

Lawrence County School District Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026

5:00 p.m.

I. Preliminaries

Call to Order

Board President Vickie Mitchell called the meeting to order. Brad Junkersfeld offered the prayer.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Scott Brady made a motion to approve the minutes. Chad Ditto seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Old Business

Superintendent Kersey recognized the following Merit Pay recipients:

- Tracy Jared
- Makayla Mann
- Malessie Milton
- Nick Weber
- Rebecca Bullard
- Marcia Martin
- Deanna Steele
- Ali Carey

Superintendent Kersey also recognized Kelli Porter for obtaining an All for Lunch Grant of \$10,000 to pay for past due student lunch charges. Superintendent Kersey also recognized Leslie Lamb, District Treasurer for Early and On time E Finance Cycle 1-9 submissions for 22-23, 23-24, and 24-25 school years. Superintendent Kersey updated the Board on all summer projects for the district.

B. New Business

Approval of Bills

Superintendent Kersey presented the bills for approval. Joe Penn made a motion to approve, and Pat Roby seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

Superintendent Kersey presented the financial reports to the Board.

Approval of Handbook Changes

- **Elementary Handbook:** Scott Brady made a motion to approve the changes. Chad Ditto seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **High School Handbook:** Brad Junkersfeld made a motion to approve the changes. Kai Rorex seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of High School Fencing Project

The Board authorized Superintendent Kersey to proceed with the preferred bid for the high school fencing project. Chad Ditto made the motion, Scott Brady seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Nurse's Report

Superintendent Kersey presented the Nurse's Report to the Board.

Approval of Cynergy Contract

Superintendent Kersey requested approval of the Cynergy contract. Brad Junkersfeld made the motion, Kai Rorex seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Statement of Assurance

Superintendent Kersey presented the Statement of Assurance for approval. Scott Brady made the motion, Brad Junkersfeld seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Legislative Liaison

Vickie Mitchell was appointed as the Board Member Legislative Liaison. Kai Rorex made the motion, Scott Brady seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Adult Meal Price Increase

Superintendent Kersey requested approval to increase adult meal prices to **\$5.25 for lunch** and **\$3.05 for breakfast**. Kai Rorex made the motion, Pat Roby seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Cafeteria Purchases

Superintendent Kersey requested approval to purchase cafeteria equipment. Pat Roby made a motion authorizing Superintendent Kersey to make the necessary purchases. Brad Junkersfeld seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Transfer Students

Transferring to Hoxie

- Logan Jones
- Kali Barnett

Transferring to Sloan

- Everett Helms

Transferring to Walnut Ridge

- Lyric Travis
- London Travis
- Raygen Cline
- Zeb Gipson
- Aubree Utley
- Jackson Utley

III. Executive Session

Following Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open session.

Retirement/Resignations

Superintendent Kersey recommended accepting the retirement resignation of Angela Horner, Business Teacher, and the resignations of Tracy Jared, Mid-Level Teacher, and Kera Kelly, Elementary Teacher. Joe Penn made the motion, Chad Ditto seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Employment Recommendations

Superintendent Kersey recommended the Board employ the following:

- Ella Massey – Business Teacher (Grades 7–8)
- Kaylee Nelson – Elementary Teacher
- Rose Varner – Mid-Level Teacher

Scott Brady made the motion to approve the recommendations. Kai Rorex seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Senior Class Sponsor

Superintendent Kersey requested approval of Ashton Roby as Senior Class Sponsor. Brad Junkersfeld made the motion, Chad Ditto seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Other/Miscellaneous

- **Open House:** August 6, 2026
- **Next Regular Board Meeting:** August 10, 2026

V. Adjournment

Kai Rorex made a motion to adjourn. Joe Penn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.



