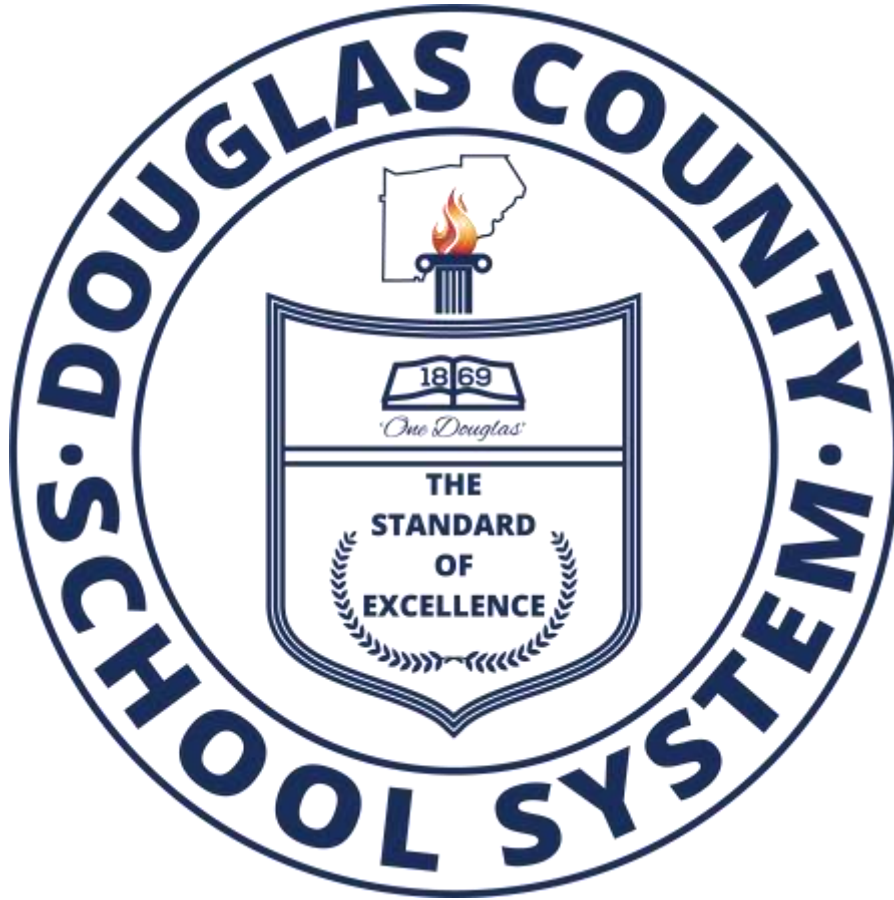


# **Douglas County School System Policies and Procedures Middle School**

**2019-2020**



**Section II consists of selected Douglas County School System Policies and Procedures that directly affect middle school students and their parents or guardians. In some cases, the policies and procedures have been condensed. Policies and Procedures are subject to change throughout the school year. A current copy of these policies is available in the main office of each middle school or on the Douglas County web site at [www.douglas.k12.ga.us](http://www.douglas.k12.ga.us). In that case, the most current policy would apply. Parents and students are invited to contact school administrators or counselors for additional information.**

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Please direct any questions or concerns regarding school bus stop locations or school bus routes to the Douglas County School Transportation Department at (770) 651-2400. Their office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Late Bus Information can be found under the Transportation link at [www.dcssga.org](http://www.dcssga.org). Here Comes the Bus questions should be sent to [herecomesthebus@dcssga.org](mailto:herecomesthebus@dcssga.org)

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

### Parents/legal guardians must provide the following:

#### Certified Copy of the Birth Certificate

- ☐ Georgia Immunization Form 3231 (All 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students entering Georgia schools for the first time and 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade student returning to a Georgia school after being gone for more than one school year will be required to have the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and Meningococcal vaccines prior to beginning school).
- ☐ Georgia Eye, Ear, Nutrition and Dental Form 3300 Rev. 2013
- ☐ Student's Social Security Card or Waiver
- ☐ Parent/Legal Guardian's Photo ID
- ☐ Custody/Guardianship Papers (if applicable)
- ☐ Withdrawal Form from the Previous School (if applicable)
- ☐ Last Report Card (if applicable)
- ☐ Discipline history for Middle and High School Students
- ☐ Student's Transcript for all High School Students
- ☐ Proof of Residency

The following items are accepted as proof of residency:

**If you rent:** You must bring a **CURRENT** lease agreement and a **CURRENT** utility bill or connection receipt. Utility bills must be no more than 30 days old, and they may not indicate disconnection or pending disconnection. Both the lease agreement and the utility bill must be in the parent or legal guardian's name.

**If you own:** You must bring your **CURRENT** mortgage statement or tax bill and a **CURRENT** utility or connection receipt. Utility bills must be no more than 30 days old, and they may not indicate disconnection or pending disconnection.

**Multi-Family Residence Form:** If you are living with family or friends the multi-family residence form must be signed by the home owner or leasee, and the form must be notarized. A **CURRENT** lease agreement, mortgage statement or tax bill must be provided by the homeowner and a **CURRENT** utility bill or connection receipt. Utility bills must be no more than 30 days old, and they may not indicate disconnection or pending disconnection.

## SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

The Douglas County School System requests that all students provide the school with a Social Security number to be used as a student identification number. Students who do not have a Social Security number may pick up an application form in the Attendance Office or any Social Security office. Student Social Security numbers will be treated in the same confidential manner as all other records in accordance with the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Providing a Social Security number is voluntary. Students or parents who object to providing a Social Security number must complete a waiver form. Waiver forms can be obtained from the Attendance Office.

## **TRANSFERS**

All students transferring to Douglas County will be admitted to school pending receipt of their immunization record, for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days from initial entry. The 30-day waiver may be extended from the date of the first admittance, whichever is earlier, for up to 90 calendar days, provided the student is a transfer student from an out-of-state school system to a Georgia school system, or a student entering kindergarten or first grade from out-of-state. The student must provide documentation to the school from the local health department or a physician specifying that an immunization sequence has been started and that the immunization time schedule can be completed within the **90-day** waiver period.

No student expelled/suspended from a school in another school system may be admitted to a Douglas County school without approval of the Assistant Director of Student Support and Athletics.

An elementary or middle school student transferring from a school accredited by a regional or state accrediting agency may be placed in the grade and courses recommended by the school from which he/she is transferring. Alternative placement may be made upon review by the principal in consultation with the parents (and Area Director if necessary) if student age, maturity level, previous academic record, standardized test scores, and/or placement testing indicate that student needs can be better addressed at another grade level.

If placement testing in mathematics and reading is deemed necessary, these guidelines should be followed:

Mathematics - Selected items from the grade level placement test in the adopted text can be administered at the beginning of the school year. The current cumulative test may be used if entry occurs during the school year.

Reading - Students generally are placed tentatively in the level of reader equivalent to that of the book they were in at the previous school. If equivalent reader cannot be determined, the teacher should try the book and section for the grade and month of entry. A trial would consist of reading sections, both at sight and with practice, and answering questions from the teacher edition for that excerpt. Appropriate section and/or end-of-book test may provide additional information if needed. The teacher should note word recognition difficulties during the sight-reading.

Whichever method is used, if the materials are too difficult, the teacher should move through earlier sections until an appropriate level is determined.

## **HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

Students who have a medically diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition, which restricts them to their home or to a hospital for a period of time, which will significantly interfere with their education, may be eligible for Hospital-Homebound Services. Students or their parent/guardian must submit a medical referral form completed by a licensed medical doctor. The doctor must project that the student will be absent a minimum of 10 school days.

Students are not eligible for this program if absence is due to a communicable disease, emotional problem, expulsion, suspension, abuse of chemical substance, or uncomplicated cases of pregnancy. Cases of complicated pregnancy will be approved only with a statement from a licensed medical physician (1) certifying that school attendance would endanger the life of the mother or the child, and (2) specifying the projected length of time this danger would exist. The student is considered present each day if seen by the visiting instructor for the minimum number of hours per week.

## **TO WITHDRAW**

If a student needs to withdraw he/she should do the following:

1. A parent/guardian should notify the school to withdraw the student. The withdrawal document must be signed by the enrolling parent/guardian.
2. Obtain a withdrawal form from the attendance clerk.
3. All of the student's teachers, the counselor, the media specialist, the lunchroom manager and the principal must sign the withdrawal form.

4. Return all textbooks and library books and pay any fines and/or charges before records can be sent to your new school.
5. Return the withdrawal form to the clerk before the end of the school day.
5. Exceptions to any of these guidelines must have prior approval of the principal.

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

**FIRE DRILLS** are necessary for the safety of the students and faculty. One drill per month will be held. The specific directions for reaching a point of safety from all areas of the building are posted in each room. Misconduct can endanger lives.

**TORNADO DRILLS** will be conducted in order to be prepared to seek shelter during severe weather. Follow instructions given by teachers to assume safe positions during drills.

**LOCK DOWN DRILLS** will be conducted in order to be prepared for situations which would warrant a lockdown. Follow instructions given by teachers.

## **MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION**

It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation and further care for the student if the student becomes ill or injured on school property. Emergency personnel will be called in emergency situations. Students may not be sent home without parental approval and no student may drive when excused for medical reasons unless parental consent has been given. The parent or guardian is responsible for payment of emergency transportation costs.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES**

Each school will be provided with a designated employee (**who is not a licensed nurse**) to serve as School Health Monitor. School Health Monitors will report to the school principal and will be provided training, guidance, and supervision by the Registered Nurse who serves as the Health Services Coordinator for that school.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

In order for the school to know and comply with the wishes of parents, emergency contact information must be filled out for each student and returned to the office for use in emergency situations. This information must be updated annually and whenever changes in contact information occurs. When you receive a Student Contact Form, please update it and return it to the school within five (5) days. Current, accurate information will enable the school to contact you in the event of an emergency. It is the parent/guardian(s) responsibility to keep the emergency card current. At least one local phone contact in addition to the parent/guardian must be listed to insure the safety of your child. If any information changes during the school year, contact the school immediately.

## **ILLNESS/INJURY TREATMENT INFORMATION**

In case of illness/injury, the designated School Health Monitor or other appropriate school personnel will render care as directed by the School Health Resource Manual while attempting to contact the parent. If neither the parent nor the emergency designee can be reached and the situation is very serious, the school shall telephone the Emergency Medical Services (911) for immediate transportation to the nearest Emergency Treatment Facility. Whenever possible, the parent's hospital preference will be observed. Fees for transportation and medical services will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

In the event a student's illness is not deemed an emergency, but signs/symptoms of an illness and/or fever are present. The parent/guardian will be contacted and requested to pick up the student from school. If the parent cannot be reached, the emergency designee will be contacted. In the event, no designated adult can be reached, or the parent refuses to pick up the student, the principal retains the right to contact appropriate law enforcement and/or Department of Family and Children's Services (DFACS) personnel to assume responsibility for the student.

## ACCIDENTS AND INSURANCE

The school is responsible only for immediate first aid. The Board of Education does not pay any medical or hospital bill incurred as a result of accident to the student at school. The parent or guardian is responsible for the payment of such bills.

We urge you to make use of the protection afforded through school insurance. You will be given information regarding various insurance plans during the first week of school. Athletes are urged to make sure adequate insurance is obtained.

In case of accident, no matter how minor, the student should report the accident to the teacher immediately. In the case of severe accidents or acute illness, emergency care will be given and the parents will be notified.

## SCHOOL HEALTH RECORDS

Parents/guardians should complete a health information form at the beginning of the school year or upon registration. This form includes:

- All emergency contact information (including cell phones and pagers)
- Pertinent health history
- Primary care providers and insurance information
- Medications taken at home and school
- Allergies
- To whom child may be released

When completing the health information form, please remember this form provides us with valuable information should your student become ill and/or injured at school. This form is **NOT** intended to be a substitute for directly communicating school day medical needs with school personnel. If your child has a medical condition that may possibly require modifications or staff training (diabetes, seizures, asthma, etc.), please contact your School Health Monitor to arrange an appointment with the appropriate Health Services Coordinator/Registered Nurse. Please remember a Registered Nurse is not always immediately available in the school.

## MEDICATION

Whenever possible medication should be given outside school hours. This will help reduce time out of classroom instruction and also insure compliance. If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, the following procedures must be followed:

1. An Authorization for Assistance with Medication form must be filled out for each medication annually.
2. ALL medication, including over the counter drugs and emergency medications, must be provided by the parent/guardian and brought to the office upon arrival at school.
3. All **prescription medication** must be in an **appropriately labeled container** and **OTC medication** must be in the **original container**.
4. All medications will be administered in the presence of an adult.
5. The Authorization to Carry Medication Form must be completed annually and signed by all parties before a student will be allowed to carry **any** medication with them at school.
6. Any medication (labeled or unlabeled) found in the possession of a student without the appropriate form will result in serious consequences for that student.

## INSURANCE

The Douglas County Board of Education offers parents the opportunity to purchase accident insurance. Information on the plans available and the premiums will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are responsible for proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item and/or receive additional disciplinary action. Legal action will be taken if necessary.

## **SCHOOL NUTRITION**

Students are encouraged to participate in the school nutrition programs. Today, students are offered a variety of healthy, tasty and appealing choices which include fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh salads, whole grains and baked rather than fried items. All school meals are nutritionally balanced and meet one-third of the Recommended Daily Allowances for important nutrients for lunch and one-fourth of the RDA's for breakfast. Menus are planned by a registered dietitian and are low in fat and saturated fat. School meals help kids maintain a healthy weight and do better in school. School meals are offered to all students at a reasonable price. You may apply for free/reduced meals using a family application obtained from your child's school or by going to [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). Families are required to complete a school lunch application every year on School Café.

Students are encouraged to pay for their meals in advance. Families may pay their cafeteria directly with cash or checks. Checks should include the student's first and last name and lunch ID number. You may also use [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com) to pre-pay online. You can set up an account by using a credit card and can personalize your account to notify you when your child's balance is running low. A small service fee will apply for pre-paying online, and a minimum payment is required.

All students must go to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period. Your child can assist the cafeteria staff by:

1. Depositing all lunch litter in proper receptacles.
2. Returning all trays and utensils to the dishwashing area.
3. Leaving the tables and floors in clean conditions.
4. Not taking food from the cafeteria to other parts of campus.
5. Not breaking in line.
6. Not leaving the cafeteria without permission. Permission must be granted by the administrator or teacher on duty.

## **CHARGE POLICY AND NSF POLICY**

Douglas County School Food Service will continue to monitor the approved student charging limits which states:

- High school students and adults are not allowed to charge
- Elementary and middle school students may accumulate a maximum in charges to equal the price of two full pay student lunches. This charge limit includes any charges for breakfast, and lunch. Ala carte items may not be purchased if a child owes charges. After the charge limit is reached, a student will be offered a supplemental meal which consists of a sandwich and a beverage. No supplemental meal is served at breakfast. This regulation is to ensure that a child will not go hungry while potential losses of school food service funds will be limited.

