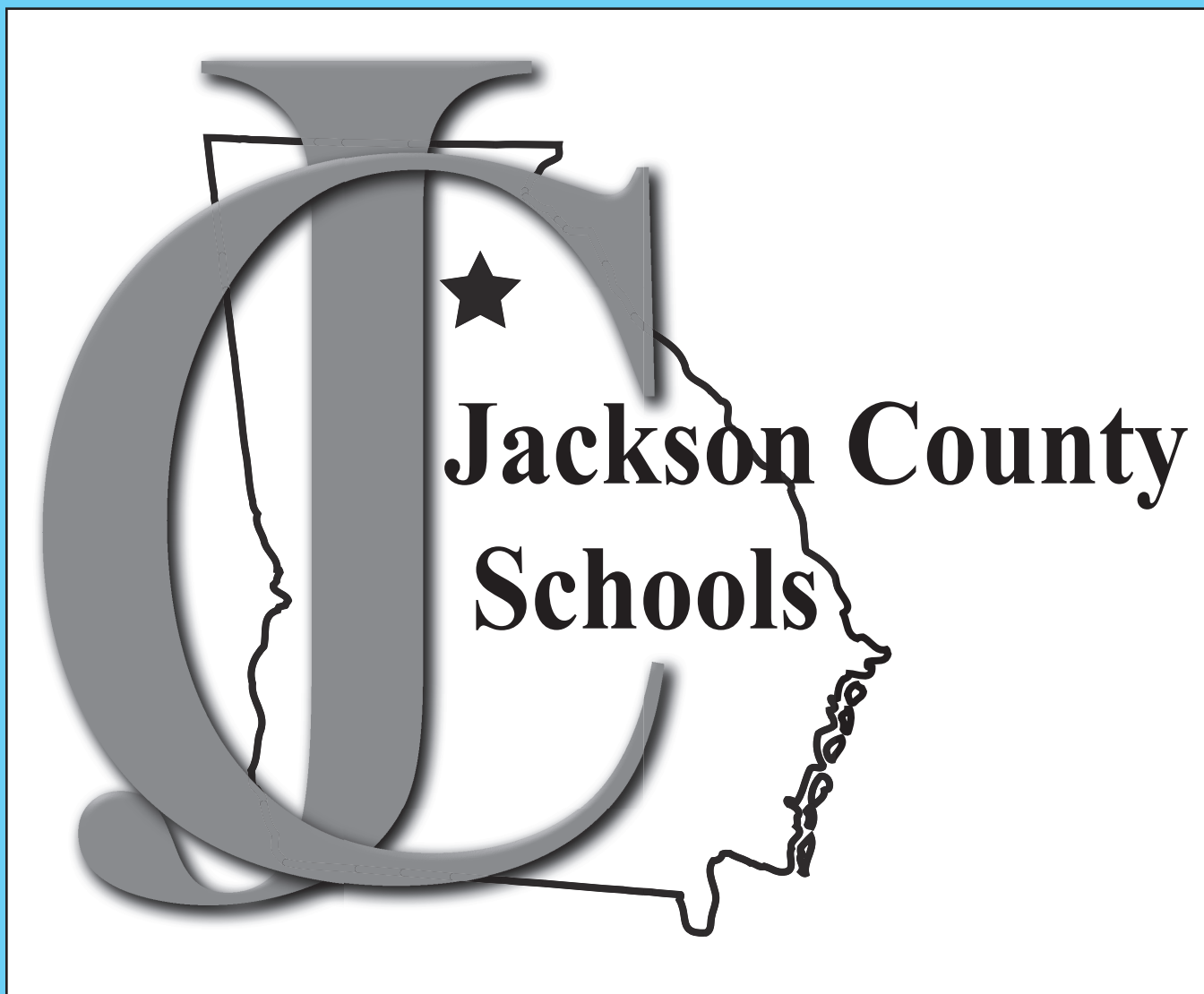


Jackson County Schools



**CODE OF
CONDUCT
2016-2017**

Jackson County Schools

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT 2016-2017

The purpose of the Board of Education is to provide for an orderly process of education that will foster the proper environment providing for the welfare and safety of all students attending the Jackson County Schools. Education is the primary goal of our system. However, when student behavior comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of all.