Walnut Ridge High School

Principal's Office
510 Southern Avenue
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476



July 1, 2026

Lawrence County School Board:

I respectfully request your consideration and approval of the following revisions to the Walnut Ridge High School Student Handbook for the 2026–2027 school year:

1. **Participation in School-Sponsored Dances:** Add "A student must be enrolled in a minimum of four class periods per day within the District in order to attend school-sponsored dances, such as Winter Ball and Prom."
2. **Grade Forgiveness Policy:** Add a Grade Forgiveness Policy to ensure that early participation in advanced coursework does not create long-term negative consequences for a student's academic record. (see attached)
3. **Attendance Policy:** Amend the handbook to read that "A student will be counted absent from a class if he/she misses more than 15 minutes of the class."
4. **Honor Graduate:** Remove "In the event that a student takes at least 5 AP courses or college concurrent credit courses and that student makes a semester grade of an A in those courses and has maintained all A's on his/her semester grades from the ninth through the twelfth grade then he/she will be awarded Valedictorian or Co-Valedictorian."
5. **Semester Tests:** Remove "The students may opt to take the test only to improve their grade."
6. **Plagiarism:** Revise policy to read "Students who plagiarize or submit work that is not their own will receive a grade of zero for the assignment or test and may be subject to disciplinary action."

Thank you for your time and consideration of these proposed handbook revisions. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tashena Tate'.

Tashena Tate, Principal
Walnut Ridge High School Principal



Walnut Ridge Elementary School

508 East Free Street Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476 870 | 886.3482

Date: July 13, 2026

To: Mr. Jacob Kersey and the Lawrence County School Board of Education

From: Lea Andra Foster & Tyler Roby

Re: Proposed change to the 2026-2027 WRES Student Handbook

We need your assistance to address two issues which affect student learning and student safety.

- chronic tardies / absences
- checking students out while teachers are organizing for dismissal (car line, bus line, and Paw Patch).

The highlighted text below represents the proposed changes which modeled after the Westside Elementary School Parent & Student Handbook.

TARDY & ABSENCE (WRES Student Handbook page 10)

Policies for Grades K – 4

School starts at 8 am. After 8 am, a parent/guardian must park and walk the student into the building to be checked in by the office personnel. Any student who arriving between 8 am – 8:30 am will be considered tardy.

If a student is frequently tardy, a conference with the parent and student will be scheduled to create a plan that supports consistent, on-time attendance. **Ten (10) unexcused tardies (or more) can result in a FINS petition.**

Students missing 30 minutes (or more) from the morning will be considered absent for ½ day (am).

Students missing 30 minutes (or more) from the afternoon will be considered absent for ½ day (pm)

Each day at 2:30 pm, the front doors to the Elementary school will be locked so that teachers are able to get the students organized for dismissal. Parents needing to pick up their students must stay in the car rider line or check them out before 2:30 which will result in ½ day absence.

Policies for Grades 5 – 6

Students arriving after the tardy bell for a class will be considered tardy for that class. First and second tardy will receive a warning. Third and fourth tardy will receive detention. Each tardy thereafter will result in 1 day of ISS.

Students who miss 15 minutes (or more) from a class will be considered absent from that class.