If we receive two NSF checks for a student and/or siblings, we will no longer accept any checks for the student and/or siblings for the duration of their attendance in Douglas County Schools.



## DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS MEAL PRICES

2019-2020

STUDENT MEALS	High School	Middle School	Elementary School	School Staff	Guests
Regular Price Lunch	2.50	2.50	2.25	3.25*	3.50*
Reduced Price Lunch	.40	.40	.40		
Second Lunch	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.50
Regular Price Breakfast	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.65	1.65
Reduced Price Breakfast	.30	.30	.30		
Second Breakfast	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
Extra Milk or 4 oz. Juice	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60

\*Adult prices are based upon food portions equivalent to high school student meals. We receive federal reimbursement to offset the true cost for producing meals for one breakfast and one lunch per day per student served. No federal monies can be used to subsidize the price of adult or second meals.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

### FOOD ON CAMPUS

No open food or drinks will be allowed in the building during the regular school day. (Items will be taken up and discarded.) Only school lunches and home prepared lunches will be allowed in the cafeteria during lunch periods. "No open food or drinks" is defined as food or beverage in a container whose factory seal is broken. In addition, squeeze bottles are not permitted at school. Soft drink bottles are not permitted; however, soft drink cans are permitted.

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics and cheerleading are required to have a yearly physical examination signed and dated by a licensed medical doctor. Copies of the required physical examination forms are available at the school and on the school system website, along with other required permission and consent forms.

### COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

#### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In grades six through eight, students must meet the following criteria in order to participate in competitive interscholastic activities:

1. Pass at least six subjects that carry credit toward grade promotion in the semester immediately preceding participation. (The minimum length of ineligibility is one semester.)
2. Take at least six subjects that carry credit toward grade promotion during the semester of participation.

### FIELD TRIPS

The regular instructional programs of the school are enriched by occasional field trips during the regularly scheduled school day. Other field trips may be after school hours and on weekends (class field trips, athletic teams, band groups, and clubs traveling to and from competitions, etc.). Parent permission is required for participation. The school system must approve all field trips.

Code of Conduct for Field Trips: Students who are on a field trip as designated above must adhere to the Douglas County Code of Conduct.

The number of days/classes that a student may be out for student activities such as field trips is limited to 10. Students and individual teachers are responsible for checking with the Attendance Clerk to make sure a student does not exceed the limit.

Other trips sometimes use names that might be associated by some with the school. The school and school system does not sponsor any tours or cruises. Students who participate in these activities are dealing with private companies.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

An updated list of all extra curricular activities available at each school can be found on the school website.

## **TELEPHONES**

Any arrangements or preparation for after-school activities should be made prior to leaving home each morning. The office telephone is for school business and may be used by students only in cases of emergency with the permission of the administration.

Messages and deliveries from home should be left in the office. Students will not be called out of class for messages.

## **LOCKERS**

Lockers will be issued by the office for a fee. In some cases, a locker must be shared by two students, in which case each student is expected to pay half of the locker rental for the year. No personal lock will be used on a locker.

There should not be any writing or other defacing of student lockers. A student is personally liable for any damage to the locker he/she is assigned. Lock combinations should not be told to anyone to insure the security of student property. Lockers are the property of the school and the school reserves the right to search them when necessary. Students will have designed times to use their lockers. Students need all required materials for class and the excuse of leaving such materials in the locker will not be accepted.

## **HALL PASSES**

When going anywhere in the building or on the grounds during the time classes are in session, students must have a pass. All passes are to be returned to the teacher. Hall passes are to be issued only for emergencies or for students to go to the media center, counselors' office, or administrative offices.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Students must stay on the school grounds from the time they arrive, even if the daily schedule has not yet begun, until dismissed. A student violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action (see Discipline Code). Except when special circumstances occur, students are not to return to campus after leaving for the day.

## **VISITORS**

Parents or other adults who have business at the school must report to the office. All visitors are expected to leave promptly when their business is completed. No school-age children are allowed to visit at any time during school hours without administrative approval.

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

We welcome the opportunity to discuss school matters with parents. Please feel free to call your child's teacher, the counselor, or an administrator to set up a conference. We encourage parents to be involved in the educational process of their children.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS/VISITATIONS**

Middle schools value the concept of parents as partners in education. Parent and community support and assistance are vital in all facets of the school program.

Parents and community members have opportunities for observing students in the educational setting through a number of established activities and events. Special events are scheduled to showcase student endeavors. Examples are: Academic bowls (spelling bee, geography bee), musical and dramatic presentations, art displays, Business Back to School Day, athletic events, and awards ceremonies. Parents participate directly in the instructional program through PTSO, volunteer work, field trips, school advisory committees, and individual parent/teacher conferences.

If parents wish to arrange individual classroom or school visitation, they will be provided the opportunity. Visitations should be limited to two class periods during the school day.

1. The parent should:
  - a. Make the request to the principal at least 24 hours prior to the proposed visit.
  - b. State the purpose of the visit.
  - c. Sign in at the office, receive a visitor's pass (badge), and be escorted to the classroom.
  - d. Stay no longer than two class periods.
  - e. Classroom visitations are not a time for teacher-parent conference. Parents should not expect teachers to conference with them at these times. Refrain from engaging the attention of teacher or students through conversation or other means.
  - f. Remain as inconspicuous to the instructional process as possible
  - g. Return to the office at the end of the visit to check out and return the pass (badge).
2. The principal or his/her designee should:
  - a. Arrange the time and date of the observation with the teacher.
  - b. Inform the parent of the arrangements.
  - c. Escort the parent to the classroom.
  - d. Parent(s) of only one student should be scheduled to observe at a given time.
3. For the safety of students, no unauthorized persons are allowed in the building without administrative approval. Students who are not enrolled in the school are not allowed to visit during the school day due to unnecessary classroom interruptions, which are detrimental to the learning process.
4. Visitors are under the supervision of the administration while on campus. Any questions or concerns regarding your visit should be referred to the administration.

## **COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE**

The middle school guidance program is designed to help facilitate the growth and development of students as they progress through the in-between years. The services provide opportunities for students to develop self-understanding, self-evaluation and self-direction. The middle school counselor's goal is for the student to mature as an individual who understands his/her responsibility for making decisions and for living with the consequences for his decisions.

The program has three supportive arms: individual counseling, classroom guidance, and group counseling and guidance.

Individual counseling is mainly at the student's request through a self-referral system. Teachers, administrators, and discipline boards also make referrals of students who need help in a specific area.

Classroom guidance is designed to reach all students and work on a general need at their level. Sixth grade classroom guidance is taught in two units. The self-concept unit is designed to help students better understand themselves and to help them have a more positive attitude toward themselves and others. The other unit is on personal safety/sexual abuse prevention and is designed to help students realize their personal right to say "NO" when faced with sexual abuse.

Seventh grade classroom guidance is also made up of two units. The first unit is a problem solving/decision-making unit designed to help students more clearly define what they want and do not want. This unit is made up of five sessions and is taught by the classroom teacher with assistance of the counselor. The other unit is on personal safety and deals with the issues of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The eighth grade classroom guidance is made up of three units. One unit is part of the Planning for High School exploratory course, and the counselor works with the exploratory teachers for approximately five class sections. The other units are on Decision Making and Personal Responsibility and Personal Safety (Acquaintance and Date Rape). These units assist students in exploring their feelings about peer pressure and sexual interaction and making responsible decisions.

Group counseling is designed to meet a special need of a group of students sharing the same problem or experience. The groups are offered on a needs basis and usually contain 8-12 students. Topics include study skills, friendships, loneliness, divorce, death, weight control and other topics as needed.

## **GIFTED PROGRAM**

The Douglas County Board of Education recognizes the need to provide appropriate services for students who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, creative and/or artistic abilities, possess exceptional leadership skills, or excel in specific academic fields. It is the intent of the Board that these students receive special instruction and/or ancillary services necessary for the students to achieve at levels commensurate with their abilities.

Elementary school gifted programs include services through contracts, facilitators, interest centers, resource rooms, collaboration, and accelerated math, while middle school program services include contracts, facilitators, interest seminars, learning centers, resource rooms, compacting, advanced content, telecommunications, and mentoring. Douglas County high school students participate in gifted classes in academic disciplines, advanced placement classes, and joint enrollment with colleges.

Eligibility for the gifted program is based on multiple criteria. These criteria should aid systems in identifying students who may not have qualified under previous criteria. To qualify for gifted services, students must meet three (3) of the following four (4) criteria: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation. At least one of the four criteria must be met by a score on a nationally normed test. Douglas County School System has developed regulations and administrative procedures which address the multiple criteria.

Referral for consideration for gifted educational services may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and/or other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. To expedite eligibility procedures, individual schools have established Eligibility Teams for the gifted to review applicants and select candidates for the program. The Eligibility Team consists of at least one administrator or counselor, at least one regular education teacher, and at least one gifted teacher and meets twice a year to screen referrals. For additional information concerning the gifted program or to refer a student to the gifted program, please contact the school's Eligibility Team.

## Grading Guidelines

### Grading Scale

- Grades shall be calculated on assignments, tests, and/or projects in the following method:
  - A = 90 to 100
  - B = 80 to 89
  - C = 71 to 79
  - D = 70
  - F = Below 70

### Middle School Conduct

- Conduct/Citizenship includes attitudes and behavior. The letters used for Conduct reporting are as follows:
  - S = Satisfactory (Overall Acceptable behavior in class)
  - N = Needs Improvement (Mostly acceptable behavior with some repeated misbehaviors)
  - U = Unsatisfactory (Unacceptable classroom behavior)

### Number of Grades Per Nine (9) Weeks

- The minimum number of grades used to determine the final grade must be nine for each 9-week grading, per subject area.
- Each middle school will issue progress reports every 4 ½ weeks and report cards at the end of every nine-week grading period. Additional teacher-developed progress sheets may be sent home between reporting periods.
- Homework assignments should not count more than 15% of the final grade.
- Unit Assessment / Test should count as a minimum of 30% and not exceed 50% of the final grade. Students should have a minimum of three graded tests per 9 weeks.
- Progress Reports should reflect actual grades.
- 55% Rule – no grade lower than 55% should be posted on report cards.

### Communications to Parents/Guardians regarding Student Performance

Progress reports and report cards are used to communicate with parents concerning student grades. Communications in addition to written progress reports or report cards by teachers and other school personnel are encouraged. Informal notes, telephone calls and conferences are effective and often necessary follow-ups to formal progress reports or report cards.

**Teachers should notify a student's parent/guardian by personal contact or in writing if a student is in danger of receiving a grade of F on a Report Card.** This formal contact should occur as early as possible during the grading period so that a parent/guardian is aware and has time to assist his/her student with improving his/her grade. Documentation of parent/guardian notification should be kept by the school. Teachers are also encouraged to notify a parent/guardian if a student is experiencing a significant decline in achievement.

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### Middle School Practices on Make-Up Work due to Student Absence(s)

- All students may receive credit for completing makeup work after an excused absence. A student will be given as many days as he/she was absent from that class to make up assignments and tests for excused absences. Teachers are not required to provide assignments to students prior to an absence.

### Middle School Homework Practices

- Homework is work that is assigned to be completed at home. It is an effective tool in developing/reinforcing academic skills and study habits. It is an extension of the learning process and involves the home / family in the student's learning.
- Middle School students should expect to complete homework / study for upcoming assessments.

### Middle School Practices on Late Work

- Work which is not submitted to a teacher on the assigned due date may not result in full credit. If a student is present in class, he/she is expected to turn in work at the time it is requested. Each school principal will establish specific grade-level procedures regarding submission of "late work" and the credit value it will be assigned.

### Assessment (QA)

- Assessments must be administered as directed.
- QA's will be recorded as a test grade.
- Original QA's should not be altered

## **APPEALS**

A student/parent has 5 business days from the date report cards are issued to appeal the final grade. The appeal must be made in writing to the principal and the decision of the principal is final.

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS**

**DESCRIPTIVE CODE: IHE**

The Douglas County Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent and administrative staff to develop procedures or regulations that specify how the state-adopted assessments will be used and what local promotion criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, placement or retention of students in kindergarten and Grades 1 through 8. Such procedures or regulations shall provide for the following:

1. Each teacher shall be responsible for determining through a variety of assessments whether a student appears to be on grade level or achieving at a level which, with accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction or interventions, would allow the student to perform at grade level by the conclusion of the subsequent school year.
2. Where the teacher believes the student is not performing at such level, the teacher must implement remediation efforts as set forth in district regulations or procedures.
3. A mechanism shall be established whereby a school level team will review a student's performance prior to any decision to retain the student.
4. Prior to a student's retention, the student's parents must be notified of the possibility of retention and given the opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.
5. School level promotion and retention decisions may be appealed to the Area Director, and if not satisfied, to the Superintendents' designee, whose decision shall be final.

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

**DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JBD**

It is impossible for a student to realize the benefits of the public school program unless the student attends school regularly.

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

**Truant** – any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences. Georgia code 20-2-690.1 mandatory education for children between ages six and 16. Georgia code 20-2-150 all children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state prior to their seventh birthday shall be subject to all provisions of code sections 20-2-690 through 20-2-701.

### **2. REQUIREMENTS**

- a. School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.
- b. The Douglas County Board of Education will excuse students from school under the following circumstances:

Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.

1. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
  2. A court order or an order by a government agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
  3. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
  4. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
  5. A period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
  6. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parents or legal guardians deployment or during such parents or legal guardian leave.
- c. Students will be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
- d. Final course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:
1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
  2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.
- e. The Douglas County Board of Education has adopted policies and procedures to reduce unexcused absences that include:
1. Requiring the schools to notify the parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of the student when such student has five unexcused absences. The notice shall outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence shall constitute a separate offense. After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian or other person who has charge of the student, the schools shall send written notice via certified mail with return receipt requested; and
  2. Requiring the schools to provide the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of each student enrolled in public school a written summary of possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with compulsory attendance. By September 1 of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in the school system, the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such student shall sign a statement indicating receipt of such written statement of possible consequences and penalties. In addition, students age ten or older by September 1 shall sign a statement indicating receipt of written statement of possible consequences for non-compliance to the local system's policy.
- f. The Douglas County Board of Education shall implement a progressive discipline process and a parental involvement process for truant students before referring the students to the juvenile or other court having jurisdiction.
- g. The Douglas County Board of Education has adopted policies requiring the local school principal to use his or her best efforts including first class mail to notify a student age 14 and

older when the student has only three absences remaining before violating the state's attendance requirements pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-5-2 regarding the denial of driver's permits and licenses.