Students are governed by the policies, regulations, and rules of the Jackson County School System. These are applicable in school, on the way to and from school, and at any school activity on or off school premises. Governing rules, regulations, and policies are published and disseminated to school personnel, parents, and students.

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.16 Unsafe School Choice Option.

The superintendent shall take the appropriate action to assure the establishment and administration of procedures necessary to provide for effective pupil control and discipline. Students and parents should understand that compliance with the rules in the Code of Conduct is mandatory.

THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Michael Cronic, Chairman
Ms. Celinda Wilson, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Tim Brooks
Mr. Steve Bryant
Ms. Lynne Massey-Wheeler

Student Success through Leadership, Character, and Performance

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

DUE PROCESS:

Due process will include appropriate hearings and reviews and, in all cases, the rights of individuals will be ensured and protected. A meeting for a short-term suspension involves a conference between the principal, student, and/or teacher, and parent. A hearing for a long-term suspension will be formally conducted following the procedures mandated by the Jackson County Board of Education. Jackson County School System Procedures for Implementation of IDEA Regulations Related to Student Discipline are on file in each principal's office and available to parents.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A student has full rights and citizenship as defined by the Constitution of the United States and assumes the responsibility to take actions relative to this Constitution, the laws of the State of Georgia, and the policies, rules, and regulations of the Jackson County Board of Education.

STATEMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VIOLATIONS:

When an elementary school student below grade 6 or age 12 is in violation of student discipline procedures and the prescribed disposition cannot be applied, the disposition will be left to the discretion of the principal.

DISCIPLINING FOR OFF-CAMPUS MISCONDUCT:

Students may be disciplined for any off-campus behavior which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

It is the policy of the Jackson County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, disability, religion, or national origin in its educational programs, activities, or provision of services. Complaints regarding discrimination can be processed according to guidelines found in the school student handbook or in the principal's office or the office of the Jackson County Board of Education.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY OF PRINCIPAL:

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in collaboration with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In case of discipline violations not covered by specific disposition in this Code of Conduct, the principal may enact corrective measures which he or she feels are in the best interest of the school and the student involved. The authority of the principal extends to students who are on school property, on the way to or from school or a school function, at a school bus stop, and at any school function or activity. Based on circumstances of the incident, or the disciplinary record of the student involved, the principal may refer any matter under this paragraph (including any violation of the system or school Code of Conduct) to a disciplinary hearing.

DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY FOR STUDENTS:

Student use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol are wrong and harmful. Violations of the drug/alcohol policy for students can result in serious disciplinary consequences, up to and including expulsion and referral to legal authorities for prosecution. Each Jackson County School is designated as a Drug Free School Zone. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

THREATS OF VIOLENCE:

It is the policy of the Jackson County Board of Education to take all reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for students and staff. To that end, any threat by any individual directed toward another which if carried out would pose a potential danger to the life or safety of students and/or staff will be regarded as a serious matter. All threats of violence will be taken seriously, will subject the offender to disciplinary action, and may be reported, when appropriate, to law enforcement officials.

BULLYING PROHIBITED

The Jackson County Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act that is:

- (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
- (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening education environment; or
 - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system,

computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee who, in the exercise of his/her personal judgment and discretion, believes he/she has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying is encouraged to immediately report it to the school principal. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

STUDENT PEER SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Student reports of sexual harassment by other students will be taken seriously and dealt with in a firm and sensitive manner. Such incidents will not be tolerated since they lead to the existence of a hostile and uncomfortable school environment. Student reports of sexual harassment by peers should be referred to school administrators for disciplinary action. Based on the circumstances, administrators will determine the course of action and consequences, including the possibility of making reports to appropriate legal authorities.

