including school buses, parking lots, athletic fields and/or any other school facilities.

The Superintendent/building administrators will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures to implement/enforce this policy. Students and parents will be provided notice of this policy through student handbooks and/or other means of communication prior to the beginning of the school year.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(23)

Cross Reference: GBCC–Employee Use of Cell Phones
IJNDB–Student Computer and Internet Use and Internet Safety
JIC–Student Code of Conduct
JIH–Questioning and Searches of Students

Adopted: 07/08/2026

PLEASE NOTE: This is a new policy/law and takes effect immediately.

Andover Elementary School

School-Family Compact

CREATED 2023-2024

REVISED ANNUALLY



1

School

2

Families

3

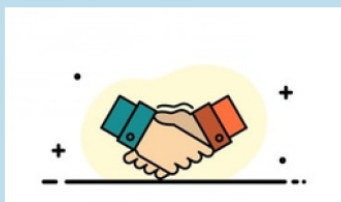
Students

Working Together to Increase Student Success

AN AGREEMENT AMONG FAMILIES, STAFF, & STUDENTS FOCUSED ON LEARNING

Components of a Family-School Compact?

- Focus on student learning skills
- Describe how staff help students develop skills
- Share strategies for families to use at home
- Explain communication paths between home & school
- Describe volunteer opportunities



Activities to Build Partnerships

Opportunities to volunteer & participate in your child's school include ~

- Attend assemblies, programs, FT, & special events
- Communicate with teachers on a regular basis
- Participate in the Andover Parent Teacher Assoc.
- Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Remain in contact with your child's teachers

Jointly Developed

Parents, students, & staff help to develop this compact. Staff suggest home learning strategies, families add ideas, & students convey what is helpful when learning.

Community Involvement

The community values a small school that is cost effective and focused on growing & learning. Emphasis is on small class sizes, school choice in grades 6-12, an environment that welcomes families.

The school nutrition program is integral to the school experience. Meals should be made from scratch with locally sourced foods when possible. Students should have a say in the meals that are being offered.

Rather than taking snow days, the school board and community believes that the school should hold remote learning days. This way AES will be out of school early in June.

Families have requested an after-school program.

Our Goals for Student Achievement

Vision & Mission

AES is a small, community school that fosters a positive personalized-learning environment and emphasizes building relationships in a respectful, inclusive setting. We involve our surrounding natural resources, feed our bodies and minds, and provide tools for future success.

School Goals

Staff have studied student data to determine the most important areas for improvement, which include ~

- Reading/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Positive Behavior
- Attendance

Staff, Families, & Students -- Working Together for Success

Classrooms

AES staff will work with students & families to develop student learning by ~

- Designing a classroom communication system
- Offering regular assessments to inform instruction.
- Sending home trimester report cards
- Communicating when needed
- Providing strategies for parents to assist with homework & improve fluency

At Home

Families can support student success at AES by ~

- Participating in PT conferences
- Keeping open communication with your child's teacher
- Reviewing the Student Handbook for important information, districts rules, & policies
- Reading to and with your students for 20 minutes a night
- Limiting technology
- Ensuring your child is rested and attends school every day!

Students

AES student will ~

Pay Attention
Participate
Be Respectful

Be Polite
Work Together
Ask for Help

Attend School
Work Hard
Be Prepared