- h. The Douglas County Board of Education has adopted as a part of the student code of conduct developed pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-735 a definition of truancy that contains the minimum standards established by State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.10 Student Attendance and a summary of possible consequences and penalties for truancy. The summary of possible consequences for students includes possible dispositions for Children In Need of Services in accordance with O.C.G.A. 15-11-47.
- i. For the purpose of accurately measuring the academic performance of students continuously enrolled in public schools, The Douglas County Board of Education has adopted uniform criteria for withdrawing students.
- j. Local schools are authorized to withdraw a student who:
  - i. Has missed more than 10 consecutive days of unexcused absences;
  - ii. Is not subject to compulsory school attendance; and
  - iii. Is not receiving instructional services from the local school system through homebound instruction or instructional services required by the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- 2. Local schools are authorized to withdraw a student subject to compulsory attendance if the principal has determined the student is no longer a resident of the local school system or is enrolled in a private school or home study program.
- 3. Local schools shall withdraw students retroactive to the first day of the consecutive absences.
- 4. When a student desires to withdraw from school, he/she must have the written permission of his/her parents or guardian if under the age of eighteen prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator shall make a reasonable attempt to have a conference with the student and parent/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 parent/guardian educational options available and the consequences of not having earned a high school diploma.

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

## **DESCRIPTION CODE: JBD-R(1)**

In order to receive maximum benefit from the instructional activities, students are expected to be in school each day unless excused for legitimate reasons. Good attendance habits positively impact the learning process and carry over into the world of work. While teachers and administrators are charged with the responsibility of providing worthwhile daily activities for students, the student and their parents must assume responsibility for being punctual and regular in attendance. It is the position of the Douglas County Board of Education that every day at school is important and that no student ever be absent except for extraordinary reasons. To emphasize the importance of good attendance, and to provide consistency throughout the school system, the following guidelines will be used.

### **ATTENDANCE RULES**

1. Absences will be classified as excused or unexcused.



Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as:

- A. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.
- B. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school
- C. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
- D. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
- E. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
- F. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parents or legal guardians deployment or during such parents or legal guardian leave.
- G. Any other reason approved by the Georgia State Board of Education.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of Georgia General Assembly.

Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school other than those specifically excused by the administration.

2. Absences and tardies will be recorded in each class. Absences and tardies from school will be recorded on the student permanent record. A student must be present at school for at least one-half of the required instructional time to be counted present for the day.

3. A high school student must be enrolled in each course a minimum of 130 clock hours per semester (including days transferred from other schools) to receive Carnegie unit credit for the course. A student must be present every day except those determined to be excused absences. A clock hour is defined as 60 minutes of instructional time.

4. If a student is absent from school, the student must bring a note with the signature of a parent, doctor, dentist, judge, etc. stating the date and reason for absence. This written excuse must be presented to the appropriate teacher(s) within three (3) school days of the student's return to school from the absence. This is the responsibility of the student. The principal will resolve any question in determining whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

All work missed due to an excused absence must be made up by the student within a reasonable time, or receive zeros in work missed. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make-up work.

In order to participate in an extracurricular or after school activity, a student must be in attendance on the school day of the activity.

Unexcused absences will result in no credit for work missed.

A student who misses one-half or more of a class period (unexcused) will be counted absent for that class.

For each absence beyond ten (10), students must bring an excuse from a doctor, dentist, health center, court, etc. for the absence(s) to be excused.

5. Individual teachers (in grading policies) or schools will provide incentives for good attendance.

6. Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child or children between

the ages of six and sixteen shall send such child or children to school. On the sixth unexcused absence a violation of this code (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1) will result in said person being guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties.

Two reasonable attempts to notify the parent/guardian will be made by the school on the fifth unexcused absence. If no response is achieved the school shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. Each days absence from school after notification on the fifth unexcused absence shall constitute a separate offense.

7. Student parking at Douglas County School System high schools is a privilege provided for high school students who purchase a parking decal. High school administrators may suspend a student's parking privilege for the remainder of the semester for leaving campus without authorization, for truancy, or for having six unexcused tardies to school. The suspension of parking privileges will extend for at least forty-five (45) days. If a semester has less than forty-five (45) days remaining when the suspension occurs, the balance will be served at the beginning of the next semester or school year. There will be no refund for the cost of the parking permit. At the conclusion of the suspension of parking privileges, the student may reapply and purchase a parking decal if parking space is available.

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

## **DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JBD-R(2)**

### **Douglas County School System Guidelines for Addressing Absenteeism**

Absences will be followed up by school personnel in the following order:

When a student is absent:

- The Teacher will check for a parent excuse.
- The Teacher will give all excuses to the Attendance Clerk each morning by 9:00 a.m.
- Teacher(s) will assign makeup work and set a reasonable timeline for return of work.

#### **After five unexcused absences:**

- The School will make two attempts to contact the parent by phone/and or email. In addition, the Excessive Unexcused Absences letter #1 will be mailed or emailed to inform the parents of the student's unexcused absences.
- However, if the student is in school, the student will be called in the office during these attempts and a "conference of record" will occur. This conference can replace mailing notice if the parent is reached by phone or is present. A copy of the student's attendance report and the Excessive Unexcused Absences letter#1 will be given to the student to take home to assist the parent in correction of the record. (The conference of record will be recorded on a copy of the same attendance report and any notes of discussion with the parent/student. Also include signatures of all parties present.)
- If these steps fail to contact the parent then Certified Mail - return receipt the Excessive Unexcused Absences letter #1 and the attendance report.

#### **Upon the seventh unexcused absences:**

- The School will ensure that the unexcused absences are verified.
- The School will send Excessive Unexcused Absences letter #2 via first class mail or

email to inform the parents of the student's unexcused absences. A copy of the current Douglas County Attendance Policy will be sent with the letter as well.

- However, if the student is in school, the student will be called in the office during these attempts and a "conference of record" will occur. This conference can replace mailing notice if the parent is reached by phone or is present. A copy of the student's attendance report and the Excessive Unexcused Absences letter#2 will be given to the student to take home to assist the parent in correction of the record. (The conference of record will be recorded on a copy of the same attendance report and any notes of discussion with the parent/student. Also include signatures of all parties present.)
- The Student/Parent will be referred to the School Social Worker. Copies of the completed checklist [JBD-E(1)] and all letters shall be submitted with the referral.
- For Students under 16 years of age, the school will develop an intervention plan that requires a parent/guardian agreement to interventions which specifically address the attendance problem. If the intervention plan is not successful the School Social Worker will refer the student/parent to the Truancy Task Panel and complete required documentation.
- Students, 16 and over, who are found to be off roll for more than 10 consecutive unexcused days will also be withdrawn from the DCSS.

School days missed as a result of an out-of-school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

## **DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JCDB-R(2)**

Douglas County School District dress code requires students to dress "in a manner that is conducive to a good learning environment."

In the selection of school dress, parents and students should exercise good taste and good judgement. Many "fads" in dress are not appropriate for school. Therefore, student dress should reflect neatness, cleanliness and should not distract or cause disruption in the educational process of school.

The school administration reserves the right to determine if a student's dress and personal appearance are too casual, too revealing, or too distracting from the learning environment to be considered appropriate for school. The health and safety of all students will be taken into consideration when making decisions regarding appropriate/inappropriate attire including the tucking in of shirt tails.

### **APPROVED FOR SCHOOL WEAR:**

#### **Pants**

Pants that are size appropriate and worn at the waist.

#### **Shorts**

Shorts that are size and length appropriate, worn at the waist and are not more than three inches from the top of the knee are appropriate.

#### **Skirts and dresses**

Skirts must be worn at waistline, hemmed and no more than three inches from the top of the knee. Dresses must have sleeves and be no more than three inches from the top of the knee. Slits in dresses or skirts must

be no more than three inches from the top of the knee. Skirts over leggings must meet the three inch rule.

#### Shirts and blouses

Long or short sleeved, dress shirt, T-shirt, polo type shirt, sweaters and sweatshirts which are size appropriate. Shirttails must be below the belt line even with arms raised above the head or when the student is seated; for males shirt tails may be required to be tucked into the pants.

#### Shoes

All students must wear appropriate shoes at all times.

#### Undergarments

Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times. Undergarments of any type must not be exposed.

#### Accessories

Belts are optional and, if worn, are to be proper length. Belts may be required for students having difficulty with wearing pants at the waist.

### **NOT APPROVED FOR SCHOOL WEAR:**

- Pants that touch the ground or floor;
- Wide legged pants, skin-tight pants; form-fitting clothing; Holes above the knee;
- Pants, dresses, skirts, shorts, and shirts that have frayed ends;
- See-through clothing;
- Sleeveless shirts, dresses, halter tops, tank tops and spaghetti straps;
- Deep-scooped necklines;
- Clothing that shows the bare midriff, bare back or the bare shoulders;
- Rubber and/or metal cleats, bare feet; pajamas, bedroom shoes, or other sleepwear;
- Articles of clothing which advertise or display the symbols of drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages;
- Clothing which displays or implies profane, vulgar, obscene or racially offensive language, symbols or sexual innuendo;
- Emblems, insignias, writing, graphics, pictures, badges, tattoos or other symbols where the effect thereof is to unreasonably attract the attention or cause disruption of a class or disruption or interference with the operation of the school;
- Hats, sunglasses and caps, visors, sweatbands, skull caps, do rags, and bandanas etc. (All hats and caps shall be properly stored during the school day).
- Large coats and hoods may not be worn in the school building. (Hoods on sweatshirts must not be pulled up on head);
- Chains hanging from wallets or clothing; dog collars or electronic belt buckles.
- Display or wearing of any gang articles, paraphernalia or clothing that can be construed as being gang related (e.g., bandanas, sweat bands, head rags, T-shirts, jerseys, jackets, etc.);
- Jewelry that is offensive; distracts or is studded or pointed, including "grills" and heavy chains;
- Any hairstyle or coloring which causes a distraction to the learning environment;
- Clothing worn in a manner inconsistent with the intended design (ex.: exposure of clothing designed and sold as undergarments, rolled up pants legs, bandanas used as belts, etc.).
- Shoes with any type of wheels or other rolling apparatus.

### **Exceptions:**

- Uniforms for school related activities are acceptable if approved by school administrators. Female cheerleaders must wear warm-ups under cheerleading uniforms except during games and pep rallies.
- School administrators may alter the dress code for special occasions or extracurricular activities.
- Parents of students who require an exemption from the dress code for religious, cultural, or short-term medical reasons may make application to the principal.

### **Consequences for failure to comply:**

The administration will determine consequences. These may include dress modification, parent notification, counseling or In School Suspension. Refusal to comply with the dress code, repeated offenses, or violations of severe nature may result in a higher degree of discipline.

The Student Handbook shall serve as first notice of Dress Code Policy. The school administration may require more restrictive requirements in their local school dress code, with reasonable notification.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

## **DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JCDA**

The purpose of the Douglas County School System's Discipline Code is as follows:

1. To ensure an environment for teaching and learning which is protected from disruption and harassment.
2. To provide information to students and parents about rules and regulations (expected student conduct) of the school system and possible penalties for violations of these rules and regulations.
3. To provide uniform administrative and disciplinary procedures in the local schools.
4. To provide for enforcement of school disciplinary rules when the student is on school property, in attendance at school or at any school sponsored activity or engages at any time or place in conduct that has a direct effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

### **Statement of Student Misconduct**

These rules are designed to notify students as to the types and range of behavior expectations. Every specific variation of conduct may not have been included. Consequently, students should expect to be disciplined for misconduct that is so obviously inappropriate, particularly in light of societal expectations and the scope of these expectations that a specific expectation need not be written for every conceivable variation of behavior that directly affects the orderly mission of the school.

### **Consequences of Student Misconduct**

Local school administrators have broad discretion to determine consequences for student misconduct at the local school level. The range of consequences for misconduct that can be assigned by a local school administrator may include without limitation, student conference, parent conference, before or after school detention, In-School Suspension, Saturday School/previous detention, Out-of-School Suspension up to ten days per incident, referral to a Student Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing which may result in Long-Term Suspension or expulsion and, depending upon the severity of the offense, law enforcement officials may be contacted.

### **Application of the Douglas County Board of Education Student Discipline Code**

The Student Discipline Code applies when a student(s) is (are):

- a. On the school grounds;
- b. Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event;
- c. En route to and from school and at the bus stop; or
- d. Off the school grounds while the student is in attendance at any function; is engaged in activity that could have a direct effect on the orderly function of the school; or is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of school authorities. May include being convicted of, being adjudicated to have committed, being indicted for, or having an information filed against for the commission of any felony or any delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult.

### **Safe Schools Policy**

It is the policy of the Douglas County Board of Education to ensure the highest possible standards of learning as well as the safety, health, and well-being of its students and employees. The Douglas County Board of Education recognizes that gang/hate groups and gang/hate group-related activities can substantially interfere with student and employee productivity.

In accordance, the Douglas County Board of Education is dedicated to preventing the influence of gang/hate groups or gang/hate group-related activities in our schools.

The appropriate school officials reserve the right to punish any gang/hate group or person displaying gang/hate group-related behavior which is subversive to good order, discipline and well-being in our schools.

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL****DISCIPLINE CODE (CODE OF CONDUCT)**

The Discipline Code serves as a guide for school administrators dealing with discipline offenses. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every possible offense. Furthermore, every possible offense cannot be defined. The Principal of the school has the authority to make disciplinary and other decisions based on the best interests of the students and the school.

**ALL VIOLATIONS OF LAW SHALL BE REFERRED TO THE PROPER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN ADDITION TO SCHOOL CONSEQUENCES.**

**STUDENTS AND CRIMINAL CHARGES**

Parents and guardians are encouraged to inform their children that certain acts of misconduct could result in legal charges. Please explain to your student(s) that for certain acts of underage sexual conduct and other crimes, a minor may be tried as an adult.

It is the responsibility of the student and the student's parents/guardians to demonstrate behavior that is appropriate at all times. Parents will be contacted when any major offense occurs. It is the policy of this state that it is preferable to assign disruptive students to alternative educational settings rather than to suspend such students from school. A teacher shall have the authority to remove from his or her class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, where the student's behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct, provided that the teacher has previously filed a report or determines that such behavior of the student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher. (Board Policy JD) The parent will be required to attend a conference and develop a behavioral intervention plan.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISCIPLINE CODE**

1. Students under short-term suspension must make-up any academic work missed during the suspension to receive credit. It will be the responsibility of the student to request make-up work. Students under suspension or expulsion are not allowed on any Douglas County School System campus or at any Douglas County School System functions.
2. Students are to notify an administrator or staff member when dangerous or illegal items are found in the school building or on the school campus. Students are advised not to pick up items or to handle the illegal items.
3. School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Students vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Cell phones/multi-media/electronic devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities that occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.
4. Students should be aware that any adult employee of the Douglas County Board of Education has the authority to ask for a student's identity or to see other appropriate information. Board of Education employees have the authority to give a student reasonable instructions and to expect that those instructions be carried out. Refusal to identify oneself or to carry out reasonable

instructions will result in serious disciplinary action.

5. Student disciplinary records are maintained separately, however Georgia Law requires the transfer of those records for grades 6-12 to another Georgia school district.

