



The Excel
Center[®]
for adult learners

Student Handbook

The Excel Center
6201 Preston Highway
Louisville, KY 40219
502-337-3322
www.GoodwillKyExcelCenter.org

GENERAL OVERVIEW

School Mission and Description

The mission of The Excel Center is to provide adults ages 18 and older the opportunity and support to earn a high school diploma and begin post-secondary education while developing career paths in sectors of the local economy that offer better-than-average employment and growth opportunities.

The Excel Center will “meet students where they are” in their education by providing a flexible structure and supportive relationships to help them manage work, life, and family concerns as they achieve their educational goals. The program is tuition free and provides transportation assistance, childcare, and life coaches. The Excel Center is operated by Goodwill Industries of Kentucky.

Program Schedule

The Excel Center offers day classes over five (5), eight-week terms during the school year. The Excel Center classes are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday with Friday being available for tutoring or make up work. The bulk of courses are structured to take place in person with direct instruction, with some courses being available online. Enrollment is open year-round.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Anyone age 18 or older who did not complete high school and wants to earn a high school diploma can enroll. Applicants may apply online at www.GoodwillKyExcelCenter.org or call (502) 337-3322.

Students expelled from any school system will be ineligible to enroll as a student at The Excel Center until the completion of the student’s expulsion is cleared. An expulsion is considered between four (4) and one hundred and eighty (180) days out of school. Once the student has completed the expulsion period, he/she can enroll at The Excel Center using normal enrollment procedures.

Students are required to submit necessary documentation in the application packet prior to receiving an invitation to attend the orientation. This documentation includes transcripts and documents that establish identify and employment authorization. Once enrolled, students will need to sign and return the attached Academic and Behavioral Expectations contract in order to begin at The Excel Center.

COURSE CREDIT

Curriculum/Earning Credit

Curriculum at the Excel Center offers each student an individualized road map that has been designed to help them be successful in completing their academic goals. The Excel Center focuses on the mandated Kentucky diploma requirements. Students will complete most course requirements through direct instruction designed to build long-term knowledge and support student’s ability to apply course information to real world concepts and situations. Credits may also be earned through other learning options including online courses, prior work experience, or by taking courses at our partnering higher education institutions.

STUDENT SERVICES

Life Coaches

Each student at The Excel Center will be assigned a life coach. This coach will help students address concerns in their

lives and facilitate access to supportive services to help them stay in school and achieve their goals. The coach will meet with students individually and in small groups to provide a forum for students to share concerns and address any challenges they may face. Regular one-on-one meetings may be scheduled based on a student's need. Coaches are also responsible for tracking students' academic progress, graduation plans, and helping them develop and achieve personal and career goals.

Childcare

The Excel Center will operate a Childcare Center for students who have children ages 0 - 5. The Childcare Center is only available when a student is studying on site. A child may stay in the center for a maximum of six (6) hours if the parent is on site during that time. There is no cost for this service. The Childcare Center will provide an introductory curriculum for children as well as snacks and drinks. The Childcare Center will not provide meals for children. Parents will pick up children at noon to provide lunch and eat with their child. Parents will be expected to provide diapers, wipes, bottles, change of clothes and other items as needed. The Childcare Center will close at 12:00 p.m. and reopen at 12:45 p.m.

Transportation

The Excel Center will provide bus passes to students with transportation needs. Public transit is a cost-effective way for students to have transportation to attend class with the additional benefit that students can also use the bus pass in the evenings and on weekends for non-school activities. Passes are distributed by life coaches after students have attended class for two (2) consecutive weeks. During the first two (2) weeks, a daily ride pass will be provided if necessary.

DISCIPLINE

Code of Student Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to provide students with fair and reasonable expectations and procedures for conduct at The Excel Center. These guidelines serve to promote human development and ensure that conduct does not disrupt the education of The Excel Center students.

Attendance

- Excused absences require proper documentation and include the following: death of a family member, illness, work, court appointments, religious holidays, and teacher conferences.
 - Students are allowed to make up any missed assignments with an excused absence.
- Tardiness: Students will not be allowed to enter the classroom ten (10) minutes after the start of class. If a student arrives after ten (10) minutes, he/she is required to sign in at the main office and report to a designated area until the start of the next class. Student tardiness will be tracked.
 - After a student's third instance of being tardy, a conference will be held with the student and life coach.
 - The fourth instance of being tardy will be considered a minor disciplinary infraction and progressive disciplinary protocol will be followed.
- Students must have permission from the teacher to leave the classroom.

Withdrawal

- Students with more than ten (10) excused or unexcused absences per term will be withdrawn from class and school. The student will be eligible to reenroll the following term in front of the waiting list.

Cell Phones

- Answering phone calls in class is prohibited. If you receive a phone call you may request to leave the room to answer the call.
- Cell phones are to be set on silent and not to vibrate during class.
- Texting in class is prohibited.