LOCKERS, FACILITIES, CAMPUSES SUBJECT TO SEARCH:

All lockers, desks, book bags, school facilities, and school campuses are subject to inspection and search by school officials at any time. Such searches may, on occasion, include the use of dogs specifically trained to detect prohibited or illegal items such as weapons or drugs. Searches of individual students may also be conducted at any time when school employees have reasonable suspicion that the student has violated any school rule.

VEHICLES SUBJECT TO SEARCH:

Vehicles driven to school by students and parked on campus are subject to search by school authorities and/or the school's designees without any further notice to, or the consent of, the owners or operators of such vehicles. Such search may be conducted without warrant for any reasonable suspicion. Search of the vehicle includes all compartments and components thereof. Once search begins, the person in control of the vehicle will not be permitted to remove it from the premises during the reasonable duration of the search.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

The Jackson County Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, orderly, and productive learning environment for all students. The following Standards of Behavior have been adopted to reflect the types of conduct that students will be expected to demonstrate.

Standards of Behavior for Elementary School Students

Students should:

- (1) Be considerate and respectful of others. Follow the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do to you."
 - (2) Attend school daily, arrive on time, and remain at school until dismissal time.
 - (3) Come to school ready to learn. Bring all classroom materials and supplies. Pay attention, and do all your work.
 - (4) Behave well in order to make school a positive place for learning.
 - (5) Show respect and care for school property, and the property of others.
 - (6) Join in school related activities and/or community sponsored programs, and show good behavior at these events.
 - (7) Avoid using foul language and making threats.
 - (8) Avoid bullying others.
 - (9) Do not have weapons of any kind, real or otherwise, on any school property. If you know someone has a weapon, tell an adult immediately.
 - (10) Be a good citizen by respecting the laws of the community, state, and nation.
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Standards of Behavior for Middle and High School Students

Students should:

(1) Participate fully in the learning process. Students should report to school and class on time, attend all regularly scheduled classes, remain in class and school until dismissed or excused for a legitimate reason, pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and ask for or indicate the need for help.

(2) Understand that they will be held accountable for behavior that interferes with their own or other students' educational achievement. Students should know and avoid the behaviors prohibited by the Jackson County Schools Code of Conduct, take care of books and other instructional materials, and cooperate with others. Students should obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board of Education and student behavior rules established by individual schools.

(3) Show respect for the law and for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees. Students must adhere to reasonable requests and/or directions, use acceptable and courteous language, avoid being rude, and follow school rules and procedures.

(4) Recognize and respect the rights and property of the school, other students, and adults.

Behavior Support Process

The behavior support process is a mechanism for identifying and encouraging those behaviors and environmental factors that promote the positive emotional, mental, social, and educational needs of students. This process is designed primarily to provide services to chronically disruptive students or to students who have committed a single disciplinary infraction of a serious or severe nature; however, it may be used for any student at the discretion of school administrators.

The Student Response Team serves as the core component of the behavior support process. The SST utilizes an interdisciplinary team approach, and provides supports and services that are customized to meet the individual needs of students. The composition of the behavior support team will vary based on the needs of the referred student, but typical representation would include the parents, teachers, school counselor and/or social worker, an administrator, and representatives from other agencies as deemed appropriate.

The process seeks to organize the school, school system, parents, and applicable community efforts into a comprehensive framework for providing support for students. A major aspect of the process is its prevention orientation, aimed at providing proactive steps to help students avoid negative behaviors initially as well as helping troubled students minimize future difficulties.

As part of the behavior support process and in compliance with the Chronic Disciplinary Problem Students Act, the assistance of parents will be actively sought in cases where students have exhibited continually disruptive or inappropriate conduct in school. In such instances, parents may be invited to observe the student in a classroom situation and/or requested to attend a conference with school officials to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

A major purpose of the process is to provide support strategies that emphasize and build on strengths of students rather than those that focus solely on behavioral problems. Portions of behavior support process recommendations that would address this purpose could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) helping students establish individual goals, relevant benchmarks, and a timeframe for attainment;
- (2) service learning projects;
- (3) development of problem-solving skills;
- (4) leadership development;
- (5) mentoring/peer mentoring;
- (6) conflict management.

