

# **BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOLS**



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## **HANDBOOK AND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

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**2019-2020**

Butler County Board of Education  
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Greenville, AL 36037  
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**BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOLS  
DIRECTORY**

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Approximate Enrollment</u>
Georgiana School 866 Highway 31 South Georgiana, AL 36033 Telephone: 334-376-9130	K –12	377
Greenville High School 100 Tiger Drive Greenville, AL 36037 Telephone: 334-382-2608	9 –12	600
Greenville Middle School 300 Overlook Road Greenville, AL 36037 Telephone: 334-382-3450	5 – 8	667
Greenville Elementary School 102 Butler Circle Greenville, AL 36037 Telephone: 334-382-7614	3 – 4	314
McKenzie School P. O. Box 158 McKenzie, AL 36456 Telephone: 334-374-2711	K - 12	419
W. O. Parmer Elementary School 100 Butler Circle Greenville, AL 36037 Telephone: 334-382-8720	K - 2	474

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# **CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

## **VISION**

*“Boldly Committed to Student Success.”*

## **MISSION**

Our mission is to enable every student to graduate college and career ready and competitive in a global economy. We will accomplish this mission by providing a rigorous education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Butler County Board of Education recognizes fully the constitutional rights of students enrolled in its schools. The Board recognizes equally, however, its obligation to establish policy related to student behavior and discipline which assures that an atmosphere conducive to quality teaching and learning will be maintained within every school serving Butler County.

The Board believes that the kind of discipline preferable in a democratic society is that typified by self-discipline. It considers self-discipline as a learning process whereby the individual progressively learns to develop habits of self-control and recognizes his/her own responsibilities to society. Behavior and discipline policies shall, therefore, demonstrate recognition of individual need to maintain a proper atmosphere for learning within each school.

## **SCHOOL SAFETY STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

The safety of all students, faculty, staff, parents, and visitors of Butler County School System is a top priority. In order to ensure that adequate measures are taken to fulfill this concern, a comprehensive plan has been developed for each school. The roles of local emergency agencies, school officials, faculty and staff members, as well as support services have been identified in each plan as a means of ensuring effective communication and response to carry out procedures for specific incidents.

## **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Butler County Board of Education that no person will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin/ethnic group, sexual orientation or disability.

## **EQUITY COORDINATORS**

In accordance with the provisions of the regulations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Butler County Board of Education has adopted a grievance procedure and appointed responsible coordinators. The coordinators may be contacted at the system Central Office, 211 School Highlands Road, Greenville, AL 36037.

## **FERPA DIRECTORY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE NOTICE**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Butler County Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from educational records. However, Butler County Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent. Directory information is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released.

If a parent/guardian does not want the Butler County Schools to disclose "directory information" from their child's education records without prior written consent, a FERPA Directory Information Opt-Out Form is available in the front office of each school. Due to the significance of opting out of directory information disclosure, this form must be completed by the parent/guardian at the school.

## **SCHOOL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

The Superintendent of Education has designated the Administrative Assistant for System Operations, as the school system law enforcement unit. All disciplinary records shall be maintained with the law enforcement unit. Video tapes from school bus or school security cameras are law enforcement unit records. Records related and maintained by the law enforcement unit are for a law enforcement purpose. Law enforcement records are not education records as defined by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION (GE) OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

In the Butler County School System, gifted students may be found within any race, ethnicity, gender, economic class, or nationality. In addition, some students with disabilities may be found to be gifted. The Butler County Board of Education shall prohibit discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to participation in the Gifted Education Program.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION**

The Alabama State Department of Education defines gifted students as those who perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program (general education). Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

### **Student Referral**

A student may be referred for consideration for gifted services by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. Additionally, all second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals.

### **Basic Eligibility Criteria**

For each student referred, information is gathered in the following three areas:

*Aptitude* – Aptitude is assessed through an individual or group test of intelligence or creativity.

*Characteristics* - A behavior rating scale designed to assess gifted behaviors is completed by a classroom teacher.

*Performance* – At least three indicators of performance at a gifted level must be submitted. These may include, but are not limited to, achievement test scores, grades, products, work samples, and/or portfolios.

The scores from the assessments/items used are entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

### **Referral Contact**

For more information or to discuss making a referral, contact the Special Education Services Coordinator at the Central Office.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The Butler County Board of Education recognizes the value of all extracurricular activities as they relate to the total education of students. The Butler County Board of Education also recognizes and supports high academic standards and the necessity of developing a framework to annually assess each student involved in extracurricular activities and his/her

progress toward graduating from high school on schedule with his/her class. This Board of Education also recognizes that Cohort 2014 and subsequent classes will be required by the State Board of Education resolution and the *Alabama Administrative Code* to earn a minimum of 24 credits in Grades 9-12, with four (4) credits each in science, mathematics, social studies, and English. The Butler County Board of Education encourages students to be successful on State Assessments and to graduate within four years. These should be priorities over participation in extracurricular activities and athletics.

Extracurricular activities associated with athletics are defined as those recognized and sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, and other extracurricular activities are defined as those that are sanctioned by a public school which are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course(s). Regular curricular activities are defined as those that are required for satisfactory course completion. School sponsors are required to submit a request for each curricular activity that occurs outside the regular school day and/or school to the principal, superintendent, and the Butler County Board of Education for approval. Each request for full participation by all students, regardless of academic standing, in a curricular activity shall be granted if the principal, superintendent, and the Board of Education approve participation in the activity as an extension of a course(s) requirement(s) and it is an event sanctioned by a state/national subject matter association.

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Clubs and organizations will be organized only with the advice and approval of the administration. When it is determined that formation of a club or organization is in the best interest of the students of Butler County Schools, a meeting time and place and a faculty advisor will be provided. In order for a club to become or remain active, the club must have definite goals, objectives, and activities. A copy of the constitution and bylaws must be on file in the principal's office. Continuance of a club/organization requires annual administrative approval.