Sincerely,

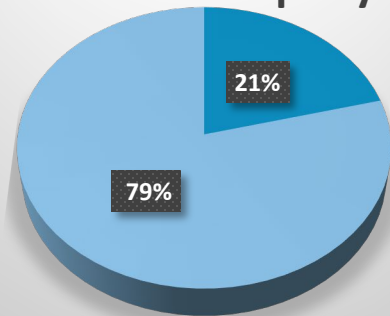
Lea Andra Foster, Principal

2025-2026 End of Year School Nurse Report

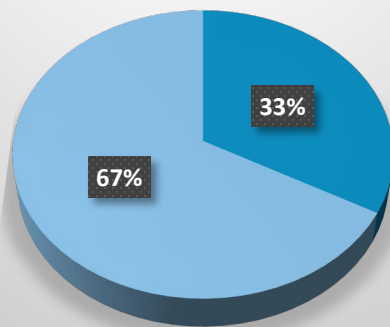
	Walnut Ridge Elementary (Kindergarten-6 th)	Walnut Ridge High School (7 th -12 th)
Nurse Education Type	LPN	BSN, RN
Type of Employment	FTE, direct care	FTE, direct care
Number of Students Enrolled	618	417
Number of students with more than one chronic health condition	36	74
Number of Students with the following:		
Asthma	41	45
Diabetes, Type 1	0	1
Diabetes, Type 2	0	1
Seizures	3	0
Life Threatening Allergies	14	5
ADD/ADHD	143	93
Anxiety	15	17
Cardiovascular	13	8
Depression	3	2
Non-Life-Threatening Allergy	82	46
Known Substance Abuse	0	0
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	0
Number of Students for Daily Prescription Medications	21	5
Number of Accu Checks	0	180
Number of Carbohydrate Counting Visits	0	180
Number of Insulin Administration Visits	0	180
Catheterization Visits	540	0
Tube Feedings	180	0
Number of Students Receiving Assistance by Unlicensed Personnel for Activities of Daily Living	3	0
	Walnut Ridge Elementary (Kindergarten-6 th)	Walnut Ridge High School (7 th -12 th)

Number of Students Enrolled	618	417
Number of Students Missing 10% or More of the School Year	128	136