Finally, the behavior support process seeks to integrate school-based and community-based resources in order to meet the needs of students. Potential sources for support could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) individual or group sessions with school counselor/social worker;

- (2) testing and support services through school psychologist and/or school psychologist;

- (3) access to peer mediation at the middle and high school levels;

- (4) referral to challenge groups at the high school;

- (5) access to assistance from school resource officers in the high schools;

- (6) involvement with appropriate community resources such as DFACS, law enforcement, juvenile court services, and mental health agencies.

Progressive Discipline Process

Students are governed by the policies, rules, and regulations of the Jackson County School System. These are applicable in school, on the way to and from school, and at any school activity on or off school premises. Students who choose not to conduct themselves within appropriate and expected guidelines should understand that they are subjecting themselves to possible disciplinary action.

Each incident of inappropriate behavior in the school setting is unique, and the disciplinary consequences imposed will reflect consideration of the nature of the incident and a number of factors specific to the student involved. When considering the discipline to be imposed, teachers and administrators will take into account any and all relevant factors to assure that the degree of disciplinary action is in proportion to the severity of the misbehavior. When appropriate and applicable, such factors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) the student's prior discipline history;
- (2) seriousness of the offense;
- (3) degree of premeditation, impulse, or self-defense;
- (4) age and/or disability;
- (5) strength of evidence;
- (6) remorse;
- (7) the student's attitude and willingness to cooperate.

Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed in the disposition of all disciplinary cases.

Parental Involvement Process

Parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators must work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance, thereby assuring positive, orderly, and productive learning environments in all Jackson County Schools. In an effort to achieve that goal, parental involvement will be requested and encouraged in the student discipline process in at least two ways:

- (1) The assistance of parents will be actively sought in cases where students have consistently exhibited disruptive or inappropriate conduct in school and where called for in the code of conduct when students have committed a single disciplinary infraction of a serious nature.

- (2) When a student desires to withdraw from school, he/she must have written permission of his/her parents or legal guardian if under the age of eighteen prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator will have a conference with the student and parents/legal guardian within two school days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw. The purpose of the conference is to share with the student and parents/legal guardian educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma.

- (3) The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this code of conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

STUDENT OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

OFFENSE

DISPOSITION

1. Abusive or Unauthorized Substances

- a. Sale of or attempting to sell or transmit on school property, or while attending a school function.
- b. Actual or attempted possession of, use of, or under the influence of, on school property or while attending a school function. Possession of alcohol, drug paraphernalia or drug related objects.
- c. Unauthorized use or possession of over-the-counter or prescription drugs.

Hearing and immediate suspension with notification of parents. Probable recommendation for long-term suspension and/or expulsion.

Hearing and immediate suspension with notification of parents. Legal authorities will be notified in cases involving drugs. Legal authorities may be notified in cases involving alcohol. Probable recommendation for longterm suspension and/or expulsion.

Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances. Possible removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing.

2. Assault and/or Battery on Faculty, Staff Member, Students, or Persons Attending School Related Functions

Removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing to consider long-term suspension, placement in an alternative education program, or expulsion. Notification of legal authorities.

“Physical violence by a student against a teacher, school bus driver or any other school official or employee shall result in suspension pending a hearing by a disciplinary tribunal (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.6). The tribunal shall recommend consequences to the school board, which may include permanent expulsion from public school.”

3. Weapons

A student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C. G.A. 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, or whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment.

Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction. Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 2 of this policy are subject to but not limited to disposition of paragraph 1.

In every instance of violations involving alcohol, drugs, weapons, the parents will be notified. Legal authorities will be notified in cases involving drugs and weapons violations (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1). Legal authorities may be notified in cases involving alcohol.

4. Violence

- a. Offenses involving extreme violence and those potentially resulting in injury
- b. Fighting, threatening, and/or intimidating another student with violence.

Removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing.

Penalty at discretion of principal depending on the circumstances. Options include in-school suspension, suspension, referral to a discipline hearing for possible long-term suspension or expulsion.

