



Notebook

August 2023



KEY DATES

August 4-9
(depending on school)
Meet Your Teacher/
Orientation Sessions

August 10
First Day of School

August 15, 6 p.m.
School Board meeting
District Office

August 16, 4 p.m.
School Board workshop on
rezoning
District Office

August 22 5:30 p.m.
Community Input
Session—Rezoning
Hawthorne Middle/High

August 24, 5:30 p.m.
Community Input
Session—Rezoning
Howard Bishop Middle

August 28, 5:30 p.m.
Community Input
Session—Rezoning
Santa Fe High

August 29, 5:30 p.m.
Community Input
Session—Rezoning
Kanapaha Middle

More information at
www.sbac.edu

Consent required for use of different name

Under a new state rule, parents/guardians will now have to give their consent for schools to use a name other than their child’s legal name (as listed on their birth certificate) in school. Florida Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0955 requires school districts to develop a form “for parents to specify the use of any deviation from their child’s legal name in school.” This includes but is not limited to a shortened version of a student’s legal name or a completely different name.

ACPS families can complete the Student Preferred Name form by:

- 1) Going to the ‘Annual Updates’ section of their Skyward Family Access account. This is the same section families will use to update their emergency contacts and other information. This option will be available August 8 through September 30.

Families who do not currently have a Skyward Family Access account can visit their child’s school with a photo ID to request a user ID and password OR submit their child’s full name, date of birth, grade level, and school AND the parent’s full name and a picture of their ID to familyaccessrequest@gm.sbac.edu.

- 2) Requesting a hard copy of the form from the child’s school and returning it to a school administrator;
- 3) Going to the ACPS Back to School page at www.sbac.edu/backtoschool and clicking on ‘Student Preferred Name Form,’ downloading and completing the form, then returning it to a school administrator or emailing it to the school principal.

If a student asks to be called anything other than their legal name at school, a school administrator will contact the parent to let them know how to give their consent.

Alachua County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability (Section 504/ACA), sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, genetics or legally-protected characteristics in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

The School Board designates the following individuals to serve as the district’s ‘compliance officers’ (also known as the Civil Rights Coordinators), who shall also serve as the district’s Section 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators and Title IX coordinators.

Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Alisha Williams, 352-955-7713, williamsar@gm.sbac.edu (for employees); Dr. Toni Griffin, 352-955-7671, ext. 1610, griffints1@gm.sbac.edu or Donald Reed, 352-955-7671, ext. 1661, reedd@gm.sbac.edu (for students).

District's Back to School website is now available

Alachua County Public Schools' annual Back to School website at www.sbac.edu/backtoschool is now up and running. The page includes information on everything from bus schedules to school supply lists to a meet your teacher/orientation schedule for all schools to enrollment requirements and more.

The district's 2023-24 Parent Guide is also posted on the site. The Parent Guide provides families with a comprehensive look at the educational and other programs and services available through local schools and district offices, as well as information on helping their children succeed in school.

Families can also find information about when and where the school bus will be picking up and dropping off their child on the Back to School website.

Parents must consent to health treatment, screenings in school

Under a new state law, parents and guardians will have to provide what is called 'active consent' for their child to receive health care at school, including management of chronic health conditions, vision, hearing, scoliosis and dental screenings and other services.

ALL students will be provided with emergency care and first aid as deemed necessary by a school nurse, even without active consent from a parent or guardian.

If their child needs medication at school for any reason, parents must also complete a Medication/Treatment Authorization Form, which is available at www.sbac.edu/health.

To give active consent for their student to receive screenings and other health services at school, parents must complete the new Consent for Health Services form. The form can be found under 'Annual Updates' in their Skyward Family Access Account.

Families that don't yet have a Skyward Family Access account can set one up online or by emailing familyaccessrequest@gm.sbac.edu and providing their full name and a photo ID and their student's full name, date of birth, grade level and school. A Family Access account also offers real-time access to their student's grades, test scores, attendance records and other important information.



Free meals for all students continuing at 32 local schools



Based on updated federal guidelines, students at 32 local schools are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2023-24 school year, regardless of their family income and without having to apply.

Families at the other schools will need to meet income guidelines and fill out a family application for their children to receive free or reduced-price meals.

A list of schools, an online application and more information are available on the district's Food and Nutrition Services website at www.yourchoicefresh.com.