### **DUE PROCESS**

It is the policy of the Butler County Board of Education to adhere to due process when carrying out the procedures contained within the Code of Student Conduct handbook. Furthermore, the Board of Education and the educational staff employed by the Board will comply with the elements of due process. It will be the responsibility of the school principals to familiarize their staffs with the due process procedures and to

provide each staff member and each student with a copy of this handbook.

This handbook has been published with the following concepts in mind:

1. School rules must be clearly stated and related to the educational purposes of the school.
2. School rules must be fair and specific enough for students to know what they may and may not do.
3. Students, parents, and guardians must be informed of the rules affecting behavior and discipline.
4. When disciplinary action is involved, school personnel and students must comply with required procedures.

The consensus of the Butler County Board of Education is that the regulations in this handbook deal with a matter of legitimate interest with the intent of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of students and insuring the efficient operation of the schools.

### **RIGHT OF STUDENT APPEAL**

Students and/or parent(s) have the right to appeal decisions of the school principal regarding disciplinary action that result in long term suspension (10 continuous days), Alternative Center placement, or a recommendation for expulsion. The student and/or parent(s) desiring to appeal such decision shall, within five (5) school days of notification of disciplinary action by the principal, request in writing a hearing with the superintendent of education. The request shall include a written statement setting out the reasons for the discipline and the action taken by the principal. The appeal process does not postpone any disciplinary action taken by the school administrator.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall have five (5) school days following receipt of the written contact to hold a hearing on the matter. This hearing shall be attended by the student, parent(s) and school administrator(s). Both parties have the right to call witnesses and present evidence. The superintendent shall notify the student and parent(s) of his/her decision within five (5) school days following the hearing.

After receiving the decision of the superintendent, the student and/or parent(s) shall have five (5) school days in which to appeal the superintendent's decision to the School Board. The Board shall schedule a hearing on the appeal at the next regular Board meeting following receipt of the request. However, the Board may call a special meeting to hear such appeal if circumstances warrant. The Board shall have five (5)

school days following the conclusion of the hearing in which to mail to the parent(s) notification of the action taken. The decision of the Board is final.

### **JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Students enrolled in the Butler County School System are subjected to the policies of the Butler County Board of Education and to the rules and regulations of the schools. This authority applies to all school-sponsored activities including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Transportation on school buses
- Field trips
- Club or organization meetings
- School-sponsored events
- School groups representing the school system in educational events

All school rules and regulations pertain to automobiles driven or parked on school property. Any motor vehicle parked on school property can be searched by school authorities if reasonable cause is given. School officials can have any vehicle towed from campus if the owner or student driver refuses to remove it from campus when requested.

### **ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND TARDY POLICY**

The internal hearing officer is charged by the Board to determine appropriate sanctions to be taken against students and parents. The school attendance officer will provide additional support to ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

TRUANCY (Unexcused Absence)

#### *TRUANCY DEFINITION*

*(Alabama State Board of Education, 2004)*

The parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child officially enrolled in Alabama public schools (K-12) shall explain in writing the cause of any and every absence of the child no later than three (3) school days following return to school. A maximum of three absences per semester will be excused per parent note(s).

- One parent note may cover a one day absence as well as absences for an illness/injury for up to 3 consecutive days.
- Beginning with the fourth absence, an excuse from a physician must be submitted or prior permission from the principal must be given in order for the absence(s) to be excused. A failure to furnish such explanation

shall be evidence of the child being truant each day he/she is absent.

- The child shall also be deemed truant for any absence determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual.
- Seven unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court. The Interagency Committee on Youth Truancy Task Force recommendations known as the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program timeline for reporting truancy were used to define the truancy status of students in the Butler County School System.

A suspension will be counted as an excused absence. Credit and/or passing to the next grade may be withheld from truant students who have eight (8) or more unexcused absences within a semester. The principal/attendance committee will determine if credit will be denied based on truancy. If credit is denied or the student is retained as a result of truancy, the parent/guardian may appeal.

Truant students will be managed according to the procedure outlined below:

*TRUANCY OCCURRENCE #1:*

- Parent/guardian shall be notified via school telephone messaging service by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the unexcused absence occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules.

*TRUANCY OCCURRENCE #2:*

- Parent/guardian shall be notified via school telephone messaging service by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the unexcused absence occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules.
- The parent, guardian, or person having control of the child shall attend a school or phone conference with the school principal or his/her designee.

*TRUANCY OCCURRENCE #3:*

- Parent/guardian shall be notified via school telephone messaging service by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the unexcused absence

occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules.

- Parent/guardian shall be notified in writing by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the third unexcused absence occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules and notification that the parent, guardian, or person having control of the child is required to attend the School Level Early Warning Meeting with the school principal/designee.

#### *TRUANCY OCCURRENCES #4-7*

- Parent/guardian shall be notified via school telephone messaging service by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the unexcused absence occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules and notification that the parent, guardian, or person having control of the child is required to attend the Early Warning Program provided by the Butler County School System & Butler County Juvenile Court.
- Failure to attend the Early Warning Program will result in the filing of a complaint/petition against the parent, guardian, or person having control of the child under Code of Alabama (1975), §16-28-12(c) (failure to cooperate), or a truancy against the child, whichever is appropriate.
- School principal or his/her designee will make routine attempts to contact the student's parent, guardian, or person having control of the student to develop an action plan to prevent further truancy.