OFFENSE

DISPOSITION

5. Verbal Assault/Threats of Teachers, Administrators and Other School Personnel

Notification of parents. Possible in-school suspension program (ISP) or suspension. Serious infractions may result in referral to a discipline hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion, notification of legal authorities.

6. Property

- a. Willful and malicious destruction of, and/or threat to destroy school property. Includes such actions as the use of, or threat of, bombs, explosives, setting fires, and deliberate and serious destruction of school property.
- b. Destruction of, or damage to, school property through mischief, negligence, or carelessness.
- c. Willful and malicious theft or vandalism of private property while student is involved in a school activity.
- d. Willful and malicious destruction, theft, or vandalism of any property of school personnel or another student.

Removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing for consideration of long-term suspension or expulsion.

Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances. Options include in-school suspension, suspension, referral to a discipline hearing for possible long-term suspension or expulsion and/or restitution.

Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances. Possible removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing.

Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances. Possible removal from school setting, pending a discipline hearing.

7. Extortion or Attempt to Extort

Options include in-school suspension, alternative school placement, suspension, or referral to a discipline hearing for long-term suspension or expulsion.

8. Refusal to Carry Out

Instructions of faculty or staff members or repeated violations of school/class rules. Defiance of authority.

Immediate removal from class or activity and referral to an administrator. Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances up to and including recommendation for in-school suspension program (ISP), alternative school placement. Repeated defiance of authority can result in suspension and referral to a discipline hearing for possible long-term suspension or expulsion.

9. Acts Which Cause Disruption to the School Environment, Including Inciting, Advising, Counseling of Others to Engage in Prohibited Acts, Falsifying, Misrepresenting, Omitting or Erroneously Reporting Information Regarding Instances of Alleged Inappropriate Behavior By A Teacher, Administrator or Other School Employee Toward A Student

Immediate removal from class or activity and referral to an administrator. Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances up to and including recommendation for in-school suspension program (ISP), alternative school placement. Repeated classroom disruption can result in suspension and referral to a discipline hearing for possible long-term suspension or expulsion.

10. Activating Any Fire Alarms Under False Pretense (OCGA 16-10-27)

1st Offense: Penalty at discretion of principal; possible removal from school setting, or a referral to discipline hearing for possible long term suspension.

2nd Offense: Out-of-school suspension.

OFFENSE**DISPOSITION****11. Use of Profane, Vulgar, Obscene Words, Images, or Racial Slurs, Disrespect, Sexual Harassment, Verbal Assault, Indecent Exposure**

- a. Directed toward faculty or staff members
- b. Directed toward students
- c. Directed toward persons attending school related functions.

Penalty at discretion of principal.

Penalty at discretion of principal.

Sexual harassment may be reported to law enforcement.

12. Conduct on Bus

- a. Misbehavior which includes violations of transportation department and/or individual bus rules.

Notification of parents. Possible removal of transportation privileges. Permanent revocation of transportation privileges if incident is extreme or repeated.

- b. Vandalism

Notification of parents. Restitution for damages. Possible removal of transportation privileges if incident is extreme or repeated.

13. Attendance

- a. Truancy/Failure to comply with compulsory attendance (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690-.1)

Notification of parents. In-school suspension program (ISP) and/or parental suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school. Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in Georgia who has control or charge of a child or children and who shall violate this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part shall constitute a separate offense.

- b. Skipping class or required in-school activity

Notification of parents. In-school suspension program (ISP) and/or parental suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school.

- c. Leaving campus without permission

Notification of parents. Hearing and in-school suspension program (ISP) and/or parental suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school.

- d. Chronic Tardiness
1. Before School

Referral to an administrator. Notification of parents. In-school suspension program (ISP) and/or parental suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school.

2. Class Tardies

In severe or repeated cases, referral to an administrator. Notification of parents. Hearing and possible in-school suspension program (ISP) and/or parental suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school.

A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to five days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.

14. Use or Possession of Tobacco, E-cigarettes, or Related Paraphernalia

Possession or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or related paraphernalia in any form is prohibited."