6. These regulations apply to students: (a) who are on the school grounds during, immediately before, or immediately after school.; (b) who are on the grounds at any other time that the school is being used by a school group; (c) who are off the school grounds at a school activity, school function, or event; (d) who are en route to or from any school functions; (e) who create electronic communication(s) which present a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process; or are otherwise subject to jurisdiction of school authorities.

7. The school system reserves the right to discipline behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the school, even though such behavior is not specified in the school's discipline code.

8. The penalty for committing a physical act of violence against a school employee is expulsion for the remainder of the student's school years. The local board *may* permit the student to attend an alternative school or program. If the student is in grades K-8, the local board *may* permit a student to reenroll in the regular school program for grades 9-12. If there is no alternative program for students grades K-6, the local board *may* permit such a student to reenroll in the public school system. Students committing acts of physical violence against school employees must also be referred to juvenile court authorities.

### **LEVEL ONE OFFENSES**

These minor offenses will be dealt with at the discretion of the school administrators. Generally, consequences shall include but not be limited to detention, suspension (in-school or out-of-school), Saturday school/detention, making restitution, parental conferences, bus suspension, etc. Teachers and bus drivers will handle minor offenses by reporting offenses to administrators and in accordance with school procedures. Parents will be informed of misbehavior by phone or in writing.

A knife of more than 2 inches may be grounds for arrest and a felony charge. 22-1 may be treated as 22-2, 22-3 or 39.

Minor offenses include, but are not limited to:

- 01-1 Alcohol - Unintentional possession
- 03-1 Battery - Battery with no injuries
- 06-1 Disorderly Conduct - Minor disturbance
- 07-1 Drugs - Unintentional possession
- 08-1 Fighting - Fighting with no injuries
- 11-1 Larceny/Theft - Unlawful taking of property with a value between \$25 and \$100
- 15-1 Sexual Harassment - Unwelcome comments not directed towards individuals
- 16-1 Sex Offenses - Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact
- 18-1 Tobacco - Unintentional possession of tobacco products or tobacco product substitutes.
- 22-1 Weapons/knife - Unintentional possession of a knife with no intent to harm or intimidate
- 24-1 Other Discipline Incident - Other minor incidents resulting in disciplinary action
- 29-1 Bullying - First incident of bullying
- 30-1 Attendance Related - Any incident involving attendance
- 31-1 Dress Code Violation - Non-invasive or non-suggestive clothing
- 32-1 Academic Dishonesty - Unauthorized assistance on classroom assignments or projects
- 33-1 Student Incivility - General disrespect or failure to follow instructions
- 34-1 Possession of Unapproved Items - Possession of unauthorized items
- 36-1 Repeated Offenses - Collection of minor incident
- 48 Motor vehicle violations
- 52 Bus Misconduct

### **LEVEL TWO OFFENSES**

These major offenses are cumulative for the school year. Each offense shall result in suspension, in-school or out, not to exceed ten (10) days.

A knife of more than 2 inches may be grounds for arrest and a felony charge. 22-2 may be treated as 22-3 or 39.

Appropriate compensation shall be paid to replace losses to the school system resulting from commission of any offense. Principal's discretion may be used in handling level two offenses.

- 01-2 Alcohol - Under the influence without possession
- 02-2 Arson - Arson without property damage
- 03-2 Battery - Battery with mild or moderate injuries
- 05-2 Computer Trespass - Computer misuse
- 06-2 Disorderly Conduct - Moderate disturbance; three or more minor disturbances in same school year
- 07-2 Drugs - Failure to report medication to school authorities
- 08-2 Fighting - Fighting with minor or moderate injuries
- 11-2 Larceny/Theft - Unlawful taking of property with a value between \$100 and \$250
- 13-2 Robbery - Robbery without a weapon
- 15-2 Sexual Harassment - Unwelcome comments directed towards individuals
- 16-2 Sex Offenses - Inappropriate sexually-based behavior
- 17-2 Threat/Intimidation - Individual threat or intimidation
- 18-2 Tobacco - Intentional use or possession of tobacco products or tobacco product substitutes.
- 19-2 Trespassing - Unauthorized presence on school property
- 20-2 Vandalism - Minor damage or defacement of property
- 22-2 Weapons/knife - Intentional possession of a knife with no intent to harm or intimidate
- 23-2 Weapons/Other - Unintentional possession of a weapon (not including knife or firearm)
- 24-2 Other Discipline Incident - Three or more offenses in the same school year
- 29-2 Bullying - Second incident of bullying
- 31-2 Dress Code Violation - Invasive or suggestive clothing
- 32-2 Academic Dishonesty - Plagiarism or cheating on classroom assignments or projects
- 33-2 Student Incivility - Blatant insubordination; profanity directed toward school staff
- 34-2 Possession of Unapproved Items - Use of unauthorized items
- 35-2 Gang Related - Wearing or possession of gang-related apparel; conveying personal membership or affiliation with a gang
- 36-2 Repeated Offenses – Collection (state reportable offenses) of moderate incidents
- 44 Hitting/Roughing/Minor Physical Contact.

### **LEVEL THREE OFFENSES**

These offenses will be heard by a Discipline Tribunal after initial investigation is completed and temporary consequences (suspension) are assigned by school administrators. The Discipline Tribunal shall determine the appropriate discipline in each case based on its individual merits. The principal may recommend an appropriate discipline for the Tribunal to consider. Appropriate compensation shall be paid to replace losses to the school system resulting from commission of any offense. Level Three Offenses are so serious in nature that offenses will be cumulative grades 6-8, 9-12. The following offenses may require police contact and shall be grounds for long-term suspension/expulsion/permanent expulsion, or denial of enrollment. This could also result in long-term bus suspension.

- 01-3 Alcohol - Sale, purchase, transportation, possession, consumption of alcohol
- 02-3 Arson - Arson with property damage
- 03-3 Battery - Battery with severe injuries; or three or more offenses in same school year
- 04-3 B&E/Burglary - Any incident involving breaking and entering/burglary
- 05-3 Computer Trespass - Unlawful use of computer or altering records
- 06-3 Disorderly Conduct - Severe disruption; or three or more moderate disturbances in the same school year
- 07-3 Drugs - Possession or distribution of unlawful drugs
- 08-3 Fighting - Fighting with severe injuries; or three or more fights in same school year
- 09-3 Homicide - Any incident involving homicide
- 10-3 Kidnapping - Any incident involving kidnapping
- 11-3 Larceny/Theft - Unlawful taking of property with a value exceeding \$250; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 12-3 Motor Vehicle Theft - Any incident involving Motor Vehicle Theft
- 13-3 Robbery - Robbery with a weapon



- 14-3 Sexual Battery - Any incident involving Sexual Battery
- 15-3 Sexual Harassment - Violation of sexual harassment policy; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 16-3 Sex Offenses - Consensual sexual activities; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 17-3 Threat/Intimidation - School-wide threat or intimidation
- 18-3 Tobacco - Distribution or sale of tobacco products; or tobacco product substitutes; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 19-3 Trespassing - Refusing to leave school property; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 20-3 Vandalism - Malicious destruction or damage to property; or three or more offenses in the same school year
- 22-3 Weapons/knife - Intentional possession or use of a knife with intent to harm or Intimidate
- 23-3 Weapons/Other - Intentional possession or use of a weapon (not including knife or firearm)
- 25-3 Weapons/Handgun - Any incident involving a handgun
- 26-3 Weapons/Rifle/Shotgun - Any incident involving a rifle/shotgun
- 27-3 Serious Bodily Injury
- 28-3 Other Firearms
- 29-3 Bullying - Three or more incidents of bullying in the same school year
- 31-3 Dress Code Violation - Three or more offenses in the same school year
- 32-3 Academic Dishonesty - Plagiarism or cheating on major exams or statewide assessments; three or more offenses in the same school year
- 33-3 Student Incivility - Issuing false reports on school staff; or three or more offenses in the same school year (Blatant insubordination; profanity directed toward school staff)
- 34-3 Possession of Unapproved Items - Possession or use of items construed to be dangerous or harmful; Three or more offenses in the same school year
- 35-3 Gang Related - Gang-related solicitation, violence, threats, defacement of property
- 36-3 Repeated Offenses - Collection of (state reportable offenses) severe incidents
- 40-3 Other Non-Disciplinary Incident - Can only be used to report "physical restraint" with action "95"
  
- 38 Physical or verbal assault on a school employee. (Any act of violence against a teacher, bus driver, or other school employee causing injury shall result in expulsion for the remainder of the student's school years.)
  
- 39 Felony act, whether school related or non-school related, on-campus or off-campus, 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;
  
- 40 Other Non-Disciplinary Incident – Can only be used to report "physical restraint" with action "95".
  
- 41 Aiding and/or abetting the commission of any Level 3 offense. A student who aids or abets the commission of a Level 3 offense by another student shall be charged with Level 3 aiding and abetting.

#### Middle School Only

Possession of electronic communication devices, including, but not limited to, beepers, cell phones, or other electronic devices on school property during the instructional day is prohibited. All content held in cellular phones, cameras or video phones, or other electronic devices is subject to inspection and/or review by school administrators at any time.

BYOD schools may modify for the appropriate use of technology. These modifications will be determined by the school's administration.

#### High School Only

Students shall not use, display or turn on communication beepers, cellular phones and

accessories, video phones, or other electronic devices during the regular school day, including instructional class time, class change time, breakfast or lunch. All content held in cellular phones, cameras or video phones, or other electronic devices is subject to inspection and/or review by school administrators at any time.

BYOD schools may modify for the appropriate use of technology. These modifications will be determined by the school's administration.

Tardies to school may include disciplinary action such as parent conference, detention, in-school suspension, loss of parking privileges, and/or loss of extra-curricular privileges.

## **DISCIPLINE CODE DEFINITIONS**

The following are definitions or same terms used in the discipline code:

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** - Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams.

Level 1 - Intentional receiving or providing of unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assessments and assignments. May include but is not limited to failure to cite sources.

Level 2 - Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a minor classroom assignment or project. Includes but is not limited to Intentional dishonesty on minor classroom projects, assignments, homework, etc.

Level 3 - Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a major exam, statewide assessment or project or the falsification of school records (including forgery). Includes but is not limited to cheating on major exams, statewide assessments or other state mandated academic work; Includes the falsification of school records; forgery; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on academic dishonesty three or more times during the same school year.

**ALCOHOL** - Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol. Students under the influence of alcohol may be included if it results in disciplinary action.

Level 1 - Unintentional possession of alcohol.

Level 2 - Under the influence of alcohol without possession.

Level 3 - Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol.

**ARSON** - Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Note: Possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as "Possession of unapproved items".)

Level 2 - Attempt to commit arson or transporting or possessing incendiary devices to school; includes but not limited to the use of fireworks. Includes but is not limited to trashcan fires without damage to school property.

Level 3 – Intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device. Includes but not limited to setting fires to school property.

**ASSAULT** – The attempt to commit a violent injury to another person, or commits an act which places another in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury. Assault may be categorized as Aggravated. 16-5-21 Georgia Law Enforcement Pamphlet.

**OTHER-ATTENDANCE RELATED** - Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.

Level 1 - Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to

report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.

Level 2: N/A

Level 3: N/A

**BATTERY** - Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm. (Note: The key difference between battery and fighting and is that fighting involves mutual participation.)

Level 1 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries. Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations.

Level 2 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries. Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations that result in mild or moderate injuries.

Level 3 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school personnel; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on battery three or more times during the same school year. Includes but not limited to choking, pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries; Includes any physical attack on school personnel; includes incidents serious enough to warrant calling the police or security.

**BREAKING AND ENTERING** - The unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft). (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.).

Level 3 - Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).

**BULLYING** - A pattern of behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visibly bodily harm. 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.

Level 1 - First Offense of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to harass or intimidate.

Level 2 - Second incident of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.

Level 3 - Repeated acts, as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, occurring on

school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student's education; so severe and pervasive intimidates or threatens educational environment. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.

**BUS SUSPENSION** – A pupil found guilty of certain offenses may be suspended from the bus for a period up to the remainder of the school year.

**COMPUTER TRESPASS** - Use of a school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data.

Level 2 - Unauthorized use of school computer for anything other than instructional purposes. Includes but not limited to computer misuse, using computer to view inappropriate material, and violation of school computer use policy.

Level 3 - Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, obtaining confidential information or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data; includes disclosure of a number, code, password, or other means of access to school computers or the school system computer network without proper authorization. Includes but not limited to hacking, using school computer to change or alter school records (grades, attendance, discipline, etc.)

**CONTINUATION OF INCIDENT** - An event with multiple incidents for a single action has occurred.

**FIGHTING** – Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and an intent to harm (Note: The key difference between fighting and battery is that fighting involves mutual participation.)

Level 1 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in no bodily injuries. No injuries.

Level 2 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries. Mild or moderate Injuries may include but are not limited to scratches, bloody noses, bruises, black eyes, and other marks on the body.

Level 3 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in severe bodily injuries. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on fighting three or more times during the same school year. Repeated physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries that require medical attention.

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY** - Injury to real or personal property through another's negligence, willful destruction, or by some act of nature. The amount of recovery for property damage may be established by evidence of replacement value, cost of repairs, loss of use until repaired or replaced or in the case of heirlooms or very personal property (e.g. wedding pictures) by substantive testimony as to sentimental value.

**DETENTION** - The student shall report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official. Students must be given 24-hour notice in order to make arrangements for transportation. Detention may require the student's attendance before school, after school, on Saturdays, or during scheduled class or school activity time if school officials deem removal of the student from his/her regular school schedule essential to the well being of the student or school. The school principal will develop rules for detention.

**DISCIPLINARY PROBATION** - A student found guilty of certain offenses may be placed on probation by the local school and/or the Student Disciplinary Tribunal. Probation is a trial period during which a student violating school and/or school system rules is subject to further disciplinary action.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT** - Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others. (Includes disruptive behaviors on school buses).

Level 1 - Creating or contributing to a moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but doesn't pose a threat to the health or safety of others. Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, spitting on property or persons, encouraging disruptive behavior.

Level 2 - Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but doesn't pose a threat to the health or safety of others; may represent a repeat action. Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, spitting on property or persons, encouraging disruptive behavior.

Level 3 - Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the school environment or poses a threat to the health and safety of others. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on disorderly conduct three or more times during the same school year. Includes but not limited to disruptive behavior on school bus, misbehavior during a fire drill or other safety exercise.

**DRESS CODE** - Non-conformity to established dress code of Douglas County Board of Education. (SEE DRESS CODE - POLICY JCDB)

**OTHER – DRESS CODE VIOLATION** - Violation of school dress code that includes standards for appropriate school attire.

Level 1 - Non-invasive and non-suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance. Pursuant to local dress codes, dress code violations for Level 1 may include but are not limited to bare feet; trousers, slacks, shorts worn below waist level; no belt; clothing that is excessively baggy or tight; skirts or shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh; sunglasses worn inside the building; hats, caps, hoods, sweatbands and bandanas or other head wear worn inside school building.

