



Residential Program Procedures

Program Description

Overview of the WSD residential program

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1. General information

The Washington State School for the Deaf (WSD) is a state agency established to educate birth to 21 year old deaf and hard of hearing students in the state of Washington.

As a related service, WSD provides a residential program to all students who do not live within commuting distance of the agency. Students from across Washington State live in the cottages during the week and go home to their families on weekends. Academic and residential programs are offered at no cost to parents in Washington State.

The WSD residential program is part of an integrated approach to the learning and development of our students. Our program offers independent living skills, academic assistance, a language-rich environment, celebration of cultural diversity, after school programming and community-based involvement. The residential program not only includes student housing, but also encompasses extracurricular activities and student transportation.

In addition to providing a linguistically and culturally enriched environment, WSD offers a variety of recreational sports, such as football, soccer, volleyball, track, basketball, swimming, and Special Olympics. Other activities include outdoor recreation, field trips, arts and crafts, dances, and social activities for all WSD students. The residential program arranges these after school activities, sports, and after-school elective programs. The residential program begins after the end of the academic day schedule (3:00 p.m.) and ends at the start of the academic program (8:00 a.m.).

The WSD residential program focuses on the safety and care of our students. We help students to develop a positive self-esteem and a positive self-identity through our multi-aged family groupings, our social interactions and our low staff-to-student ratios.

The residential program, as a component of the whole agency, is governed by a set of policies and procedures that apply agency-wide. In addition to these WSD policies and procedures, a separate set of guidelines concerning residential activities serves to address issues pertinent to the residential department.



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These guidelines outline procedures commonly practiced by the personnel of the residential program and are aligned to the main policies of the agency and Washington State laws. State laws specifically addressing the Washington School for the Deaf are found in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 72.40 RCW, "State Schools for the Blind, Deaf, Sensory Handicapped," and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Title 148 WAC, "Washington State School for the Deaf." Many of the related policies are found in the "WSD Policies and Procedures Book" this handbook also includes the WSD strategic plan and mission statement, organizational chart, and school calendar. The following residential program procedures are subject to review and change as needed.

WSD is a closed campus, which means that students are not allowed to leave campus without permission from a staff member. Residential students are not allowed to leave campus from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., without specific permission from a Student Life Counselor (SLC) unless attending a scheduled educational program. Security staff is on campus from 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Sunday - Thursday.

2. Definitions of a residential student and day student

A "residential student" is any WSD student **residing outside a 60 minute commute via bus transportation**. (Residential students are transported to and from school on weekends by contract bus, state car or airplane.)

Students residing within a 60 minute commute via bus transportation are considered "day students". Day students are not allowed to be placed in the residential program or utilize the residential facilities for personal reasons. Such use is a violation of state ethics law and the constitutional prohibition against a gift of public funds. Day students authorized to use residential facilities for personal use shall be assessed a fee for such use as authorized by law.

An exception exists for those students residing within a 60 minute bus commute who require residential services as a related service, in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). If a parent of a day student, or an adult day student, or other interested person(s) requests residential services for the day student, a special education re-evaluation must take place to determine if the student must receive residential service to obtain FAPE. In order for the re-evaluation group to conclude that a day



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student requires residential services to obtain FAPE, the evaluative data must set forth a basis for concluding that the student would not otherwise benefit from special education services without the provision of residential services. The re-evaluation team will document their conclusions in a summary analysis, in accordance with special education policies and procedures. If the new summary analysis materially changes the current individualized educational program (IEP), and new IEP team meeting must be held within 30 calendar days.

(From WSD Policies and Procedures book, 3110, "Residential Services for Day Students")

3. Residential program mission statement

"The WSD Residential Department is devoted to the safety, care and well-being of our students. Our mission is to provide a structured yet nurturing family environment, including after school opportunities that enables all students to reach their highest potential personally, academically, socially, morally and physically."