#### *TRUANCY OCCURRENCES #8 OR MORE*

- Parent/guardian shall be notified via school telephone messaging service by the school principal or his/her designee when (date) the unexcused absence occurred. This communication will also emphasize/encourage compliance with school attendance rules.
- School principal or his/her designee will make routine attempts to contact the student's parent, guardian, or person having control of the student to develop an action plan to prevent further truancy.
- Charges will be filed against the parent, guardian, or person having control of the child under the Code of

Alabama (1975), §16-28-12(c) (failure to cooperate), or a truancy against the child, whichever is appropriate.

- The superintendent or his/her designee will notify the Department of Public Safety regarding students who are 16 to 19 years of age with more than 10 consecutive or 15 cumulative days of unexcused absences during a single semester.

### **Child Under Probation**

The school attendance officer should be notified by the juvenile probation officer of all children in the school system under probation supervision by the juvenile court as consistent with state statute, Code of Alabama (1975), §12-15-100 and 105.

When a child under probation is truant, the school attendance officer should immediately notify the juvenile probation officer.

### **Tardies, Late Check-ins, and Early Check-outs**

An Excused Tardy, Late Check-in or Early Check-out includes:

- Documented illness or injury
- Bereavement/family funeral
- Late school bus arrival
- Extraordinary family circumstances (excused at the discretion of the principal)

An Unexcused Tardy, Late Check-in or Early Check-out is not covered by the aforementioned definition. Examples of an unexcused tardies, late check-ins, or early check-outs may include, but may not be limited to:

- Repetitive or chronic tardiness, late check-ins or early check-outs due to illness or injury not documented by a doctor or other medical professional
- Non-emergency family situations

Excessive tardies, late check-ins and/or early check-outs (total incidents will be combined) will result in the following:

- Tardies, late check-ins and/or early check-outs will be treated as a Class I offense. Subsequent Class I offenses may be treated as a Class II offense.
- Credit and/or passing to the next grade may be withheld from students who have eight (8) or more occurrences within a semester.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

All students of the Butler County School System are charged with the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to good citizenship. Student conduct shall be founded on the basic concept of respect and consideration for the rights of others.

The Code of Conduct is in effect during the time a student is transported under the sponsorship of the school system, during the time that he/she is attending school, or is a participant in a school sponsored event. The pupil shall be under the control and supervision of the principal or the teacher in charge of the school or any other member of the instructional staff and/or the bus driver as assigned. Reasonable attempts will be made by administration to contact a parent/guardian before the pupil is removed from a school-sponsored activity, after school hours, due to unacceptable behavior.

This Code of Student Conduct is applicable to special education students except as amended by a child's IEP or other applicable rules and regulations under federal or state law.

## **FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

### **DETENTION**

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to assign students to a designated area at the beginning/end of the regular school day or during break for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent is responsible for providing transportation in these cases.

A reasonable attempt will be made to notify elementary and middle school parent(s) prior to the assignment of a student to detention. High school students will be notified prior to detention and will be responsible for parental notification. Detention shall be limited to sixty (60) minutes per day.

### **SCHOOL BUS SUSPENSION**

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student, will be for a specified period of time. The parent(s) will be notified of the suspension from the bus.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Board shall allow reasonable corporal punishment only after other means of discipline have failed to produce desirable results. If corporal punishment is required, it shall be

administered only by a ***certified employee*** in the presence of a school ***administrator*** who has been informed beforehand of the reasons for the punishment. At no time shall corporal punishment be administered in the presence of another student. Parents who object to corporal punishment as a method of discipline shall advise the school administrator in writing of the objection; however, the school administrator has the authority to determine appropriate discipline [Alabama Code Section 16-28A-1: U.S. Constitutional case law as supported by *Ingram v Wright* (1977) authorizes the use of corporal punishment by school officials]. In those schools without assistant principals, the principal shall appoint a designee(s) who may administer/witness such punishment in his/her absence.

In administering corporal punishment, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:

1. The employee will use a Board issued paddle.
2. The certified employee administering the corporal punishment must attempt to make telephone contact with the child's parent/guardian in advance of administering the corporal punishment.
3. The employee will provide the following in advance of administering corporal punishment:
  - a. Notice of charges
  - b. An opportunity for the student to explain guilt/innocence
  - c. Notice of the number of licks to be administered (at no time more than three (3))
4. All corporal punishment will be administered only by a certified employee in the presence of a school administrator who has been informed beforehand of the reasons for the punishment
5. All corporal punishment events will be recorded into INOW.
6. School employees who have administered corporal punishment shall provide the child's parents or legal guardians a written explanation of the reason(s) for the punishment and the name of the school administrator who was present as a witness.

## **SUSPENSION**

Suspension is defined as the temporary removal of a student from school. Students who are suspended may not attend or participate in school related activities until reinstated on the day following the suspension. The authority to suspend a student from school rests entirely with the principal/designee of each school. Each suspension should be for a specified number of school days, not to exceed ten (10) consecutive school days. Any deviation from said pattern would require

authorization from the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. Tests and assignments missed due to suspension shall be made up within 5 school days. It is the responsibility of the student to get assignments and request to make up tests. All state and federal regulations related to discipline of students with disabilities will be followed.

### **EXPULSION**

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from a school for violation of school rules or regulations. The authority to permanently expel a student is retained by the Board of Education, which alone can approve such an action. A student who is expelled loses the privilege to attend extracurricular activities.

Students who are expelled must meet the following requirements before they can be reinstated.

1. Complete 40 hours of community service
2. A letter from the parent requesting reinstatement
3. A letter from the student stating that he/she is remorseful and has learned a lesson
4. Drug test results if the student was involved in an incident involving drugs

In certain situations, students may have other requirements such as counseling for the student or for the student and parent depending on the situation. The student will not be allowed to re-enter school until all of the prescribed items are completed. A central office staff member will be assigned to the student to periodically verify that the student is making adequate progress on the readmission requirements during the expulsion period. If the parent/child does not complete the required items, the parent will be reported to the District Judge for their child being truant.