Level 2 - Invasive or suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance. Pursuant to local dress codes, dress code violations for Level 2 may include but are not limited to depiction of profanity, vulgarity, obscenity or violence; promote the use or abuse of tobacco, alcohol or drugs; creates a threat to the health and safety of other students; creates a significant risk of disruption to the school environment; clothing worn in such a manner so as to reveal underwear, cleavage or bare skin; spaghetti straps, strapless tops, halter tops, see-through or mesh garments or other clothing that is physically revealing, provocative or contains sexually suggestive comments.

Level 3 - Invasive or suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school dress code policy three or more times during the same school year. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school dress code policy three or more times during the same school year.

**DRUGS, EXCEPT ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO** - Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; or any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school.

Level 1 - Unintentional possession of prescribed or over the counter medication. Does not include the possession of narcotics or any illegal drugs. not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

Level 2 - Any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school. Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

Level 3 - Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession,

transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776

**EXPULSION** - The student is removed from all Douglas County Public Schools, property and activities or events beyond the current school semester. Permanent expulsion may be made only by the Board of Education.

**EXTENT OF SCHOOL JURISDICTION** - Students are accountable for behavior on school property, at school functions, en route to or from school functions, and at bus stops.

**FALSE FIRE ALARM** - The willful and/or malicious activation of a fire alarm system or the willful and/or malicious reporting of a false fire.

**FELONY** - Any offense punishable as a felony under Georgia law or federal law.

**OTHER FIREARMS** - Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. Includes any weapon (including started gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141].

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of any firearms other than rifle, shotgun, or handguns (including starter pistols) and any other destructive device which includes explosives. Includes any weapon (including started gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141].

**GANG-RELATED** - Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in school disruptive behavior. Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in school disruption behavior.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – Wearing or possessing gang-related apparel; communicating either verbally or non-verbally to convey membership or affiliation with a gang. Possession or wearing of gang-related clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, or using colors to convey gang membership or affiliation; gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc. to convey gang membership or affiliation; committing any other illegal act or other violation of school policies in connection with gang-related activity.

Level 3 - The solicitation of others for gang-membership, the defacing of school or

personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang. Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to gang activity. Soliciting students for gang membership; tagging or defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang; requiring payment for protection, insurance, otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity; inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity.

**HAZING** – Any action or situation which subjects a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical or mental health of a student, regardless of the student's willingness to participate in such activity.

**HEARING OFFICER** - System administrator or who conducts the Student Discipline Tribunal hearing proceedings.

**HITTING/ROUGHING/MINOR PHYSICAL CONTACT** – Intentionally making physical contact with another person including but not limited to hitting, slapping, pushing, tripping and wrestling.

**HOMICIDE** - Killing of one human being by another.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Killing of one human being by another. Includes but is not limited to shooting, stabbing, choking, bludgeoning, etc.

**INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION** - The practice of kissing, embracing, and other similar types of activities are not in good taste in the school setting. All students should conduct themselves in a mature manner.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** - The student is removed from regular classes for a specified period of time in the local school. Class work assignments are sent to the student by the teachers. The student may not attend or participate in any extracurricular activities while assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS).

**INSUBORDINATION** - Refusal or failure to comply with a direction or an order from a school system staff member; failure to comply with State Law, School Board Policy, local school rule, behavior contracts, or classroom rules.

**KIDNAPPING** - The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will.

**LARCENY/THEFT** - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g., school) without threat, violence or bodily harm. (Note: The key difference between larceny/theft and robbery is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.)

Level 1 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$25 and \$100. Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

Level 2 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$100 and \$250. The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$100 and \$250. Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

Level 3 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value exceeding \$250. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on larceny/theft three or more times during the same school year. Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception. Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

**LEAVING CAMPUS** - Students leaving campus without approval of school officials may have parking privileges revoked in addition to other consequences.

**LONG-TERM SUSPENSION** - The student is suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days. Any suspension of more than ten (10) days may be assigned only by the Student Disciplinary Tribunal, or by the Board of Education. (Student may continue academic work at the Alternative School.)

**MISBEHAVIOR IN THE CAFETERIA** - The acts of throwing objects, leaving trays, etc. in the cafeteria. Open food or drink outside of designated areas (any area other than cafeteria). No food may be delivered to school from a "fast food" establishment, in compliance with federal guidelines.

**MISCONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUS OR OTHER SCHOOL APPROVED TRANSPORTATION** - Conduct or behavior which interferes with the orderly, safe, and expeditious transportation of students or other authorized riders. In addition to consequences for offenses on a bus, students may lose the privilege to ride the bus.

**MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT** - Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle. Includes but not limited to cars, trucks, ATVs, golf carts, etc.

**OTHER – POSSESSION OF UNAPPROVED ITEMS** - The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment. (Note: The use of fireworks or incendiary devices must be coded as Arson.) The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment.

Level 1 - The possession of any unauthorized item. Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous. Includes but is not limited to possession of toys, mobile devices, gadgets, personal items, gum, candy, etc; includes possession of pepper spray.

Level 2 - The use of the any unauthorized item (i.e. toys, mobile devices, or gadgets). Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous. Includes but is not limited to use of toys, mobile devices, gadgets, personal items, etc; includes the use of pepper spray without injury.

Level 3 - The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to matches, lighters, toy guns, or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; Includes the possession of fireworks but the use of fireworks should be coded as Arson; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to unapproved items. Includes but are not limited to matches, lighters, or the possession of fireworks, bullets, stink bombs, CO2 cartridges; includes the use of pepper spray with injury.

**PHYSICAL OR VERBAL ASSAULT ON A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE** – Any attempted physical attack on a school board employee or written or verbal threats of violence towards a school board employee. Includes but is not limited to verbal threats of violence against teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria staff, custodians, office staff ,and bus drivers

**PRE-ADMISSION HEARING** - A hearing requested by the school or parent(s) to determine



whether a suspended or expelled student will be allowed to enter the Douglas County School System from another school system.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG** - Use of a drug (medication) authorized by a registered physician, and prescribed for the student. Student or parent should inform the school on the use of medically prescribed drug.

**RE-ADMISSION HEARING** - A hearing requested through the Board of Education or Student Disciplinary Tribunal by the school, parent(s) or other agency to determine whether a suspended or expelled former student be allowed to re-enter the Douglas County School System.

**RE-ADMISSION REVIEW** - A mandatory conference with the parent, student, school official and counselor to review documentation showing what has been done, while the student was on suspension and/or at the Alternative School, to correct the disciplinary problem(s) that resulted in the suspension from school.

**REPEATED OFFENSES** - Collection of state reportable offenses that occur on multiple school days.

Level 1 – Collection of minor incidents.

Level 2 – Collection of moderate incidents.

Level 3 – Collection of severe incidents.

**ROBBERY** - The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. (Note: The key difference between robbery and larceny/theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.)

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Robbery without the use of a weapon. Robbery with the use of a weapon  
Robbery with the use of a weapon.

Level 3 - Robbery with the use of a weapon. Weapons may include but are not limited to guns, knives, clubs, razor blades, etc.

**SERIOUS BODILY INJURY** - The term "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Infliction of "bodily harm" that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death. Any behavior that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death.

**SEXUAL BATTERY** – Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent. Includes but is not limited to rape, fondling, child

molestation, indecent liberties and sodomy.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT** - Non-physical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; possession of sexually explicit images; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment.

Level 1 - Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes or suggestive jokes that are not directed towards specific individuals. Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes. Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes.

Level 2 - Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or group of individuals. Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes; leering.

Level 3 - Physical or non-physical sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment three or more times during the same school year.

**SEXUAL OFFENSES** - Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual.

Level 1 - Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact including but not limited to public groping, inappropriate bodily contact, or any other sexual contact not covered in levels 2 or 3. Public groping or inappropriate bodily contact.

Level 2 - Inappropriate sexually-based behavior including but not limited to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts.

Level 3 - Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities. Oral, anal or vaginal penetration; pimping; prostitution; indecent exposure of private body parts.

**SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION** - one (1) through ten (10) days suspension out of school by the local school administrator. The student may be suspended for an accumulation of offenses, as well as a major offense. The teacher will determine required make-up. Suspended students shall make up those major tests or assignments (that will have a significant impact on their final grade. It will be the student's responsibility to request make-up work within a reasonable period of time three (3) school days upon return to school. Work must be returned within the period specified by the teacher.

**STUDENT DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL** - A panel composed of three administrators and one Hearing Officer. The Tribunal hears evidence presented by the school, the student, and parents when a student is referred by the local school principal or his/her designee. The Tribunal has the authority to make decisions ranging from returning the student to the local school through permanent expulsion.

**STUDENT INCIVILITY** - Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth.

Level 1 - Failure to comply with instructions or the inadvertent use of inappropriate language. May include but is not limited to general disrespect for school staff or students; profanity; failure to follow instructions.

Level 2 - Blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate language directed towards school staff or peers; intentional misrepresentation of the truth. Profanity or obscene language directed towards school staff; issuing false reports on other students; insubordination.

Level 3 - Blatant and repeated insubordination or intentional misrepresentation of the truth; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to student incivility. Issuing false reports on school staff; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on student incivility three or more times during the same

school year.

**STUDENT SUCCESS ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM** is a program designed to meet the needs of the students who have been removed from the traditional setting due to disciplinary infractions. The program is a blended model of online learning and traditional instructional practices. Students will transition back to their home based school once they have completed their assigned time.

**SUSPENSION** - When the term suspension is used in the discipline code it may be interpreted to mean in-school suspension or short-term out of school suspension.

**TARDINESS** - Excessive late arrival to school or class.

**THREAT/INTIMIDATION** - Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack.

Level 3 - School-wide physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack; Note: Students that display a pattern of behavior that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm, threat of harm or visibly bodily harm may be coded as bullying. Includes but not limited to bomb threats or unauthorized pulling of the fire alarm.

**TOBACCO** - Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products or tobacco product substitutes (such as BaccOff), cigarette look-alikes (e.g. electronic cigarettes), hookahs and hookah lookalikes (e.g. electronic hookahs) on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Use of or knowledgeable possession of tobacco products or substitutes as listed above on school property.

Level 3 - Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products or substitutes as listed above; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the policy on tobacco or substitutes as listed above three or more times during the same school year.

**TRESPASSING** - Entering or remaining on a public school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.)

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Entering or remaining on school grounds or facilities without authorization and with no lawful purpose.

Level 3 – Entering or remaining on school grounds or facilities without authorization and with no lawful purpose. Refusing to leave school grounds after a request from school personnel; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on trespassing three or more times during the same school year.

**TRUANCY** - Violation of the State Attendance Laws - The primary purpose of our schools is to promote student learning. To that end, the Douglas County School System expects teachers to provide well-planned, appropriate lessons for each class every day that school is in session. In order to receive maximum benefit from the instructional activities, students are expected to be in school each day unless excused for legitimate reasons. Good attendance habits positively impact the learning process and carry over into the world of work. While teachers and administrators are charged with the responsibility of providing worthwhile daily activities for students, the students

and their parents must assume responsibility for being punctual and regular in attendance. It is the position of the Douglas County Board of Education that every day at school is important and that no student ever be absent except for extraordinary reasons. Truancy may lead to court action against the student and parent.

**UNAUTHORIZED AREAS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:** A) Any area of the building where classes are in session during lunch period; B) The gym unless you have a class at that time in the gym; C) The parking lot once you have arrived in the school; D) At lunch time students are permitted to be in the cafeteria or in the designated area; E) Any other designated area.

**UNAUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY, PUBLICATIONS, ETC.** - Demonstrations and/or petitions by students, or possession and/or distribution of unauthorized publications, which interfere with the orderly process of the school environment, a school function, or extracurricular activity.

**VANDALISM** - The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property without consent.

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Participating in the minor destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission.

Level 3 - Participation in the willful/malicious destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on vandalism three or more times during the same school year.

**WAIVER OF ATTENDING STUDENT DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL** - Parents may sign a waiver if the student admits guilt, they cannot attend or do not elect to attend the Tribunal hearing. In the event a parent or student does not attend the hearing, it will proceed as scheduled. The principal or designee is authorized to negotiate consequences with the parent and student.

**WEAPONS – HANDGUN** - Possession of a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled. NOTE: This definition does not apply to items such as toy guns, cap guns, bb guns and pellet gun [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141].

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm. Pistols or revolvers.

**WEAPONS – KNIFE** - The possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife.

Level 1 - Unintentional possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate. Unintentional possession of a knife or knife-like item on school property without the intent to harm or intimidate.

Level 2 - Intentional possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate. Intentional possession of a knife or knife-like item on school property without the intent to harm or intimidate.

Level 3 - Intentional possession, use or intention to use of a knife or knife-like item with the intent to harm or intimidate. Intentional possession, use or intention to use a knife or knife-like item on school property with the intent to harm or intimidate.

**WEAPONS – OTHER** - The possession, use, or intention to use any instrument or object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm (does not include knives or firearms).

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 - Unintentional possession of a weapon, other than a knife or firearm, or simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm. Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.

Level 3 - Intentional possession and use of any weapon, other than a knife or firearm, in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm. Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.

**WEAPONS – RIFLE/SHOTGUN** - The term "rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term "shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger. [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141].

Level 1 – N/A

Level 2 – N/A

Level 3 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a rifle or shotgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm. Rifles, shotguns.

## **DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Discipline of students with disabilities requires certain considerations because behavior may be related to the disability. Following are general guidelines:

1. Determine which students have been identified as disabled and review their IEPs or Section 504 Plan at the start of the semester before there are discipline problems.
2. An IEP or Section 504 Plan may include a Behavior Intervention Plan that specifies how certain behaviors are to be handled. This plan should be followed in all school settings - regular or special.
3. Students whose IEPs or Section 504 Plan do not address behavior or discipline should be treated like non-disabled students with common sense consideration of the disability (see \* below).
4. Classroom teachers should work closely with special education teachers and the Student Support Team to determine appropriate methods of discipline.

In all cases, however, a student with a disability may not be suspended from school (including ISS - if the student does not receive the specified special education services) for more than a cumulative total of 10 days per school year. When the total number of suspension days nears 10 or a significantly disruptive behavior occurs, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The Director/Assistant Director (or designee) of Special Education should be notified to assure that all due process procedures are followed.
2. The IEP committee will carefully review the IEP and current placement

- to determine if the behavior is related to the disability and if change should be made in the IEP.
3. For Section 504 students, the SST will review the 504 Plan and determine if the behavior is related to the disability.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

School bus transportation is a privilege afforded pupils by the Board of Education. It is not a right. To protect the safety and well being of all involved, pupils must adhere to established bus conduct rules. Bus transportation privilege may be revoked if the pupil does not observe bus conduct expectations.