K-6th Grade missing 10% or more of school per year



7th-12th Grade missing 10% or more of school per year

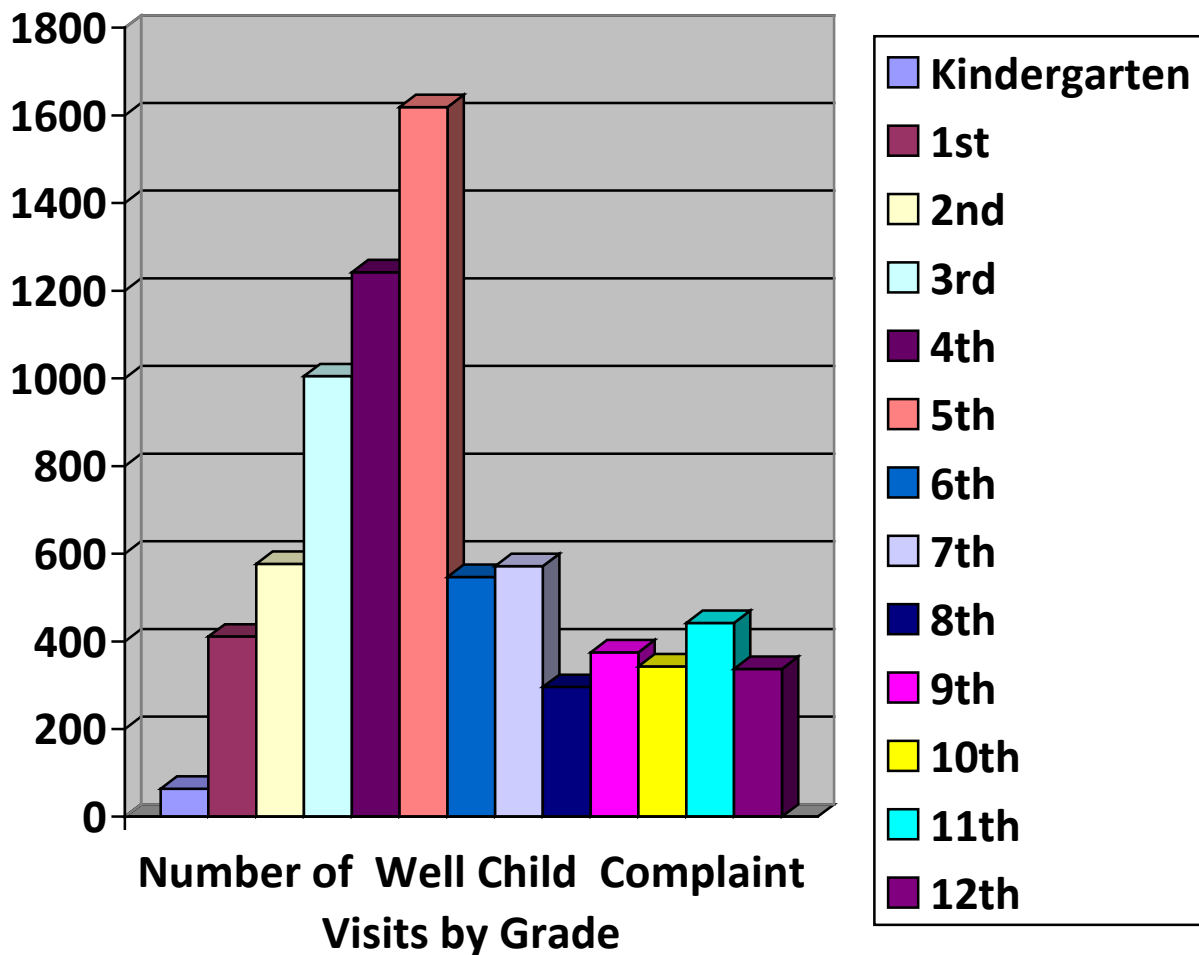


State Required Screenings	Walnut Ridge Elementary (Kindergarten-6 th)	Walnut Ridge High School (7 th -12 th)
Vision	521	314
Hearing	521	321

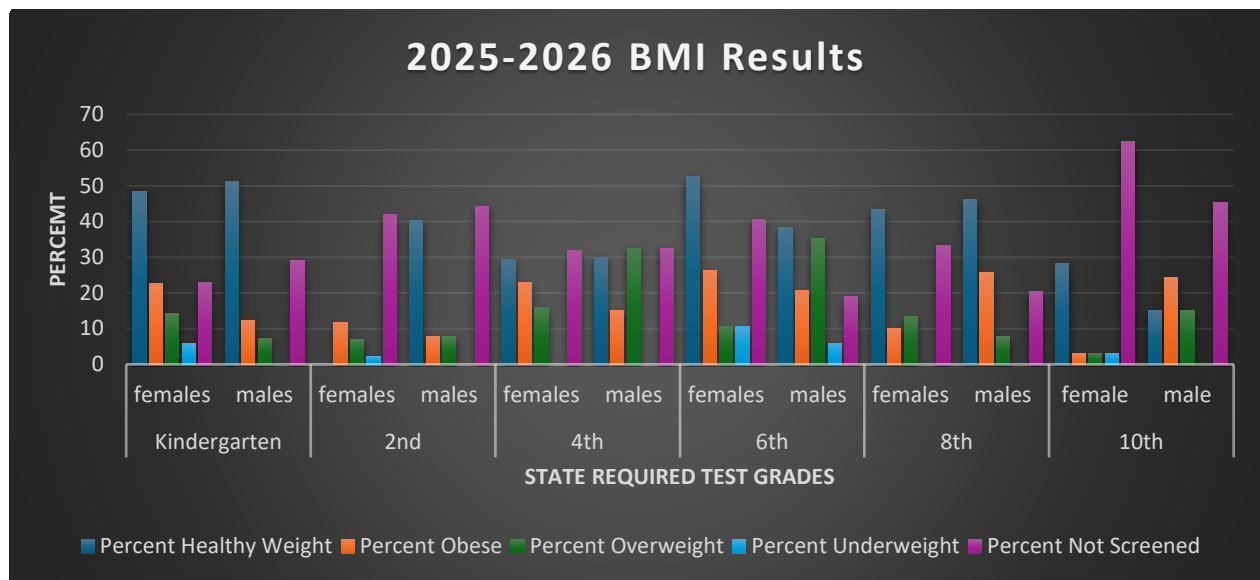
BMI	224	81
Scoliosis	20	42

Billing for vision and hearing screening is complete and \$8441.30 was collected. We receive \$14.08 per vision test and \$12.02 per hearing test.

Number of Well Child Visits by grade



Total visits 7,970. These are visits for headaches, stomach aches, nausea, Band-Aids, etc. These are NOT visits for scheduled, physician ordered medications or treatments.



2026-2027 Goals

- **Discuss these results with staff and discuss school nurse roles and responsibilities**
- **Become a heart safe certified school**
- **Perform cardiac emergency response plan drills**
- **Increase Medicaid billing by billing for procedures that nurses already perform (this is new to Medicaid). We can bill for medication administration, carbohydrate counting, catheters, tube feedings, and injections. This would generate more money for school nurse supplies.**