Dress Code

- The dress code for the Excel Center is casual but should demonstrate both common sense and awareness of others. Clothing that reveals private body parts, midriff, or underwear, and clothing that is extremely short is prohibited.
- Clothing that depicts racist or sexist messages or that depicts intolerance of others are not allowed.
- Clothing that depicts illegal drug use and/or messages promoting violence are also not allowed.

Expulsion

After a proper investigation and hearing, and depending on whether the infraction is major, minor, or related to the Childcare Center; a student may be expelled when his or her behavior renders it appropriate.

When the director or designee makes a recommendation for expulsion of a student, the director or designee may suspend the student until the conclusion of expulsion proceedings. This may occur if the director believes that the student may present a risk of:

- Interference with an educational function or school purpose.
- A physical injury to themselves, other students, school employees, or visitors to the school.

Progressive Discipline Standard Operating Procedures

Purpose

- To assist the student in understanding that a performance problem and opportunity for improvement exists.
- To assist the student in overcoming performance problems and satisfy The Excel Center expectations.
- To prepare students for conduct that is expected in the workplace.
- To provide students with opportunities for due process in disciplinary actions.

Minor Infractions Include

- Deliberate disruption: Shouting or yelling at anyone, slamming doors, using profanity, throwing items, threatening other students.
- Displays of affection: Public displays of affection with another student could include, but are not limited to: kissing, any type of sexual acts, fondling, or groping.
- Excessive, unexcused tardiness of four (4) or more during a term.
- Profanity spoken loudly, but not directed toward staff or another student while on campus.
- Cell phone use during class which disrupts class.
- Violation of dress code.
- Food and drinks without secured lids in the computer lab or rooms with laptops are prohibited.

Minor Infractions Disciplinary Process

1. Conference with Life Coach, Lead Teacher, and student.
2. Contractual probation created by Life Coach. The duration of the probation is to be determined by recommendation of the Life Coach.
3. Two-day suspension.
4. Expulsion pending investigation.

Major Infractions Include (But Are Not Limited To)

- Failure to report felony criminal activity.

- Bullying - Unwanted, aggressive behavior among any person that involves real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated or has the potential to be repeated over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. These actions include all types of social media.
- Verbal abuse - The use of words to cause harm to staff and/or another student. The most commonly understood form is name-calling. Verbal abuse may consist of shouting, insulting, intimidating, threatening, shaming, demeaning, or derogatory language among other forms of communication.
- Sexual abuse - This is a statutory offense that causes another person to engage in an unwanted sexual activity by force or threat.
- Extortion - The use or the express or implicit threat of use of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to a person, reputation, or property to obtain anything of value from someone else without consent.
- Consumption of drugs and/or alcohol on school property (mandatory 180-day expulsion plus appeal to leadership team).
- Forgery - The creation of a false written document or alteration of a genuine one with the intent to defraud.
- Threats toward staff and/or other students.
- Harassment toward staff and/or other student(s) - Harassment is unwanted, unwelcomed, and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. Harassing behavior may include, but is not limited to, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs and lewd propositions, assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults such as derogatory posters or cartoons.
- Discrimination - The treatment or consideration of or making a distinction in favor of or against a person based on the group, class, or category to which that person belongs rather than on individual merit.
- Theft.
- Pulling the fire alarm.
- The following also constitute a major infraction that warrants **permanent expulsion**:
 - Arson - The willful and malicious burning or charring of property.
 - Assault/physical altercation toward staff and/or another student.
 - Violation of state and/or federal law while currently enrolled as a student.
 - Selling of drugs and/or alcohol on school property.
 - Possession of a firearm on school property.
 - Smoking in the building.
 - Gang related activity.
 - Bomb threats.

Major Infraction Progressive Disciplinary Process

1. Investigation conducted by the Director and/or the student's designee (Excel Center staff).
2. Conference with Life Coach, Chief External Officer or designee, and student pending full investigation by Director, Lead Teacher, Lead Life Coach, and Life Coach.
3. Expulsion pending a student hearing except for zero tolerance violations (i.e., drugs, weapons, assault on another student or staff, etc.).

Childcare Center Progressive Discipline Standard Operating Procedures

Childcare is a free service that the Goodwill offers enrolled students. Students utilizing this service will receive a parent handbook which will include all of the expectations and rules that are needed to provide the best care for children attending our program. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Childcare Center Director or the student's Life Coach. If there is an issue that can't be resolved, the following disciplinary process could be enacted.

Childcare Center Infractions Include (But Are Not Limited To)

- Late pick up [after six (6) minutes].
- Failure to provide daily proper necessities for childcare (diapers, wipes, clean bottles, formula, change of clothes, shoes, appropriate clothing based on weather conditions). All medication must be administered by the parent.
- Neglect toward childcare needs (excessively wet and/or soiled clothing, uncleanliness).
- Insubordination or disrespect toward Childcare Center staff.