### **Bus Conduct Rules**

1. Students should always conduct themselves in an orderly manner and obey all bus safety rules.
2. All students are under the jurisdiction of the driver while aboard each bus.
3. The driver is responsible for seating arrangements on each bus.
4. Students will remain seated while bus is in motion.
5. Students must refrain from loud talking, horseplay, throwing objects on or from the bus, or doing anything that will detract from the driver's attention.
6. Anyone damaging a bus will be responsible for restitution.
7. All parts of the body must be kept inside the bus at all times.
8. Smoking, chewing gum, eating, or drinking on the bus is not permitted.
9. It is the responsibility of the driver and each rider to help keep the bus clean.
10. The use of profanity on the bus will not be allowed.
11. Students will be picked up and delivered at their regular designated site each day. Written requests from the parent or guardian will be filed with the principal if it becomes necessary for a student to depart a bus other than at his/her regular stop. The principal will authorize the driver to make such a stop. Exceptions may be made if a safety hazard is involved.
12. Buses are provided for transporting students: therefore, large objects such as boxes, recreation equipment, large band instruments, etc., should not be on a bus.
13. Students must refrain from inappropriate display of affection.
14. Assignments to specific buses will be made by school authorities.
15. Students are expected to abide by the Douglas County School System Student Discipline Code.
16. Students shall not possess or use objects such as mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

This also includes the usage of any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications' equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the bus.

**NOTE:** If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, the policy must require a meeting of the parent or guardian and district

officials for the purpose of forming a school bus behavior contract for the student. Contract provisions must provide for appropriate progressive discipline and may include assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement and suspension from riding the bus. School bus contracts can be used for other infractions as well.

#### **NOTICE**

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FACILITIES AND SCHOOL BUSES ARE MONITORED BY VIDEO/AUDIO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT. VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPE MAY BE RELEASED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND FOR OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER**

A program designed to meet the needs of the students who have been removed from the traditional setting due to disciplinary infractions. The program is a blended model of online learning and traditional instructional practices. Students will transition back to their home based school once they have completed their assigned time.

#### Site Information

The Douglas County Success Center is located in the Annex East, 2300 Shoals School Road, Douglasville, GA 30135.

- Allow students to work at their own pace using online, computer-based curriculum
- Employ a caring, highly trained staff to help students achieve their social and academic goals
- Provide students with dual college enrollment
- Challenge students to develop marketable skills in preparation for college and/or the workplace

### **STUDENT DRUG USE**

**DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JCDAC**

#### **ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

Douglas County School System acknowledges the problem of substance abuse in society. We value all our students and believe their use or possession of alcohol and other drugs is harmful to their physical, emotional and mental health and it is also wrong and unlawful. We believe the use of alcohol or other drugs decreases their ability to learn and may create dangerous situations for them, other students, or school system employees. It is our intention to maintain a safe, healthy environment conducive to learning for all students and to protect the reputation of the Douglas County School System. Accordingly, the following policy is set forth. This policy shall apply to all students and compliance with this policy is mandatory as per requirements for the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989.

It shall further be the policy of the Douglas County School System to provide age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol Education and prevention programs, which address the legal,

social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and to provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure in the use of illicit drugs or alcohol for all students in the system. These programs shall provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students.

### **NARCOTICS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND STIMULANT DRUGS**

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, and amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, marijuana, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroids, look-alike drugs, or intoxicants of any kind:

1. on the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours.
2. on the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group.
3. off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event.
4. en route to and from school or school activity on school system buses or chartered buses acquired for school activities.

Compliance with these requirements is mandatory. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician should not be considered a violation of this regulation. All prescription drugs shall be kept in the original container.

### **CONFISCATED ITEMS**

When students bring items to school that violate school rules, those items will be confiscated and kept in the office until picked up by the parent or guardian. Confiscated items must be claimed not later than two (2) weeks after the end of the semester. Unclaimed items will be discarded. Neither the school nor the school system are responsible for the security of confiscated items.

### **INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS**

#### **Interrogations**

The principal of each school, and his/her authorized representatives, have the authority to conduct reasonable interrogations of students in order to properly investigate charges of student misconduct.

#### **Searches and Seizure**

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, student lockers, or student automobiles under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search.

A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

All searches by school employees shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and gender and the nature of the infraction.

#### **Personal Searches**

A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials or contraband. If a pat down search of a student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex and with an adult witness present.

#### **Locker Searches**

Student lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Periodic general inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

#### **Seizure of Illegal Materials**



In the event search of a student's person, his/her personal possessions, vehicle, or locker reveals the student is concealing material, the possession of which is prohibited by federal, state, or local law, such findings shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities so that they may take appropriate action, in addition to any action taken by the school or school district.

### **School Property**

Student lockers, desks, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property, and students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers issued to them by the school.

### **Suggested Procedures**

If a school official has reasonable cause to believe that contraband is present, he or she may institute a search. Although the following procedures for a search are suggested, they are not mandated because the circumstances attendant to the need for each search may vary. The student should ordinarily be required to be present and asked to consent to the search. If after being informed of the basis for the school official's reason to search, the student does not consent, the school official may proceed with the search, contact security, or, if necessary, call law enforcement authorities. Ordinarily, and if circumstances permit, the search of a person or his or her effects should be conducted out of the presence of other students.

### **Use of Canines**

The Administration is authorized to utilize canines whose reliability and accuracy for sniffing out contraband has been established to aid in the search for contraband in school owned property and automobiles parked on school property. The canines must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who will be responsible for the dog's actions. An indication by the dog that contraband is present on school property or an automobile shall be reasonable cause for a further search by school officials.

### **Use of Metal Detectors (Magnetometers)**

Weapons of any nature on school property or at school functions are prohibited by school policy and state law. The presence of weapons is inherently dangerous to all persons in the school setting. When the Administration has reasonable cause to believe that weapons are in the possession of unidentified students, when there has been a pattern of weapons found at school, or when violence involving weapons has occurred at a school, the Administration is authorized to use stationary or mobile metal detectors only upon the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

When a metal detector is being used, students will be allowed to use only the entries designated. If a metal detector activates on a student, the student should be asked to remove metal objects from his or her person and walk through or be scanned again. If, after the removal of other metal objects and a third activation by the metal detector on the student, the student should be taken to a room out of view from the other students where the procedures suggested above for a search would be applicable.

### **Notice**

Students will be provided notice of the Policy concerning search and seizure by having them placed in the student handbook or distributed by supplemental publication. A copy of the Policy will also be posted in the principal's office or another prominent place in each school. If a metal detector is to be used, the additional notices required for its use will be given.

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy the following definitions are applicable:

*"Unauthorized"* is any item dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or

disruptive of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available to students in the Student/Parent Handbook distributed to all students beforehand.

*"Contraband"* is all substances or materials, the presence of which is prohibited by school policy, state law, or federal law, including but not limited to, controlled substances, drugs, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, improperly used inhalants such as glue or aerosol paint, guns, knives, weapons, and incendiary devices.

*"Reasonable cause"* or *"reasonable suspicion"* is the standard for a search on school property or at school related events which is based on the school official's specific reasonable inferences which he or she is entitled to draw from the facts in light of the school official's experience. Specific reasonable inferences may be drawn from instances including but not limited to, a tip from a reliable student, suspicious behavior which suggests that contraband is present, a smell indicating the presence of the contraband or a bulge in a pocket, etc. Reasonable cause or reasonable suspicion should not be based on mere hunch.

### **Application of Policy**

Students are entitled to the guarantees of the Fourth Amendment, and they are subject to reasonable searches and seizures. School officials are empowered to conduct reasonable searches of students and school property when there is reasonable cause to believe that students may be in possession of drugs, weapons, alcohol, and other materials ("contraband") in violation of school policy, state law, or federal law. Students who bring contraband on to school grounds may be searched in order to secure the school environment so learning can take place and to protect other students from any potentially harmful effects stemming from the contraband. School property shall remain under the control of school officials, and shall be subject to search. The Administration may utilize canines and metal detectors (magnetometers) as provided in the Policy. This policy shall not be interpreted to hinder or preclude law enforcement's lawful discharge of its duties.

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Each middle and high school has at least one uniformed law enforcement officer serving as School Resource Officer (SRO). The purpose of the SRO Program is to provide a resource and support for students, teachers and staff in any and all areas that relate to law and law enforcement matters. This support includes providing classroom instruction, group or individual counseling, protecting persons and property on school campuses, gathering information concerning criminal activity involving students on or off school property, investigating crimes which occur on school grounds, and enforcing laws and ordinances of Douglas County and the State of Georgia.

In a continuing effort to make our school system safe, a Rewards Program has been instituted to help rid our schools of gang, drugs, and weapons. The Reward Program is a financially based incentive program sponsored by the Douglas County Board of Education, the Douglasville Police Department, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office which rewards a student with \$100.00 cash if they provide information anonymously to the school administration or School Resource Officer and the information that was provided leads to a felony drug, gang, or weapons arrest.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

The Douglas County School District, its officers, officials and employees are not responsible for injury or other loss which might occur to a student or a student's property while traveling on approved school field trips or activities.

School transportation is provided in conformance with pupil transportation policies and procedures established by the State Board of Education and the Douglas County Board of Education.

The school system operates over 328 buses serving more than 500 routes and covering more than 12,000 miles daily. Most drivers have an elementary school route and either a middle or a high school route. Some drivers, such as our Special Needs Drivers, may serve several different schools in both their morning and afternoon routes.

Transportation is also provided for a wide variety of school-related activities.

Each school bus is equipped with advanced safety devices to help the driver see and protect those riding the bus. These are only mechanical devices. It is important that all who ride a bus know and practice the skills of being a safe rider. A safe rider observes bus conduct rules at all times, thereby reducing the opportunity for injury or accident.

Bus drivers complete an intensive state mandated training program and must pass the road and written test required to secure a commercial driver's license (CDL), with a Passenger and School Bus endorsement

School transportation is a privilege. To maintain this privilege, a student must abide by established bus conduct rules. A pupil's transportation privilege may be suspended or revoked if conduct creates a disruption or safety hazard on the school bus. The principal or his/her designee handles all disciplinary action taken for misconduct on the school bus.

The Douglas County School System has implemented a Discipline Intervention Plan to help ensure a safe and timely ride for students to and from school. In an attempt to be proactive, bus drivers/monitors will use the following interventions as a deterrent to requesting a student to be removed from the bus.

#### **Bus Discipline Intervention Rules**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Seat Change/Ride Guide Written Assignment
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Parent Letter
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – School Office Referral

### **Bus Conduct Rules**

**See Middle School Discipline Code**

**JCDA-R(3)**

#### **Bus Suspension**

A pupil found guilty of certain offenses may be suspended from the bus for a period up to the remainder of the school year.

#### **Student Discipline**

The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The school day begins when the student enters the bus and ends when the student leaves the bus. It is the responsibility of the individual school administration (not the driver) to determine and enforce disciplinary actions and notify the parents.

#### **Student Discipline Procedures**

To protect the safety and well-being of all riders, pupils must follow bus conduct rules. Students who insist on violating the Bus Conduct Rules will be disciplined as follows:

#### **General or Minor Offenses**

Behavior such as chewing gum, talking loudly, bringing food or beverages on the bus, cell phone use, etc. is considered a general or minor offense.

#### **Serious or Major Offenses**

More serious or major offenses and repeated offenses may require immediate attention by the school administration and/or Law Enforcement/School Resource Officer. Examples of 1 offenses include (but are not limited to) weapons, illegal substances, blatant insubordination, assault, threats or intimidating behavior towards another student, bus driver, or bus monitor.

#### **Bus Loading Zones**

Bus loading zones at the schools are restricted to school buses only during the 30 minutes immediately before and after school. Cars in the bus lanes present a serious safety hazard for pupils. To protect pupils, unauthorized vehicles in bus loading zones are subject to ticketing.

#### **Service Provisions**

- Bus service is provided to and from a pupil's home and school. Service to other locations, such as after school daycare/babysitter, is provided only if the destination is located within the student's

assigned school district. Bus service is not provided to or from business locations (other than daycare). No exceptions.

- Students may not be released from the bus to any person at any location other than their designated stop without approval from an administrator or supervisor.
- Bus conduct rules must be obeyed. Failure to do so may result in suspension of bus privileges.
- Parents are responsible for their children going to and from the bus stop and while waiting at the bus stop.
- Written permission from a parent, signed by the principal, is required for a child to ride a bus on which he is not assigned or to leave the bus at a stop other than his assigned stop.
- Pupils must be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time located at <http://webquery.douglas.k12.ga.us/edulog/webquery>. The time posted is an anticipated time. Please be aware that the bus is considered on time if it is within 5 minutes, early or late, of the anticipated time.
- Buses cannot wait for latecomers.
- If a student misses the bus, Douglas County School System Transportation is not responsible for coming back to pick up the student.
- Only authorized persons may board or ride a school bus.
- Glass, items too large to fit in a pupil's lap, weapons, firecrackers, pets, gum, drinks, food or candy, and hazardous materials are not permitted on the bus.
- Electronics are permitted on buses at the discretion of the driver, but earphones/earbuds must be utilized. When earphones/earbuds are used, one ear must remain free at all times so the student may hear any instruction from the driver. Also, earphones/earbuds must be removed when students are loading or unloading the bus.

### **On-Street Bus Service**

Buses are routed along major streets. For a bus to be routed down a street off the trunk route, the following two criteria must be met.

1. A child's walking distance to the nearest bus stop is
  - a. greater than .2 mile or more for elementary school students;
  - b. greater than .3 mile or more for middle or high school students.
2. The street is safe for bus travel and has a safe bus turnaround.
3. When a street is determined to be too dangerous for a student to cross, door side service will be mandated. The decision will be up to the Douglas County School System department of transportation.

### **Bus Stops**

- Drivers are not permitted to deviate from their route without permission from a route supervisor.
- State regulations require bus stops to be spaced at least one-tenth (.1) mile or more apart. Exceptions are allowed only in response to a safety hazard.
- Buses are not permitted to travel on closed or flooded roads. Bus stops served by such a road will be temporarily relocated to the closest safe location. Service will be restored once conditions permit.
- Bus stops on the routes are not always the same as the previous year.
- Buses are not to be routed on private property (this includes most mobile home parks and apartment complexes).
- If a student has no key or objects to disembarking the bus, or if the stop/home looks different than usual, the driver will radio for instructions.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for submitting special requests for permanent drop offs to transportation and the school.

### **Parental Assistance**

Parents can help us by:

- Making sure your child is at the bus stop five minutes early before your scheduled pick-up time located at <http://webquery.douglas.k12.ga.us/edulog/webquery>.
- Review bus safety rules with your child and stress the necessity of observing them.
- Teaching your child to obey the bus driver.
- Cooperating with school officials and school bus drivers regarding appropriate conduct of your child at the bus stop and on the bus.