Hearing and in-school suspension program (ISP). Possible recommendation for out-of-school suspension. Possible assignment to Saturday school at high school.

15. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection

Penalty at discretion of principal. Possible referral to a disciplinary hearing.

OFFENSE**DISPOSITION****16. Sexual Misconduct**

- a. any act of sexual harassment of a physical or verbal nature.
- b. any act of indecent exposure, lewd exposure, gesture.
- c. any indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body or the body of another person.
- d. any act of sexual intercourse.
- e. any inappropriate gestures that mimic or imply sexual acts.
- f. any possession of, viewing of, copying, selling, buying or transmitting of printed or non-printed pornographic materials including any non-curricular sexually explicit printed or non-printed materials.

Penalty at discretion of principal, possible referral to a discipline tribunal, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct may be reported to law enforcement.

17. Gambling

On school property or while attending an activity under school supervision.

Penalty at discretion of principal.

18. On-Campus Traffic Violations

- a. Speeding and/or reckless driving.
- b. Improper parking. Parking in faculty parking area. No decal displayed.

Notification of parents. Possible revocation of driving privileges on campus. Serious traffic violations may be referred to legal authorities.

Possible revocation of driving privileges on campus.

(Students are authorized to drive motorized vehicles on elementary and middle school campuses only for the purpose of picking up and delivering elementary students who are members of their immediate family. Hardship cases may be appealed through the principal.)

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- 19a. Use of Cell Phones,**
- and other electronic devices are prohibited in class unless permission is granted by the instructor. Elementary students are not allowed to bring cell phones to school without permission from the principal.

Penalty at discretion of principal. Possible placement in an alternative educational program.

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- 19b. Laser Pointers**
- are prohibited on school property, on buses, and at all school-sponsored activities.

Penalty at discretion of principal.

20. Academic Dishonesty, Cheating, Plagiarism

Grading penalties up to and including 0's on related assignments, additional penalty at discretion of principal.

21. Abuse of Internet Privileges

Students are expected to limit their Internet activities to authorized sites only and to the educational objectives established by their teachers. Students are also expected not to plagiarize information or to attempt to bypass system security.

Loss of Internet privileges, additional penalty at discretion of principal.

22. Cumulative Offenses

An accumulation of violations of school or school system rules by a student who has not responded to support and progressive disciplinary procedures and, which in the discretion of the principal, justifies a referral to a disciplinary hearing.

DRESS CODE

Students are to dress appropriately for school. Any attire that distracts from the learning environment is not permitted. Modesty, safety and cleanliness are our goals.

The principal has the authority to determine inappropriate dress and to enforce a reasonable dress code. Any questions regarding specific items or accessories may be discussed with local school officials.

BUS BEHAVIOR

Riding a school bus is a privilege for students in Jackson County Schools, afforded only to those who demonstrate appropriate bus behavior. The privilege may be revoked for those who choose not to abide by the standards of bus behavior established by the Board of Education.

The bus driver is charged with maintaining order on the school bus. The driver may assign specific seating arrangements if necessary. Students violating bus rules will be reported to the school principal for appropriate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, alternative seating arrangements, ongoing parental involvement and suspension from the bus.

Students shall be prohibited from the following on the school bus:

- a. Physical Violence
- b. Bullying
- c. Physical assault or battery of others
- d. Verbal assault of others
- e. Disrespectful conduct toward the driver or others
- f. Using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones, or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus
- g. Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras or any other lights or reflective devices that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
- h. Throwing objects on the bus or out a bus window or door
- i. Using tobacco products in any form
- j. Damaging seats or any part of the school bus
- k. Using loud, profane or abusive language
- l. Using obscene gestures
- m. Eating, drinking, chewing gum or littering
- n. Extending arms, hands or head outside of a bus window or door
- o. Moving from seat to seat while the bus is in motion
- p. Transporting inflated balloons, large bouquets in glass containers, or any other item which might create visual restrictions to the driver
- q. Other unruly behavior

DEFINITIONS:

1) EXPULSION--LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

Removal of a student from the school system beyond 10 days up to the remainder of the school year following procedures mandated by the Board of Education. A student who has been expelled or suspended long-term is not permitted on the school campus for any reason for the duration of the expulsion or suspension. If allowed to return to school after an expulsion or long-term suspension, the student must be accompanied by his/her parent/legal guardian in order to be re-admitted.

