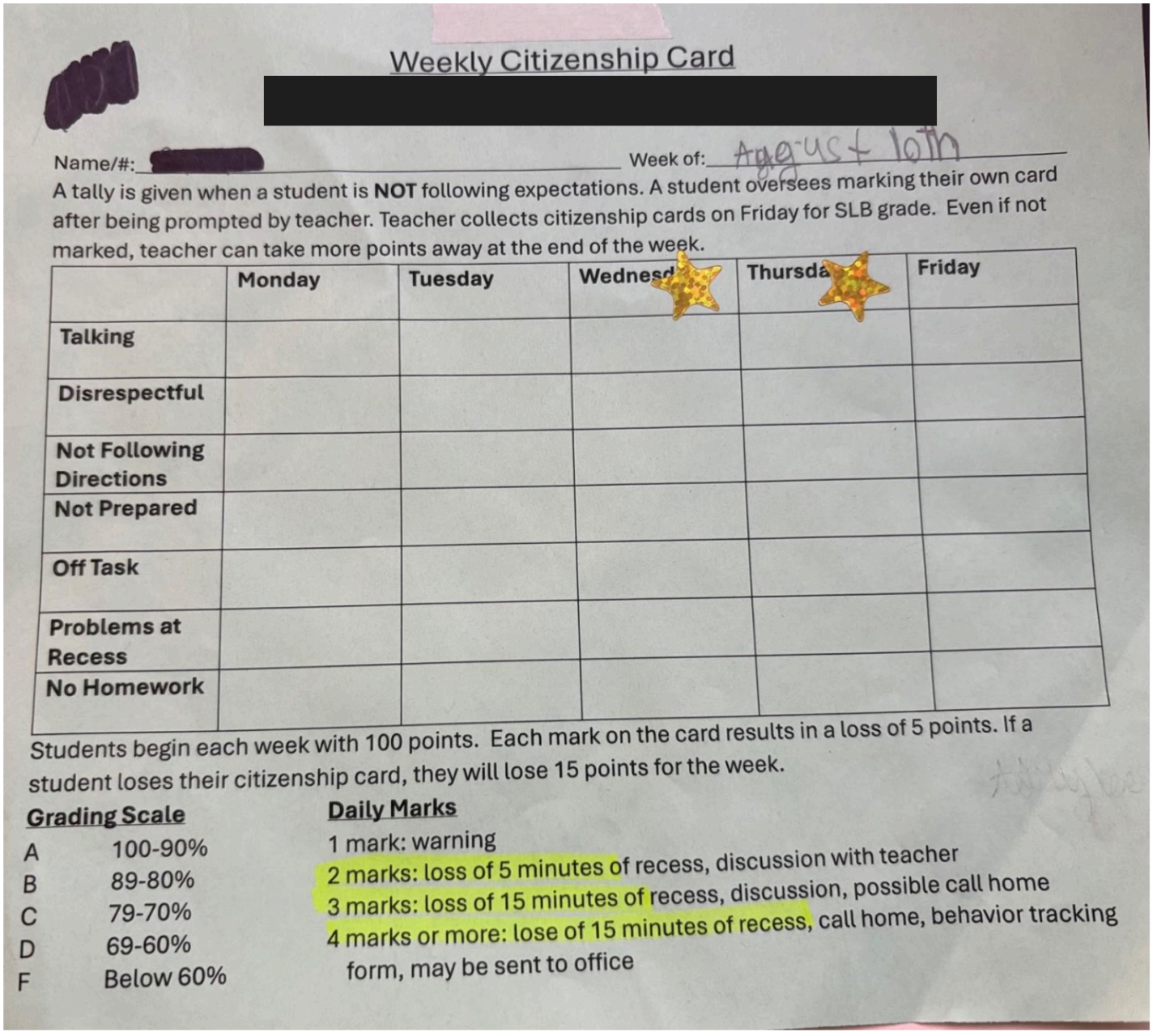
SAY YES TO RECESS NEVADA

Recess Withholding, in Writing

Two school documents show recess being taken away for behavior and for unfinished work. Student, family, staff and school names are redacted.

A school behavior card takes away recess minutes

WCSD elementary school Weekly Citizenship Card, week of August 10, 2026. Marks for talking, being off task, not being prepared or missing homework cost students 5 to 15 minutes of recess. Highlighting added.



Weekly Citizenship Card

[redacted]

Name/#: [redacted] Week of: August 10th

A tally is given when a student is **NOT** following expectations. A student oversees marking their own card after being prompted by teacher. Teacher collects citizenship cards on Friday for SLB grade. Even if not marked, teacher can take more points away at the end of the week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd	Thursda	Friday
Talking					
Disrespectful					
Not Following Directions					
Not Prepared					
Off Task					
Problems at Recess					
No Homework					

Students begin each week with 100 points. Each mark on the card results in a loss of 5 points. If a student loses their citizenship card, they will lose 15 points for the week.

Grading Scale

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	Below 60%

Daily Marks

1 mark: warning
2 marks: loss of 5 minutes of recess, discussion with teacher
3 marks: loss of 15 minutes of recess, discussion, possible call home
4 marks or more: lose of 15 minutes of recess, call home, behavior tracking form, may be sent to office

A teacher explains recess cuts and withholding

WCSD 3rd-grade teacher, email to a parent, February 23, 2026. Students who don't finish assignments spend afternoon recess in "study hall." At this school, students get one 15-minute recess on Wednesdays, when school lets out 45 minutes early. Extra recess depends on i-Ready minutes and scores. Highlighting added.

[redacted]@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 6:46 AM
To: "[redacted]@washoeschools.net>

Hi Mrs. [redacted]

I hope you had a great weekend! I have a couple questions about recess time I was hoping you could answer for me at your earliest convenience:

1. How many minutes of recess do the students get during each school day, and what time do those recesses take place?

2. [redacted] has told me if she does not finish an assignment in class she goes to a "study hall" during recess. When does study hall take place, and what happens during that time? Do the children simply finish the assignment on their own and then go out to recess once it's done if there's still time left, or do they stay in study hall the entire time?

3. When does the iReady reward recess take place each week, and how long is that recess? In order to earn that extra recess, the children need to complete at least 30 iReady reading minutes and 30 iReady math minutes the week prior. They must also not score below 70 percent on any given iReady assignment within those 60 minutes. Is this correct? If not, how does it work?

Thanks so much!

[redacted]@washoeschools.net> Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 8:05 AM
[redacted]@gmail.com>

Hi [redacted]

Students get 30 minutes of recess per school day, 15 minutes after lunch and 15 minutes in the afternoon. On 2hr delays and early release they only have one 15-minute recess.

Study hall takes place during afternoon recess in the Quad. Mrs. [redacted] and/or Mrs. [redacted] are with the students while they work independently on their assignments. When students finish their assignments, they will check with one of the staff members in the quad and then are dismissed to recess.

I-Ready extra recess is dependent on Mrs. [redacted]s schedule as she is the one who is outside with the students during that time. It is usually Thursday or Friday from 3-3:15pm. Students earn it based on their I-Ready work from the previous week. Students need at least 30 minutes in reading and 30 minutes in math. They also need to pass their lessons with a 70% or higher. Mrs. [redacted] looks at the average score for the lessons passed during the week. For example, if a student got 50% on one lesson and then passed the next lesson with 100% the average score would be 75% so high enough that they would earn extra recess. So, if a student hasn't passed a lesson, then they are expected to work on another lesson in order to try and pass it even if they have already reached their 30 minutes. Mrs. [redacted] does send us a list of students who have not completed their minutes and/or not passed their lessons and we use that to determine who goes outside and who stays inside and works on I-Ready.

I hope that answered all your questions. Let me know if there is anything else I can clarify for you.

[redacted]

3rd Grade Teacher

[redacted]Elementary

washoeparents.org/say-yes-to-recess-nevada