- Helping your student understand that student behavior on school buses is considered an extension of classroom behavior.
- Educating your children on the rules of school bus safety.
- Reminding your child to walk on the sidewalk, or the shoulder of the road, on the way to the bus stop and not on the traveled portion of the road.
- Reminding your child to wait in a safe place, well off the road, until the bus comes to a stop.
- Students should not move toward the bus until the bus and all traffic have stopped. Students should wait for driver instruction/signal before crossing the road when preparing to board or depart the bus. It is very important to look and wait for instruction/signal – do not expect approaching traffic to stop.
- Periodically remind your child of the importance of mannerly and orderly behavior at the bus stop. Periodically check on students at the bus stop.
- Accompanying very young children to the bus stop and meeting them on their return from school is the responsibility of the parent.

### **SAFE RIDING**

#### **10 Safety Rules for Students**

1. Arrive at your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time.
2. Dress for the weather – umbrella and raincoat for rain; coat and gloves when cold.
3. Never stand or play in the road. Wait for the bus a safe distance from the road.
4. Always use the handrail when boarding or leaving the bus.
5. Remain seated and keep head, hands, and feet inside when the bus is moving. Your seat is designed to protect you in the event of an accident.
6. Never try to reach for anything under or beside a bus. Ask your driver for help.
7. Observe silence when approaching and while stopped for railroad crossings so the driver can hear if a train is coming.
8. Look carefully before crossing the road. Do not assume a car will stop for you – wait to be sure it is stopped before crossing. Watch for your driver's signal before crossing the road.
9. Always cross in front of the bus – NEVER behind it!
10. Talk quietly while on the bus. Do not "horseplay". Your driver must give full attention to driving to ensure your safety.

### **Need Information??**

The Transportation Office is open Monday – Friday from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

- Bus route or schedules, call the school or go to:

<http://webquery.douglas.k12.ga.us/edulog/webquery>.

- A bus service problem or concerns, call the Transportation Office at (770) 651-2400.

### **SEVERE WEATHER / EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS**

The Superintendent is authorized to close schools in cases of emergencies or severe weather. WSB Radio and TV are the stations first notified of emergency announcements for the Douglas County School System.

### **Emergency Suspension of School Activities**

Abnormal conditions sometimes occur which require temporary suspension of school activities. These possible conditions include inclement weather (ice and snow storms); failure of power, gas, or water supply, and breakdown of heating system.

Some situations affect only one school while in other cases several or all Douglas County Schools may be involved. In all instances the safety, welfare, and health of students and employees are the basic factors considered in making a decision as to whether or not to suspend temporarily the normal activities of a school day.

The Superintendent has the responsibility of making decisions on suspension of school activities. If the Superintendent is not available, a person designated by the Superintendent will assume this responsibility. School principals will be notified of such action by the most expedient direct means, either by telephone or personal contact.

## **INTERNET FILTERING REGULATION**

### **1 PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION FORM**

- 1.1 Form only needs to be signed one time and this will follow the student while he or she is in the Douglas County School System.
- 1.2 The Parent/Guardian Authorization Form should be kept in the Media Center for all students.
- 1.3 If the student transfers to another school, the original Authorization Form will be acceptable for the new school.
  - 1.3.1 A copy of the form should be sent with the student's records.
- 1.4 If the parent/guardian wishes to change his or her previous wishes and not allow the student to access the Internet, then the parent/guardian must state that in writing to the school.
  - 1.4.2 If there is a new parent/guardian that has legal custody of the student and a previous parent/guardian signed the Parent/Guardian Authorization Form, then the current parent/guardian's wishes shall be followed. However, these wishes must be properly communicated to the school system in writing by either filing a Parent/Guardian Authorization Form or by writing the school requesting that the student not participate in Internet activity.
  - 1.4.3 Should there be a change in parent or guardian custody of the student and that parent or guardian makes no specific requests, then the wishes of the previous parent or guardian will be observed.

### **2 OBTAINING PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION FORM**

- 2.1 Form is sent to students at the beginning of school.
- 2.2 New students are given the form with other paperwork as they check into a school.
- 2.3 Individual teachers may give the form to the student.

### **3 STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS TO THE COMPUTERS**

- 3.1 All students are provided computer access by default in the Douglas County School System and all computers have access to the Internet. Students should not access the Internet unless a Parent/Guardian Authorization Form has been completed.
- 3.2 Parent/Guardian Authorization Forms will be kept on record at the school.
- 1.3 Process for Removing Student Internet Access
  - 3.3.1 All computers have Internet access in the Douglas County School System. If a parent/guardian requests that a student not have Internet access it will be the responsibility of the teacher to monitor student computer use in order to insure this or the student's access to the computer will have to be removed. If removal of computer access is requested, the Media Specialist or an administrator will place a technology help request for the removal of the student's computer login. This request will verify that the proper written request from the parent or guardian has been recorded and that the school has this letter on file.

- 3.3.2 The Media Specialist should immediately notify the teachers of that student so that they can have other activities for the student during times when the class is accessing the Internet.

#### **4 INTERNET FILTERING**

- 4.1.1 The Douglas County School System filters all Internet content in order to provide safe and appropriate access to this resource. Since no filter can absolutely guarantee that students will not be exposed to objectionable pages from the Internet, the teacher or other staff member adult should monitor Internet activity by all students. If there is a problem with the Internet Filter, Technology Services will notify the schools and the Central Office Administration through e-mail that the filter is temporarily out of service and the issue will be resolved as quickly as possible.

#### **5 WHEN AN UNACCEPTABLE SITE IS ACCESSED**

- 5.1 The student should immediately notify the adult monitor and back out of the site by clicking on the "Back" button on the browser.
- 5.2 If the student has accessed a site that throws up multiple screens, the student should immediately turn off the monitor ask for assistance from an adult.
- 3.3 The adult monitor should remove the students from the monitor and write down the URL to the site so that it can be blocked in the future. The teacher should submit a technology help request that includes the URL as soon as possible so that the site can be blocked.
- 3.4 The adult monitor should get the names of all students who witnessed the site. They should determine whether this action was done purposely or by accident.
- 5.4.1 If the incident took place in an elementary school, the names of the students involved should be given to the school's administrator.
- 5.4.2 If the incident took place in a middle or high school, the students' names should be given to an administrator if the teacher or monitor felt that the access to the inappropriate site was on purpose and was not accessed accidentally, or if deemed necessary for other reasons.
- 5.5 If the incident took place in an elementary school whether by accident or not, the school administrator should then contact the parents of the students involved to warn them what took place.
- 5.6 If the incident took place in a middle or high school, and if it had been determined by that school's administration that this incident was purposely done, the administrator should contact the parents of the students involved.

### **COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**

**DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JCE**

#### **Resolution of School Related Concerns**

It is the belief of the Douglas County Board of Education that students have both the right and responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the faculty and administration. Therefore, students shall be assured the opportunity for an orderly presentation and review of concerns.

For the discussion and consideration of a concern or grievance, any student or group of students should request a meeting time and place which will not interfere with regular scheduled classes or school related activities. The faculty and administration shall make an honest effort to resolve student grievances as quickly as possible and at the most immediate level of supervision.

#### **STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JCE-R(1)**

### **COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**

#### **Resolution of School Related Concerns**

The Board realizes that there may be conditions in the school system that need improvement and that students should have some means to effectively express their concerns which will be considered and handled with fairness.

Students' concerns and grievances shall be resolved through orderly processes and at the lowest possible level.

Concerns and grievances shall be approached in the following manner:

1. the opportunity shall be provided any student or parents, to discuss with the teacher a decision or situation which is considered unjust or unfair;
2. if the matter remains unresolved, the student, parents, or teacher, may bring the matter to the principal's attention for consideration;
3. if the matter remains unresolved, it may be brought to the Superintendent or a designee for consideration;

### **Complaints and Grievances for Students Eligible Under Section 504**

Any student or parent or guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system's central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or at any of the school offices.

### **HARASSMENT**

### **DESCRIPTION CODE : JCAC**

It is the policy of this school district to prohibit any act of harassment of students or employees by other students or employees based upon race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any such act by a student or employee shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including the possible termination of employment or suspension or expulsion of the student.

Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, demands or physical contact which creates a hostile environment for a student or employee. There may be other speech or conduct which employees or students experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment which should also be reported; harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by this policy.

### **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING**

### **DESCRIPTION CODE: JGI-R(1)**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. It is intended that the mandatory reporting of such cases will cause the protective services of the state to be brought to bear on the situation in an effort to prevent further abuses, to protect and enhance the welfare of these children, and to preserve family life wherever possible. This policy shall be liberally construed so as to carry out the purposes thereof.

As used in this policy, the term:

- (1) "Abused" means subjected to child abuse.
- (2) "Child" means any person under 18 years of age.
- (3) "Child Abuse" means:

(A) Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means; provided, however, physical forms of discipline may be used as long as there is no physical injury



to the child;

(B) Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent or caretaker thereof;

(C) Sexual abuse or unwelcome touching of a child; or

(D) Sexual exploitation of a child.

(E) However, no child who in good faith is being treated solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner thereof shall, for that reason alone, be considered to be an "abused" child. Any school employee, including volunteers, having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made to the principal or the principal's designee. A staff member who makes a report to the principal or designee shall be deemed to have fully complied with the policy. The principal/principal's designee shall make a phone call or email immediately to DFACS, but in no case later than twenty-four hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused and an email to the appropriate police authority. Under no circumstances may the principal or designee to whom a notification of child abuse has been made "exercise any control, restraint, modification or make other change to the information provided by the reporter, although each of the aforementioned persons (mandated reporters) may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide additional, relevant, and necessary information when making the report". The official referral shall be documented on the appropriate reporting form (Georgia Child Protective Services Mandated Reporter Form - JGI-E1). Any school employee who reports or causes a report to be made under s policy shall in so doing be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided such reports are made in good faith. The principal shall be notified of all referrals on child abuse/neglect. The school superintendent and principal will receive a copy of the written referral.

In a reported case of child abuse, the student may be interviewed by a law enforcement officer or other appropriate governmental investigating official without notifying the parent; however, no investigation of child abuse shall be conducted at school without the knowledge of the principal/designee. This investigation may be conducted without the principal/designee being present.

Suspected child abuse which is required to be reported by Georgia law by any person pursuant to this policy shall be reported notwithstanding that the reasonable cause to believe such abuse has occurred or is occurring is based in whole or in part upon any communication to that person which is otherwise made privileged or confidential by law.

Any school system employee, including volunteers, having reasonable cause to believe that a student has been abused by another school system employee shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made to the appropriate agent or agency in accordance with the procedure above. The principal or designee who receives such a report shall immediately notify the direct supervisor of the alleged perpetrator that the report has been made. The supervisor shall immediately notify local law enforcement and DFACS and begin a cooperative investigation with these agencies to determine the facts and whether sufficient grounds exist to warrant a reprimand, termination, suspension, or other adverse personnel action against the employee. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the supervisor shall submit a written report of his or her findings to the Superintendent.

All school personnel, including volunteers, who have contact with students shall receive training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect with annual updates in the form of memoranda, directives or other written information.

Any school employee, including volunteers, required by policy to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, race, color or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Perkins Act of 1998); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students, parents and the general public are hereby notified that the Douglas County Board

of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.

The following individuals have been designated as the employees responsible for coordinating the Board's efforts to implement this nondiscriminatory policy:

Title VI Coordinator:	Associate Superintendent/Student Achievement and Leadership
Title IX Coordinator:	Executive Director/Student Services
ADA Coordinator:	Chief Operating Officer
Section 504 Coordinator:	Executive Director of Special Education

Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 or ADA of the policies and practices of the Board may be addressed to the person listed above at the Douglas County Board of Education, P.O. Box 1077, Douglasville, Georgia 30133, (770) 651-2000; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, Georgia 30323; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Additional information is available in the Douglas County Board of Education Policy Manual. The policy manual may be accessed from the Douglas County Board of Education web site.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**

### **OPPORTUNITIES COMPLAINT PROCEDURE      DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JAA-R(1)**

Complaints made to the Douglas County School System regarding alleged discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or on the basis of handicap, in violation of the Perkins Act of 1998, Title(s) VI and IX, or Section 504/ADA, will be processed in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Any student, employee or other person with a complaint alleging a violation as described above shall promptly notify, in writing or orally, the appropriate coordinator designated below for the school system. If the complaint is oral, the coordinator shall promptly prepare a memo or written statement of the complaint as made by the complainant and shall have the complainant read and sign the memo or statement if it accurately reflects the complaint made.
2. The coordinator shall have fifteen days to gather all information relevant to the complaint made, review the information, determine the facts relating to the complaint, review the action requested by the complainant, and attempt to resolve the complaint with the complainant and any other persons involved. The coordinator shall prepare a written response to the complaint detailing any action to be taken in response to the complaint and the time frame in such action will be taken and copies of this response shall be furnished to the complainant and the Superintendent.
3. If the complaint is not resolved at the conclusion of this fifteen day period or if the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, the complainant shall have the right, within five days of receiving a copy of the written response, to have the complaint referred to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. The Superintendent shall have fifteen days to review the complaint and the response of the coordinator and attempt to resolve the complaint. The Superintendent shall furnish to the complainant a written response setting forth either his approval of the action recommended by the coordinator or the action to be taken by the system in response to the complaint in lieu of that recommended by the coordinator and the time frame in which such action shall be taken.
5. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the response of the Superintendent, then the complainant shall have the right, within fifteen days of the receipt of the written response of the Superintendent, to have the complaint referred to the Board of Education. In order to have the Board review the Superintendent's decision, the complainant must file with the Superintendent a written statement setting forth the reasons he or she disagrees with the response of the Superintendent and the action the complainant is requesting the system to take. The complainant shall also include in the written response a request that the complaint be referred to the Board of Education.
6. Within thirty days of receipt of the written request of the complainant, the superintendent shall present the matter to the Board of Education at its regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The board shall review the original complaint, the response of the coordinator, the response of the Superintendent and the response of the complainant. In addition, the Board may, but is not required to, hear directly from any individuals with knowledge of any relevant facts relating to the complaint.

7. The Board of Education will either uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent or require the system to take some other action in response to the complaint. A copy of the action of the Board will be furnished to the complainant, either as a part of the minutes of the Board of Education or as a separate written statement. The Board shall be the final reviewing authority within the system.

8. The procedure is not intended to deprive any employee of any right they may have to file a grievance pursuant to any policy of the Board of Education, specifically including policy GAE, where appropriate. This policy is not intended to provide an alternative process for resolving evaluation and employment disputes where there already exists a due process procedure mandated by state law or State Department of Education regulations, specifically including, but not limited to, hearings to be conducted pursuant to the Fair Dismissal Act of Georgia, Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-2-940 through 947. The complainant retains at all times the right to contact the Office of Civil Rights with regard to any allegations that the system has violated the statutes described above.