Prior to re-admittance, any student expelled from school must have a conference with the superintendent and principal. Parents are expected to attend the above-mentioned conference.

### **PROBATION**

Any student placed on probation by the Superintendent is subject to expulsion for any violation of the Code of Conduct.

### **IN-SCHOOL STUDY PROGRAM**

In-School Study Program (ISSP) is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated, but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal or designee has the authority

to assign students to the in-school study program for a reasonable and specified period of time. Students may continue to attend and participate in school related after school activities.

### **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM**

The Board authorizes operation of alternative education programs. To meet State Department of Education requirements, the Board requires that alternative education programs shall provide a curriculum that stresses skills in recognizing and managing anger, alternatives to aggression (verbal and physical assault), strategies for developing self-control and personal responsibility, skills for getting along with others, success through academic achievement, and skills for success in the work place.

### **Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children to and from the Alternative Program each day.**

While assigned to Alternative Program, participation in, and attendance at any school facility, school-related activity outside of the Alternative Program setting is prohibited, unless otherwise directed by the school principal or superintendent. Failure to abide by Alternative Program rules or the Code of Conduct may result in suspension and/or filing of Act 94 (see p. 38).

## **INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS - NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

### **ON-CAMPUS INCIDENTS**

Students who are involved in a major school disruption will be guilty of a Class IV offense. The school administrator will take appropriate disciplinary action. The student will also be referred to the appropriate legal authority. Notification of law enforcement authorities means notification of Juvenile Court Services, the Butler County Sheriff's Department, Resource Officer, and/or local police officials. All interrogations shall be conducted in private, with an official school representative (principal or designated representative) present. Every reasonable effort shall be made to have a parent or guardian present. In those instances where a parent cannot be present within a reasonable period, school officials must allow interviews by law enforcement officials to proceed. Other non-school persons shall not interview students at school with the exception of parents or guardians or representatives of the Department of Human Resources.

## **OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENTS**

Law enforcement officials will not be allowed to interrogate students on public school property during regular school hours.

## **STUDENTS EXPELLED OR SUSPENDED FROM OTHER SYSTEMS**

A prospective student who has been expelled from another school system or who has been suspended from another school system without a satisfactory resolution of the problem for which the student was expelled or suspended shall not be permitted to register in or attend the Butler County Schools.

## **PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

The principal or his/her designee shall have the authority to use physical force to restrain a student from abusing or attempting to abuse himself, other students, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or other staff members. Physical restraint shall be used only when necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce school rules, and must be accomplished in a reasonable manner and only in order to protect all parties involved. Law enforcement officials may be called to assist when necessary.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS OF VIOLATIONS**

Violations of the Code of Conduct are divided into four classes: Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV. Each classification has a disciplinary procedure to be followed by the principal or his/her designee.

### **CLASS I OFFENSES**

- A. Distraction of other students -any behavior which alters the teaching process in the classroom or in other educational activities
- B. Eating or drinking in unauthorized areas
- C. School property misuse or abuse
- E. Littering of school property
- F. Unauthorized use of electronic devices unless permission is granted by administrator or teacher
- H. Sitting in or loitering around parked vehicles after arriving at school
- I. Inappropriate behavior
- J. Inappropriate display of affection
- K. Tardies
- L. Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense
- M. Disrespect – Verbal or non-verbal disrespectfulness toward a school board employee

## N. Class I bus referrals

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS I OFFENSES**

All Class I offenses that occur in the classroom will be handled by the classroom teacher according to the teacher's approved classroom management plan. Subsequent Class I offenses may be referred to the administrator and may be addressed as Class II offenses. The principal or designee will address uniform dress code violations. The student will be instructed to adjust clothes or contact parent to bring clothes/or go to isolation/ISSP for remainder of day.

### **CLASS II OFFENSES**

- A. Illegal organizations - any attempt to use the school day for activities that are not school related or school sponsored
- B. Gambling -any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value
- C. Defiance of School Board employee's authority - any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with a lawful directive or order of a School Board employee
- D. Instigating fights or arguments via electronic, written or verbal messages
- E. Verbal confrontation (excessive arguing) or verbal harassment
- F. Possession and/or igniting fireworks or firecrackers
- G. Use of obscene or inappropriate language (verbal, written, electronic, gesture or touching)
- I. Failure to follow class schedules and/or leaving class without written permission
- J. Refusal to give name or intentionally giving false information to an authorized person
- K. Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense
- L. Subsequent Class I offenses
- N. Class II bus offenses

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS II OFFENSES**

#### **Elementary Students (K-5)**

First Offense: Parental contact and disciplinary action.

Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 2 school days, extended work assignments, corporal punishment and/or other disciplinary action as determined appropriate by the administrator. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

### **Middle School and High School Students (6-12)**

First Offense could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP, extended work assignments, suspension for 1-5 school days or detention. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

### **CLASS III OFFENSES**

- A. Vandalism - intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$50.00 to public property or the real or personal property of another
- B. Stealing, larceny, petty theft - the intentional unlawful taking, or carrying away of property valued at less than \$25.00 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another
- C. Receipt, possession, or transfer of stolen property with the knowledge or reasonable suspicion that it is stolen
- D. Intentional action or threats – verbal, electronic or written communication threatening or causing an injury to the person, property or reputation of another.
- E. Extortion - verbal or printed communication threatening an injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or take advantage of any person or to force one to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will
- F. Trespassing - willfully entering or remaining on any school property without being authorized, licensed or invited; or after having been authorized licensed or invited, refusing to depart when requested to so do by an authorized person
- G. Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system or fire extinguisher
- H. Written, electronic or verbal proposition to engage in sexual acts
- I. Use or possession of obscene and/or pornographic materials
- K. Gross abuse or misuse of School Board electronic devices, programs, property and/or equipment
- L. Fighting\*
  - \*Fighting Disposition Progression: First fight may result in an ISSP assignment or suspension up to five (5) days, second fight up to ten (10) days, and third fight may result in Alternative School placement recommendation. Depending on the severity of the fight, any fight could result in Alternative School placement.*
- M. Possession and/or use of tobacco products, to include electronic cigarettes (E-cigarettes), vapor devices (vapes), matches or lighters, in school buildings or on school buses - possession on the person, in the locker, or in the effects of a student