2) PERMANENT EXPULSION

Permanent removal of a student from all Jackson County schools, following procedures mandated by the Board of Education.

3) SUSPENSION*

Removal of a student from the school campus and exclusion from all school-sponsored activities for not more than 10 school days by the school administration. A student who has been suspended is not permitted on the school campus for any reason for the duration of the suspension. In order to be re-admitted at the conclusion of the suspension, the student must be accompanied to school by his/her parent/legal guardian.

4) IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Removal of a student from class or classes and assignment to the in-school suspension program at a Jackson County High School or Middle School. A student on in-school suspension is also suspended from all school-sponsored competitions and/or performances.

However, the student may continue to practice for upcoming extracurricular activities and/or performances. In situations that are extreme or consistently prolonged, an elementary school student may be assigned to the Middle School in-school suspension program.

7) ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Temporary removal of a student from the regular classroom and assignment to another classroom for a period of time deemed appropriate by school administration.

8) SATURDAY SCHOOL

A rigidly controlled environment supervised by certified school personnel, used in lieu of out-of-school suspension for some offenses. The program is held on designated Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. During that time, students are required to work on academic assignments or to perform designated custodial tasks around the campus.

9) ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

A program housed at each high school that makes the regular day school environments safer and more productive by removing chronically disruptive students and other students determined to have committed violations of the Code of Conduct or who have been determined to be likely to benefit academically or otherwise, from the alternative educational settings. A student who has been assigned to the Alternative School is not permitted to attend campus extra-curricular events or programs related to the regular school program.

11) SIMPLE ASSAULT

The attempt to commit a violent injury to another person.

12) SIMPLE BATTERY

Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting and provoking nature.

13) EXTORTION

To obtain money, goods, or force unwillful acts from someone by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

14) THREATS

The expression of a deliberate intention to cause harm or pain. Any threat by an individual directed toward another, which if carried out would pose a potential danger to the life or safety of students and/or staff is a violation of this Code of Conduct and will be punished accordingly

15) DETENTION

A requirement that, after proper notification, a student attends school before or after regular hours. Parents are responsible for transportation.

16) ABUSIVE SUBSTANCES

A student shall not possess, sell, give to another student, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, inhalant, marijuana, unauthorized or illegal drug, intoxicant, or any substance represented to be, or reasonably appearing to be, such a beverage, drug, or intoxicant while in attendance at school or while attending or participating in any school function or school-sponsored trip. Use as directed of a prescription drug in accordance with the board of education policy regarding prescription medication and as authorized by a physician for the student shall not be considered a violation of this policy.

17) DISCIPLINE HEARING

The purpose of the discipline hearing is to address serious discipline offenses where long-term suspension or expulsion may be considered. The decision of the hearing shall be based solely on the evidence received at the hearing, including any evidence presented by either party relevant to the appropriate punishment to be imposed. The hearing will be conducted by an impartial hearing officer and/or tribunal hearing panel who will consider all of the evidence and make a decision regarding appropriate punishment. Discipline hearings may be waived if mutually agreed upon by the school administration, the parent/guardian and the school system hearing officer.

18) PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself.

** It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed classwork, assignments, and/or exams within a time period equivalent to the number of days absent.*

To view the full text of all school laws in Georgia, including those referenced in this code of conduct, visit <http://www.legis.state.ga.us>.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any designed school sponsored club or organization. A list of school sponsored clubs in operation this school year, their purpose, faculty advisor and a description of past or planned activities is included as an addendum to this code of conduct. You, as the parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. For your convenience, a form is included with this code of conduct if you do not wish for your student to participate in the club you have designated on the form. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation.

NOTES