Disciplinary Process

1. Conference with Childcare Center Director, Life Coach, and student.
2. Behavior probation contract to cover duration of one (1) full term. If the student violates probation, they will advance to step three.
3. Loss of Childcare Center privileges for one (1) week. We understand that some students may be forced to miss classes because of a lack of childcare, but a key goal of The Excel Center is to assist students with preparing for the workforce through personal development, which includes navigating through the consequences of one's actions.
4. Childcare Center expulsion for the remainder of the term.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

AND RELATED SERVICES:

The mission of The Excel Center is to provide adults 18 and older the opportunity and support to earn a high school diploma and begin post-secondary education while developing career paths in sectors of the local economy that offer better than average employment and growth opportunities. The school will "meet students where they are" in their education by providing a flexible structure and supportive relationships to help them manage work, life, and family concerns as they achieve their educational goals, while delivering *relevance, rigor, and relationship* in their education. The school primarily serves adult students who have previously dropped out of high school or who are significantly at risk of dropping out of high school. The framework of the school calls for language and terms that accurately reflect the roles of the adults taking part in the education process. Instead of traditional teachers, there are "instructors" (licensed content area teachers), and "coaches," who work with students to overcome barriers to their education and life goals. The students are able to build strong relationships with their coaches and instructors. Within this framework, learning is primarily tailored to fit the students' educational goals.

A Special Education Coordinator and a team of highly qualified licensed teachers oversee Special Education services, academic needs, accommodations, transition planning, related services, modifications of curriculum, and implementation of any previous Individual Education Plan (IEP) for students ages 21 and under. The Excel Center staff also assist in the assurance of implementation of curriculum and accommodations for students who need accommodations under section 504 of the ADA. The full-time highly qualified Special Education Coordinator has experience in the areas of mild to moderate classroom interventions. The Special Education Coordinator will also make sure that any students who had a previous IEP will receive the extra academic and transitional support they received on their previous IEPs if needed or required by the ADA. The Director will also verify licensing and qualifications for all related services and paraprofessional staff who assist with support of special needs students.

Comprehensive Services for Students with Disabilities

Educational Continuum and Least Restrictive Environment

- a. Students receiving services spend a majority of their instructional day with their instructors. The remainder of the day they may utilize supplementary services as indicated in their IEP. One-on-one instruction will be provided as needed according to a student's IEP.
- The instructor student ratio allows for every student to enjoy an increased level of attention from his or her instructor and coach. This allows for placement of every special education student into a regular education and least restrictive educational situation. All classes are inclusionary, and none are comprised solely of special education students. However, the school has the ability to provide intense individualized services if necessary.
- Access to the general education curriculum:
 - a. The long-term relationship between instructor, coach, and student will provide students with a staff member who is familiar with their cases. This will provide the instructor and coach with more knowledge and a better understanding of the students' needs which can then be included in the regular instruction program. Student progress will be monitored on schedule with the general education population. The student's IEP will reflect his or her needs as they participate in the general education curriculum with accommodations and/or modifications which are deemed appropriate by the teacher of record.
 - b. All general education curriculum and extracurricular activities will be made available to students receiving services unless indicated otherwise in a student's IEP.
- Assurance of free and appropriate education: The Excel Center will provide a free and appropriate education to all enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years of age prior to the start of the school year. The Excel Center will also follow the guidelines set in ADA for students up to the age of 21 who have previously had an IEP and need support.
- Personnel: All personnel employed or contracted by The Excel Center to provide or supervise the provision of special education and related services shall be appropriately licensed or certified to provide such services. The Excel Center currently employs a Special Education Coordinator certified to provide these services.
- Interagency agreements: The Excel Center will establish other interagency agreements as needed to provide required services for students receiving services.
- Parental/Guardian involvement and community relationships:
 - a. For Excel Center students over the age of 18, parental involvement will be at the student's discretion unless the parent has legal guardianship because of the severity of the student's disability.
 - b. Parents, where applicable, are encouraged to participate in school functions such as open houses and orientation.
- Case conferences are scheduled via telephone or in person with the student and/or the guardian/parent. Appointment times are flexible to accommodate schedules including the use of technology to facilitate meetings.
- Assurance of compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations: The ExcelCenter will comply with all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations related to providing services to students with disabilities.

The Goodwill Excel Center is committed to providing access to appropriate education for all individuals. We will provide reasonable and appropriate accommodation for those with documented disabilities who have demonstrated a need for accommodation. The Excel Center recognizes that a typical diploma path may not be attainable even with reasonable accommodations. If a student is found to make no academic progress after the second term of their most recent accommodation plan, the accommodation team will recommend the shift towards vocational and career ready services.



Academic and Behavioral Expectations

Your success in school will undoubtedly influence your life. Orderly behavior is essential to your school success. Courtesy, honesty, regular school attendance, and respect for school property and fellow human beings are the hallmarks of a good Excel Center student. Once you have reviewed the Student Handbook, please sign and date below and return to The Excel Center staff.

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to the policies set forth in The Excel Center Student Handbook. I further certify that I have received a copy of the student handbook.

Student Signature

Date

Received By:
The Excel Center