9. This procedure is available to students, employees and the general public through School Board Policy Manual available on the Douglas County School System Website ([www.douglas.k12.ga.us](http://www.douglas.k12.ga.us)) and at the Central Office of the Douglas County Board of Education, P. O. Box 1077, Douglasville, Georgia 30133, (770) 651-2000

Title VI Coordinator:	Associate Superintendent/Student Achievement and Leadership
Title IX Coordinator:	Executive Director/Student Services
ADA Coordinator:	Chief Operating Officer
Section 504 Coordinator:	MTSS / 504 Plan Coordinator

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## **STUDENT RECORDS**

## **DESCRIPTIVE CODE: JR**

Student records shall be defined as all information about students recorded or collected in any format by local school systems or individual schools that may include educational/psychological assessments, school attendance records, personal data, health information, disciplinary actions, and/or academic progress.

Professional staff of the schools will review all records in their immediate keeping to assure that only responsible and documented information is maintained, removing as necessary extraneous or inappropriate information. The person in professional status responsible for maintaining records will be responsible for administering the use of the file in observance of due process and will guarantee that records contain factual, documented information on students. All information contained in any student records not meeting this requirement shall be removed.

Student cumulative records must contain, but are not limited to: identifying data, academic achievement, attendance data, standardized test scores, immunization records, required health screenings. Academic achievement records of individual students of Douglas County Schools shall be maintained for a period of at least 70 years (after the student leaves, transfers or graduates) and the attendance data for a period of at least three years. These shall be housed in a fire-resistant place.

No person or party, except the parents or legal guardians and students over eighteen (18) years of age, shall be permitted to examine or obtain information from the records of students except, (1) by the written consent of the student's parent or lawful guardian specifying records to be released, the reasons for such release, and to whom, and with a copy of the records to be released to the student's parents or lawful guardian and the student if desired by the parents, or (2) in compliance with judicial orders, or pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that parents or lawful guardians of the student are notified of all such orders or subpoenas in advance of the compliance therewith. (Divorce does not end a parent's right to review the child's records unless the courts specify that such review or contact is prohibited.)

The records of the school concerning an individual student shall be used for appropriate educational purposes and for the promotion of the student's welfare. Student records shall be made available to an outside person or agency only under the following conditions:

A "Release of Information" request is received by school officials duly signed by a parent of the student, or legal guardian, or by a student of legal age (18 years or older). File completed request in student cumulative record.

A "Request for Information" request is received by school officials in the form of specific request from the court or a court order. Only information requested shall be provided and the parents and/or students shall be notified of all such orders in advance of compliance with the order.

A "Request for Transcript" is received by school officials from a receiving school including schools operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice. Only information such as grades, attendance records, discipline records for students in grades 7-12, and group test scores should be included. Psychological reports and health reports cannot be released without having been specified in the signed "Release of Information" request as per #1 above. Schools must comply with appropriate requests for transcripts within 10 calendar days.

In instances where requests for information might come from an outside agency such as the VA, working for the welfare of a student, the agency will file a release from the student or parent or guardian. In lieu of such a release, a form signed by a judge (not necessarily in the form of a subpoena) would suffice, provided the parent, student, or guardian is notified that such a form has been received.

In instances where requests for information come from the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Secretary of Education, an administrative head of an education agency or state educational authorities in connection with the audit and evaluation of federal programs or for the enforcement of federal legal requirements which relate to such programs, only that data which would not permit the personal identification of such students or their parents shall be released. This does not prevent federal officials, administrative head of an agency or state educational authorities to audit and evaluate provided confidentiality is maintained and information later destroyed. The only exception shall be when the collections of personally identifiable data is specifically authorized by federal law.

Schools and the school system shall not withhold any student record because of nonpayment of fees.

Schools or the school system receiving the transferred record shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students in grades 7 through 12 that the record has been received.

Student records shall be available to parents, legal guardians, and students of legal age, upon their written request. This does not include records that have the names of several students. Individual parents, guardians, or students may also inspect these records upon request.

## **FAMILY                      EDUCATIONAL                      AND                      PRIVACY                      RIGHTS**

It is the policy of the Douglas County Board of Education that accurate and complete student academic and discipline records shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the schools of this school district. Confidentiality of student records shall be preserved in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Access to education records is provided to parents, guardians, and eligible students (eligible students are defined as those 18 years of age or older, those enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions, or those younger than 18 who are emancipated), to professional educators with legitimate educational interests, to those federal or state officials whose access is authorized in connection with an audit or evaluation of federal or state-supported education programs or with the enforcement of or compliance with federal legal requirements related to those programs, and to courts and others pursuant to subpoenas or similar documents.

The superintendent shall direct the publication of procedures through which parents or eligible students may request the correction of errors in student records. The superintendent shall ensure that each principal will develop a means to notify, on an annual basis, students and parents/guardians of their rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act either by letter or through a student handbook distributed to each student in the school.

The Douglas County Board of Education designates certain information from student education records as "directory information," as is specified in this paragraph. Unless a parent/guardian or eligible student makes a timely request to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled that such information not be designated directory information as to that individual student, such information will not be considered confidential and may be disclosed upon written request.

Directory information is as follows:

1. Student's name.
2. Student's date of birth.
3. Student's participation in official school clubs and sports.
4. Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team.
5. Dates of attendance at the Douglas County School System schools.
6. Awards received during the time enrolled in the Douglas County School System.
7. Photographs
8. Program of Study
9. School System Security Video/Audio Tapes except when tapes are used in a disciplinary or criminal matter.

In addition to the directory information listed above the federal No Child Left Behind Act provides that the school district shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary students addresses and telephone listings.

Student records will be forwarded without further notice to parents/guardians or eligible students to any school within or outside the Douglas County School System, upon request of the school where a student is enrolling.

Any person whose parental rights have not been revoked by court order and any guardian, or any individual acting as a parent/guardian in the absence of a parent/guardian, may inspect the education record of his/her child during the regular business hours, Monday through Friday, while school is in session.

Generally, a parent/guardian will be permitted to obtain a copy of education records of his/her child upon reasonable notice and payment of reasonable copying costs.

Education records are maintained at the school where the student is enrolled and are in the custody of the principal or his/her designee.

Personally identifiable information will not be released by the school system from an education record without prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student except under the following circumstances:

1. Disclosures will be made to school administrators, teachers, or other professionals employed or associated by the school system who have some role in evaluating or educating the student.
2. Records will be sent to a school where the student has enrolled upon request of that school.
3. Disclosures will be made to federal or state officials in connection with the audit of educational programs.
4. Disclosures will be made in connection with financial aid applications of the student to determine the eligibility for and amount of aid as well as enforcement of the terms and conditions of financial aid.
5. Disclosures will be made to comply with state law, Internal Revenue Service laws and regulations, judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas. A reasonable effort will be made to notify parents/guardians or eligible students in advance of such disclosures.
6. Disclosures will be made to organizations conducting studies on behalf of or by educational institutions specified in 34 C.F.R. § 99, 31(a) (6) and (7).
7. Disclosure may be made to accrediting institutions to carry out their accrediting function.
8. Disclosures will be made in connection with a health or safety emergency.
9. Information the Board of Education has designated "directory information" may be disclosed upon written request unless a parent/guardian or eligible student objects in writing to the principal of the school where his/her child is enrolled within a reasonable time after receipt of the notice as contained in the student handbook. Directory information about former students will

be disclosed upon request.

Each records custodian in the Douglas County School System shall maintain as part of each student's file a log of those persons to whom access to the educational records has been provided.

A parent/guardian or eligible student who believes the student's record contains an error may request its correction by submitting a written explanation of the error and the basis for believing it to be in error to the principal or his/her designee, who shall investigate and determine whether or not to amend the record. If the matter cannot be resolved, a parent/guardian or eligible student may request a hearing pursuant to federal regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.21-99.22 as well as applicable state regulations. If the hearing results in a determination that the record contained erroneous information, it shall be corrected and the parent/guardian or eligible student shall be informed in writing of the correction; if the information contained in the record is determined not to be erroneous, the parent/guardian or eligible student may place a statement in the record commenting upon the contested information and stating the basis for disagreement. The statement shall thereafter be disclosed whenever the portion to which it relates is disclosed.

### **PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)**

#### **Definition of Terms Used in PPRA**

*"Instructional Material"* - Instructional material that is provided to a student, regardless of format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as material accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

*"Invasive Physical Examination"* - Any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

*"Personal Information"* - Individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name; (2) home address; (3) telephone number; or (4) social security number.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.

A parent of a student may, upon request, inspect any survey created by a third party containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8) above before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student and may choose to opt the student out of participation in the survey. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for: (1) granting a request by a parent for reasonable access to such survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received, and (2) making arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of the administration or distribution of a survey to a student containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8). The requirements of PPRA do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A parent of a student may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for granting a

request by a parent for reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Parents shall be notified prior to the administration of physical examinations or screenings that the school may administer to students. This notice shall offer the parent the opportunity to opt the student out of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is (1) required as a condition of attendance; (2) administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and (3) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

The parent of a student shall be notified prior to the commencement of activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose). Such notice shall offer the parent the opportunity to inspect, upon request, any instrument used in the collection of such information before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student and to opt the student out of such activities. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that: (1) make arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of such collection, disclosure, or use, and (2) grant a request by a parent for reasonable access to such instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

### Written SEA Complaint Procedures

The Douglas County school system will provide free of charge to parents of students, and to appropriate private school officials or representatives, adequate information about the State Department of Georgia's written complaint procedures for resolving issues of violation(s) of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to Title I Programs. Requests can be made by calling (770) 651-2001.

### English Learner's (EL's)

Douglas County Schools will inform parents through regular meetings of how they can be involved in their child's education in order for their child to obtain English proficiency and high achievement in core academic subjects or meeting state standards.

### English Learner's (EL's)

The Douglas County School System will annually (not later than 30 days from the beginning of the school year or within the students first 2 weeks of enrollment) inform parents of their child's identification for participation in a language instruction educational program under Title III of the ESEA of: reasons for identification, level of English proficiency, methods of instruction, how the program will help the child, and other information. Further, the school will inform parents of a child with a disability how that program is going to help them meet the goals in their IEP.

The Douglas County School System will notify parents if their Limited English Proficiency Child has not made progress on the Annual Measurable Objectives, not later than thirty days after the test results are received.

### McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act

The Douglas County School System will make available to eligible students services through the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act. Students who are living in any of the following situations may qualify for these services:

- living in a shelter
- living with more than one family in a dwelling
- living in a motel, car or campsite
- living with friends or family (other than parent)
- displaced by Hurricane Katrina

Anyone who thinks that their child may be eligible for services should contact the Homeless Outreach Facilitator at (770) 651-2098.

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

## **Parent Notification - Right to Know About Teacher Qualifications**

**Parents you may request the following information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s).**

- Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's qualification, please contact your child's school principal.

## **Parent Notification - Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals**

Date: August 7, 2019

Dear Parents:

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, the Douglas County School System would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher:
  - o has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - o is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - o is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/ or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the principal at your child's school.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under guidance from the 34 C.F.R. part 75.525, the district follows the requirements concerning the conflict of interest policy. According to the policy, "a grantee may not permit a person to participate in an administrative decision regarding a project if (1) the decision is likely to benefit that person or a member of his or her immediate family; and (2) the person: (i) is a public official; or (ii) has a family or business relationship with the grantee." A grantee may not permit any person participating in the project to use his or her position for a purpose that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by a desire for a private financial gain for that person or for others (Source 34. C.F.R. § 75.524).

## **WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND CORRUPTION**

The Douglas County School District addresses waste, fraud, abuse and corruption through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators. Annually, all employees are required to review the most recent version of the Code of Ethics for Educators.

Board Policy states is part that it is the policy of the Douglas County Board of Education that Douglas



County School District employees abide by all federal, state and local laws and uphold professional standards for behavior as adopted in the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators. To report waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption involving personnel, allegations should be submitted to the Executive Director of Human Resources. Any other alleged violations involving waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption related to federal funds should be reported to the Title I Director.

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS**

The General Assembly of Georgia has charged the Professional Practices Commission, the body responsible for enforcing the Professional Teaching Practices Act, with the duty of adopting a code of professional ethics for educators, which represents the standards of conduct generally accepted by the education profession in this state. This code is established by the Professional Practices Commission to discharge that duty. This Code is intended to set forth the conduct that is related to the educator's performance of professional responsibilities that is considered to be proper ethical behavior, as well as defining that conduct which is considered by the education profession to be unethical and justifying disciplinary sanction. It is the intent of this Code: (1) to protect the health, safety and general welfare of students and educators within the State of Georgia; (2) to assure the citizens of the state that the education profession is accountable for acts of unprofessional conduct of its members; and (3) to define and provide notice to educators within the State of Georgia of acts of unprofessional conduct for which they are accountable.

A copy of this code is available in the administrative office and may be reviewed upon request.

# Student Handbook Signature Page

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Homeroom

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Parent/Student Handbook contains valuable information for you and your student to ensure success in the school environment. The handbook is located on the Douglas County School System Website. If you desire a copy you may request it from your school. Success is dependent upon mutual respect and clear understanding of rights and responsibilities. Please read carefully each statement below and sign each of the 4 blocks on the appropriate line and return to your school.

## **Block 1** **Handbook/Internet Use**

I have read Board policy IFBG and regulation IFBG-R (1): Internet Acceptable Use, IFBG-E (1) Computer Assisted Instruction and IFBG-E (2) Permission to Display Photograph or Work as posted on the DCSS web site in the Policy Manual. I understand that DCSS will use multiple software programs to assist with instruction. The district carefully reviews and negotiates with each vendor to limit and protect information that is shared and to insure that it is only used to assist with the education of the child. By signing below, I agree that data about my student will be shared with the software vendors approved by the district. If I choose not to sign this form then my student will be provided alternate assignments and will have limited access to the district's technology.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

## **Block 2** **Directory Information**

I understand that certain information (name, date of birth, participation in clubs and sports, awards, photographs, etc.) is considered Directory Information and may be released to the media, colleges and universities, Georgia Financial Aid Commission, the military and other agencies. Check your choice and then sign.

- ☐ I grant permission for the release of Directory Information.  
☐ I grant permission for the release of Directory Information to all groups except the military.  
☐ I refuse permission for the release of any Directory Information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

## **Block 3** **Attendance**

I have received a copy of the Attendance Policy and understand that I can be charged with a misdemeanor if my student obtains the sixth (6) unexcused absence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian signature

## **Block 4** **Clubs**

I acknowledge that all clubs and organizations with related information are listed on school's handbook website and have been made available for me to review. I understand that any new clubs or organizations formed during the school year will be required to send home information and I must grant permission for my student to participate. I understand that if I wish to "opt-out" my student from participation I may do so by listing the club or organization that I do not grant permission for my student to participate in on this page.

(My student does **not** have permission to participate in the following clubs or organizations)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

## **Block 5**

*By providing telephone numbers and signing below, I grant express consent for the school system to contact me using an automatic dialing system to provide information about my child and the school and/or system. I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the school with any changes to my telephone information and I will indemnify and hold harmless the school and the school system from and against any claims, damages, or causes of action arising from the school system's use of the telephone contact information I have provided to the school.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary #