

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

(Information sheet to be retained by the designated partner.)

The **Partners in Education** program helps address the needs of students by creating a partnership, fostering communication between students, their families, and the college. Designated professional staff can help families to open communication lines and provide support services to improve the academic success of students. Through the Partners in Education program, families can seek answers to questions that arise throughout the year, and will receive information and suggestions to help them provide effective support for their student. Together, we can help create a competitive edge that will help each student succeed.

Services will be provided to members of Partners in Education after the student signs the waiver to release information. Members are entitled to the following benefits:

Final Grades WSCC does not routinely mail grades to students. Students access their grades through STAR_NET; however, members of the partnership may request final grades each semester.

Academic Advisement WSCC academic advisors are available by appointment for one-on-one conferences in the individual departments, as are the Directors of the Student Success Center, Melissa Duff and Jeannie Hopper. Partners who desire a conference with their student's academic advisor should telephone the Student Success Center at 423-318-2563 or 423-318-2564 and someone will assist in arranging an appointment.

Discipline Records The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants access to student disciplinary records if specific conditions are met. As a member of the PIE program, you will have unrestricted access to your student's disciplinary records. Additionally, you will be contacted by the college if your student reports to the college that he/she is the victim of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, and/or if your student is under the age of 21 and is found responsible for alcohol and/or drug-related offenses. For specific questions regarding your student's disciplinary records, contact the Vice President for Student Affairs at 423-585-2681.

Telephone Assistance When questions, concerns, or problems arise, members may call the Student Success Center Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm at 423-318-2563 or 423-318-2564.

Joining Partners in Education To become a member of Partners in Education, a student must sign and return the **Student Release of Confidential Information** form. (The release does not apply to personal counseling, health, or financial information protected by FERPA; however, if students are experiencing problems in these areas, WSCC staff will be happy to assist in identifying available resources.) The student has the right to withdraw the release at any time. The release is no longer in effect once the student reaches the age of twenty-one.

Personal Identification Number (PIN) The PIN requested on the Student Release of Confidential Information is for the purpose of identifying the non-student member when he/she calls to request information. Please choose three letters and three numbers (e.g. ABC 123), record them in the space below, and give this sheet to your non-student partner, as he/she will need it when calling for information.

All activities of Partners in Education are directed toward strengthening the collaborative relationship between the student, the family, and Walters State Community College, with the goal of improving the academic success and retention of students.
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