- N. Leaving campus without written permission
- O. Subsequent (2 or more) Class II offenses
- P. Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense
- Q. Harassment (bullying or cyberbullying) - as defined by the Butler County School System *Student Bullying/ Harassment Prevention Policy*

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS III OFFENSES**

**Elementary Students (K-5)**

First Offense: Parental contact and could include the following: corporal punishment, extended work assignments, ISSP (if available), detention or suspension.

Subsequent Offenses: Suspension and/or other disciplinary action.

**Middle School and High School Students (6-12)**

First Offense could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP (if available), extended work assignments, detention, Alternative Program, or suspension.

Subsequent Offenses could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP (if available), suspension, detention, or Alternative Program placement. Special circumstances may warrant a recommendation for a disciplinary hearing with the superintendent or his/her designee. Students suspended for Class III offenses may not participate in or attend any school-related activities until reinstated on the day following the suspension.

Class III offenses, when warranted or legally required, shall be reported to the designated law enforcement agency using the appropriate administrative procedures.

**CLASS IV OFFENSES**

- A. Drugs--- No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any look-alike substance, or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance.

**Definitions: Drugs - The term "drug" or "drugs" shall mean any substance not prescribed by a physician for the particular student using or possessing it that can influence one's level of consciousness or awareness including, without limitation, any scheduled drug as defined in Alabama Code Title 13A. This may include substances referred to as look-alike drugs, designer drugs, over-the-counter drugs, synthetic drugs, research compounds, or prescription drugs.**

- B. Arson - the willful and malicious burning of any School Board property or the personal property of anyone on School Board property
- C. Battery upon a School Board employee - the intentional touching or striking of a School Board employee against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a School Board employee
- D. Robbery -the taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault, or by instilling the fear of same
- E. Burglary of school property - entering or remaining in a structure or on the premises with the intent to commit an offense
- F. Criminal mischief - willful and malicious damage in excess of \$50.00 to public property or to real or personal property belonging to another
- G Theft - the intentional unlawful taking or carrying away of property valued in excess of \$25.00 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another
- H. Possession of firearms -any firearm or other device (including a starter gun) which may be readily converted to expel a projectile
- I. Unauthorized discharge of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, or any device capable of expelling a projectile
- J. Possession and/or use of ammunition, weapon or replica of a weapon - box cutter, knife, metallic knuckles, tear gas guns, chemical weapon or device, or any other weapon, instrument, or dangerous object on any school property
- K. Bomb or other threats -any communication which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment
- L. Explosions -possessing, preparing or igniting on School Board property explosives likely to cause bodily injury, property damage, or interrupt the educational environment
- M. Sexual acts - acts of a sexual nature including, but not limited to sexual battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape to include videotaping, photographing or any form of participation in said act.
- N. Aggravated battery - intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability or permanent disfigurement, or the use of a deadly weapon

- O. Inciting or participating in a major student disorder - leading, encouraging or assisting in major disruptions which result in destruction or damage of private or public property, or personal injury to participants or others, or which disrupts the school environment
- P. Indecent exposure - exposing a part of one's anatomy that is offensive to others, i.e., exposure of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks
- Q. Subsequent (two or more) Class III offenses
- R. Directing threats or obscene language or behavior (verbal, electronic, written or gesture) to a School Board employee
- S. Habitual Offender - a student who commits five Class II or III offenses in any combination (does not include dress code violations or tardies)
- T. Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS IV OFFENSES**

### **All Students, Grades K-12**

Class IV offenses, when warranted or legally required, shall be reported to the designated law enforcement agency by the principal. Parents will be notified and students in grades K-12 may be suspended pending final determination of the facts by the principal. A student committing a Class IV offense may be placed in the Alternative Program or a recommendation for expulsion may be submitted to the superintendent. In cases of an appeal, Alternative Program placement will continue until all appeals are complete.

## **CHEATING**

Cheating on a test or other assignment will result in a grade of zero. The parent/guardian will be notified about the infraction.

## **CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE**

1. A K-12 student may not leave campus unless checked out in person by a parent or designated person.
2. Parents may identify two or three other responsible adults to whom permission is given to check their child out of school. A picture ID must be presented by these individuals when checking out the child. Names and phone numbers of these individuals will be maintained at school. Teachers and school board employees may not be designated by another parent to check a child out and to transport the child home during the instructional day.

## **CAREER/TECHNICAL STUDENTS**

Career/Technical students who have work experience as part of their program may not be permitted to work when on suspension. The School to Work Teacher/Coordinator is responsible for notifying the employer that the student will not be permitted to work.

## **SEARCH OF SCHOOL OWNED PROPERTY**

Desks, lockers, and other equipment at any school belong to the Board of Education, and although assigned to particular students for use, may be entered and searched by school officials whenever the school officials have reasonable belief that some substance or other material is contained therein which is illegal, harmful to the safety of the student, himself or the student body as a whole, or significantly disruptive of or dangerous to the overall discipline of the school.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities served by Butler County Board of Education Special Education Services are entitled to procedural protection under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

If disciplinary action results in long-term change (more than 10 days in a school year) in a special education student's current educational program or placement, due process is required through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team action.

Students with disabilities who bring firearms to school may be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 calendar days, as determined by the IEP team. The Gun-Free School Act applies to students with disabilities.

Students with identified disability conditions under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may be suspended or expelled from school for more than ten days. Educational services may cease during the period of disciplinary exclusion from school. The school system will develop a Section 504 Plan for students as determined eligible by the Section 504 committee.

Prior to any long-term change in a special education student's educational program or placement, the coordinator of Special Education Services for Butler County Schools must be informed.

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION RULES**

### **General Transportation Policies**

1. Students will be transported by school bus only to and from the school normally served by that bus, or to those areas that have been designated by the Butler County Board of Education as a part of the school community of that school.
2. The Butler County Board of Education will not duplicate any part of a school bus route.
3. Only students, chaperones, or others designated by the principal or superintendent will be permitted to ride school buses. School employees shall not be transported to and from work.
4. Students will not be permitted to ride a school bus to a school where they are not enrolled unless prior permission to do so has been granted by the school principals involved and the bus driver has been officially informed in advance.
5. Each school principal will insure that the teachers in his/her school instruct all students who are transported by school bus on proper and acceptable behavior while being transported.
6. If actions of a student immediately before or during transportation jeopardize the safety of others or unduly disrupt other students, the bus driver is authorized to refuse to allow the student to board the bus, or if such student misconduct occurs in transit, the bus driver may stop the bus at the next safe, public place and notify the principal or transportation supervisor. The principal or transportation supervisor shall immediately notify the parents and, if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement authorities. The driver shall remain with the student until appropriate authorities arrive.
7. Students with disabilities will be accorded due process as provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **Student-Parent Responsibility in School Transportation**

1. Students are under the authority of the principal of the school they attend. The driver of the bus is responsible to the school principals for the behavior of students on the buses. The driver must, therefore, prohibit students from:
  - a. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum on the bus
  - b. Throwing objects from the bus
  - c. Exchanging seats while the bus is in motion
  - d. Using tobacco in any form, striking matches or lighters, or possessing knives or other weapons and dangerous objects
  - e. Extending heads, arms, or hands from bus windows
  - f. Vulgar talk, loud noise, or shouting
  - g. Defacing or damaging the bus in any manner

- h. Using emergency door except in emergencies; and exiting the bus at any place other than the regular stop for each student, except upon written notice from the appropriate school principal
2. Students who destroy or damage school buses or equipment may be placed on immediate suspension from the bus and will be charged for the cost of replacement and/or repairs. Restitution must be made before permission can be granted for such students to again be transported by school bus. Parents/guardians are responsible for restitution.
3. Parents should encourage their children to know and obey all rules and regulations, and to respect the driver and the rights of others.
4. Students may be assigned specific seats if the driver or principal deems such action necessary.
5. Bus schedules must be strictly adhered to. The bus driver will not repeatedly wait on tardy students. Parents should insure that their children are at the designated bus stop on time each morning.
6. Students should avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in transit.
7. Students must meet the bus at the designated student pick-up point.
8. Students who live on the left side of the road shall remain on the left side of the road until the bus has come to a complete stop, the mechanical stop signal has been extended, and the door opened. When exiting the bus, students who live on the right should walk quickly away from the bus and off the street and students who live on the left or who must cross the road should walk to the front of the bus and wait until the driver signals for them to cross the road.
9. Parents should read and understand the policies, rules and regulations of the Butler County Board of Education, and are encouraged to respect and support the drivers and rights of others.
10. Parents should immediately report all incidents or evidence of carelessness or dangerous practices on the bus, on the highway, or on the part of drivers to the transportation supervisor.
11. In areas where the bus must turn around at a house, the turning area must be kept free of parked cars or other vehicles and other obstructions. Adequate space must be provided and landowners must insure that culverts, etc. are in good repair.
12. Students must obey the driver promptly and cheerfully.
13. Drivers shall not permit students to ride in any place other than the inside body of the bus.

14. Drivers shall not allow pupils to stand in the doorway or door well of the bus at any time other than when students are entering or leaving the bus.
15. Once a student has been assigned to a specific school bus, he/she shall continue to be transported to and from school on that bus until the transportation supervisor or principal approves a change.
16. The Board of Education reserves the right to assign students to a bus in order to equalize the loads.
17. A student whose right to bus transportation has been terminated may not ride any Butler County school bus until his/her right to so do has been reinstated.
18. While waiting for or exiting the bus, students should not stand on the roadway, crowd or push to get on or off the bus, and must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the bus to board or the bus door to exit.
19. Students entering the bus should be seated as soon as possible and shall not change seats while the bus is in motion. Students should not place anything in the aisles and should be courteous and responsible passengers at all times.
20. Students are permitted to use cell phones and other electronic devices while riding the school bus. They are not permitted to throw or pass the device around to others on the bus or talk in a loud voice during usage. Students may not take photos or video while on the school bus. Earphones must be used to listen to music or other audio. The Butler County Board of Education is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.

***Riding the school bus is a privilege, which may be revoked due to a student's misbehavior.***

#### **Private Transportation Rules**

1. Students driving a motorized vehicle (including motorcycles) on school campus must show proof of liability insurance and a valid driver's license.
2. A copy of liability insurance and driver's license must be kept on file in the principal's office or designated site.
3. Students that drive a motorized vehicle to school must park the vehicle in the designated school parking lot.
4. Students, upon parking their vehicle, must exit that vehicle and lock it immediately. Students must then proceed to their classroom/designated area. No students are to assemble in the parking lot.
5. Schools that require a student to purchase a parking sticker will establish their own policies regarding this matter.

6. Students may not return to their vehicles during the school day. If a student has a legitimate reason to return to the vehicle, he/she must have administrative approval.
7. The principal has the authority to revoke the privilege of driving a vehicle to the school.
8. All vehicles on school property are subject to being searched if reasonable suspicion exists that a policy is being violated.
9. Students must obey all traffic laws when operating a motorized vehicle.
10. A student that checks out during the day or when students leave at the end of the school day must immediately leave campus.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips for academic enrichment may be offered as part of the curriculum. Schools will notify parents/guardians if a field trip is being planned. Schools will adhere to deadlines given for turning in permission forms and/or money to participate on a field trip. Refunds will be given only if stated by teacher/sponsor on the field trip form. If a parent transports his/her child on a field trip, the Release to Transport Student by Private Vehicle form must be signed by the parent/guardian and filed in the school office.

### **UNIFORM DRESS CODE Grades K-12**

We take pride in the appearance of our students. Dress reflects the quality of our schools. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems, draw undue attention or cause disruptions. All students are expected to dress in clothing that has been approved by the Butler County Board of Education and groom themselves neatly. Boys dress will be pants and shirts. Girls dress will include pants, skirts, skorts, Capri pants, jumper, and shirts.

#### **General**

1. All items may be mixed and matched as desired with exceptions noted in uniform dress code specifications.
2. All clothing must be of appropriate size and fit neatly – no sagging or bagging clothes.
3. Uniforms are to be worn at all school sponsored events except athletics, band concerts, and dances.
4. Students who move into the school system shall be in compliance with the mandatory uniform specifications within five (5) school days of enrollment
5. The only days students will be allowed to be out of uniform are school picture days and/or other days designated by administration.

### Uniform Dress Code Specifications

- Pants/Shorts:** Khaki or navy – long or short, pleated, plain front, or elastic waist, hemmed or cuffed. No cargo, carpenter, flare, or wide-leg pants or cargo shorts. Shorts must be long enough to touch the fingertips when hands are placed by their side. Blue jeans may not be worn. Leggings and/or jeggings may not be worn as pants.
- Skorts:** Khaki or navy -- Shall be hemmed or cuffed and long enough to touch the fingertips when hands are placed by their side
- Capri Pants:** Khaki or navy
- Shirts:** Polo style (originally designed with no alterations) collared, pull-over without pockets, navy, red or white, long or short sleeve (**ONLY** approved school names and school club logos will be allowed on the left breast pocket area of the polo shirts) and must be tucked in at all times
- Skirts:** Khaki or navy, long enough to touch the finger tips when hands are placed by their side
- Belts:** Solid Black or brown belts shall be worn if garment has belt loops. Belts must be visible at waist band, must be buckled, and must not be extra-long or hang down between legs. No belt buckles are allowed that exceed three (3) inches square.
- Jumper:** Khaki or navy, long enough to touch the finger tips when hands are placed at their side, to be worn with white or navy polo style shirt (long or short sleeve) or white blouse with “Peter Pan” style collar (long or short sleeve)
- Sagging Clothing:** No sagging clothing. Clothing must fit at the natural waistline. Must not be excessively loose or excessively tight

Coats/ Jackets:	Any style or color – must be removed upon entering school building. No trench coats will be allowed on school buses or in school buildings. The superintendent will establish dates in the winter months for local schools to allow the wearing of appropriate coats/jackets in the classroom.
Sweaters:	Navy, red or white – cardigan style with buttons, snaps or zipper. Sweaters may not have logos or insignia and no belt attached. The sweater must not be oversized (bulky, bagging) with the school administrator using discretion to determine appropriate size.
Sweater Vests:	Navy, red or white – pullover or cardigan style with buttons, snaps or zipper. Pullover vests may not have hoods attached. Vests may not have logos or insignia and no belt attached. The vest must not be oversized (bulky, bagging) with the school administrator using discretion to determine appropriate size.
T-shirts:	T-shirts in red, white or navy may be worn as undergarments but shall not show through the outer shirt. T-shirts or other undergarments with emblems, graphics, or logos which show through the outer clothing are prohibited.
Turtleneck Shirts:	Navy, red or white turtleneck shirts may be worn underneath polo shirt (short or long sleeve)
White Blouse With Peter Pan Collar:	Shall only be worn with jumper – not navy or khaki pants, shorts, or skirts
Shoes:	Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times – no flip-flops. Presentable foot wear is expected to include appropriate hosiery. Tennis type shoes are recommended for physical education and outdoor play.
Hair:	Students' hair must be neat, clean, and trimmed. No combs, picks, or rollers are

allowed to be worn in the hair. Extreme hair colorations that would cause undue attention or disrupt class are prohibited.

Accessories: Earrings may be worn by boys and girls in the ears only. Caps, hats, bandanas, sweatbands and sunglasses are prohibited in the school building.

### **School Sponsored Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts**

School sponsored polo shirts and sweatshirts may be worn at any time. Shirts must be official shirts purchased from the school. Prices for the shirts will be consistent county-wide.

Specifications for the shirts are as follows:

- Polo style shirt (originally designed with no alterations) collared, pull-over without pockets
- Sweatshirt

### **School Colors/Logos:**

Greenville Schools: (W. O. Parmer Elementary School, Greenville Elementary School, Greenville Middle School, Greenville High School)

- Black polo shirts and sweatshirts with gold embroidered school logo (one logo for all Greenville schools)

### Georgiana School

- Royal blue polo shirts and sweatshirts with white embroidered school logo

### McKenzie School

- Navy polo shirts and sweatshirts with gold embroidered school logo

### **Friday Spirit Day Shirts:**

On Fridays students may wear principal approved school related t-shirts, polo shirts or jerseys. Shirts must be worn tucked in and other dress code rules are still applicable.

### **Procedure for K-12 Dress Code Violations**

School system personnel will evaluate compliance with dress code. If questions exist related to appropriateness of dress, the principal or designee will make the final judgment.

First Offense:

Parental contact, disciplinary action and/or isolation (student removed from classroom to office until parents contacted or ISSP all day if necessary)

### Subsequent Offenses:

Isolation (student removed from classroom to office until parents contacted or ISSP all day if necessary) pending parental notifications, suspension for 1-5 days and/or other disciplinary action. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

### **BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)**

In an effort to expand our students' 21st Century learning opportunities, the Butler County School System is implementing an initiative that allows students to bring their own digital devices on campus for educational purposes. It is imperative that these devices be used appropriately. With that in mind, this policy has been developed to govern the use of devices in our schools.

#### **Devices Allowed**

- Laptops, netbooks
- Tablets
- e-Readers with internet capabilities
- Smartphones (iPhone, Android devices, Blackberry, etc.)

#### **Student Responsibilities**

- Students will abide by all school/system rules and policies, including the Acceptable Use Policy, Internet Safety Policy and Student Code of Conduct.
- Use of the device will only be allowed when permissible according to the teacher.
- Devices can only be used in the classroom with teacher permission, not in the lunchroom, hallways, restrooms or other common areas.
- Devices should never be used to cheat on tests or on assignments.
- Students are not permitted to transmit or post any photographic images or videos of any person on campus on any public and/or social networking sites.
- Students will only be allowed access to websites and resources which are relevant to the curriculum and content in the classroom.
- Students must understand that infecting the network with any virus designed to damage, alter, destroy or limit the network's effectiveness is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and will result in disciplinary actions. The school/system has the right to confiscate and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or is the source of an attack or virus infection.

### **Network Access**

- Students will only use the school's wireless guest network. This network is controlled by the system's Technology Department and is filtered according to CIPA guidelines.
- At no time will the guest network settings be altered for device specific needs.
- Our guest network, while reliable and stable, will, at times, experience outages. No guarantee will be made that it will always be available. Additionally, signal strength could vary depending on the number of devices connected and the proximity to an access point.
- There will be no access to electrical outlets for charging purposes. Students must bring devices that are fully charged to school.
- Our school system will not be responsible for any loss of data resulting from connecting to the network.
- We provide no troubleshooting assistance or repair for student owned devices. Teachers are not responsible for student connectivity or for helping students who experience trouble connecting to the guest network.

### **Theft/Damage of Devices**

- The schools/system will not be responsible for lost or stolen devices.
- Physical damage or loss of data is not the responsibility of the school or the school system.
- As with any items on school campuses, school officials may inspect any personal device when there is reasonable suspicion that contents are a violation of policies, or of any local, state, or federal laws.

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative is designed as a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be revoked for an individual, group, or entire student body at the discretion of the school administration. Students must use their devices responsibly.

*Approved November 20, 2014*

## **USE OF A DIGITAL DEVICE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A SECURE TEST**

### **Student Policy**

The possession of a digital device (including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, MP3 players, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing and relaying information) is **strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test**. If a student is observed in possession of a

digital device during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated.

If a student is observed using a digital device during the administration of a secure test, testing for the student will cease, the device will be confiscated and is subject to search, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the student's test will be invalidated.

Local education agency (LEA) personnel will make all students, parents, and/or guardians aware of this prohibition through inclusion of this policy in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook and other regularly used modes of communication.

### **School Personnel Policy**

School personnel involved in administration of state testing may not use digital devices (including but not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing and relaying information) during test administration. Violations may result in disciplinary action/certification revocation.

### **SCHOOL CONDUCT INTERVENTION PROGRAM (ACT 94)**

In addition to the Early Warning Program, the school system is also required by law, Alabama Code 16-28-12, Act 94 (1975), to inform you of the following:

Section I. Section 16-28-12, Act 94, of the Code of Alabama, 1975, reads as follows:

“(A) Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or have him or her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, denominational school, or parochial school or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with a written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal teacher of the school he or she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section.”

"(B) Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with a written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be reported by the principal to the superintendent of education of the school system in which the suspected violation occurred. The superintendent of education or his or her designee shall report such suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days. Any principal or superintendent of education or his or her designee intentionally failing to report such a suspected violation shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. The district attorney shall vigorously enforce this section to ensure proper conduct and required attendance by any child enrolled in public school."

**Parental responsibilities required in Section 16-28-12, Act 94, are as follows:**

1. To enroll their child" - "Every child between the ages of six and seventeen years shall be required to attend school -"
2. "To regularly attend school"- Attendance requirements, as set forth in the Early Warning Program, will be followed to ensure regular attendance.
3. "To compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself in accordance with written policies on school behavior"

**TECHNOLOGY/INTERNET USE AND ETHICS CODE**

The purpose of technology and the Internet in Butler County Schools is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. Use of technology or the Internet, including e-mail, must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives and within the guidelines of the approved curriculum of the Board of Education.

It is the policy of the Butler County Board of Education to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

## **Definitions**

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

### **Access to Inappropriate Material**

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Inappropriate Technology Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Butler County Board of Education online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. All use of computers, Internet, and e-mail programs are subject to monitoring by electronic means. Any device (regardless of ownership) suspected to be used inappropriately on school grounds is subject to immediate inspection in order to determine the contents and recent utilization of the device. The devices subject to inspection include, but are not limited to, laptops, hand helds, cell phones, gaming devices, calculators, or any other device that can be used to communicate electronically.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking', and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

The following local regulations will also apply:

- (a) All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the purpose of the Butler County School System.
- (b) It is not permitted to create, send, or forward electronic chain letters.

- (c) Use of the Internet which results in any copyright violation is prohibited.
- (d) Use of the Internet to access or transmit materials likely to be considered obscene or pornographic is prohibited.
- (e) Hate mail, harassment, cyber bullying, discriminatory remarks, spam, and other antisocial communications using local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet is prohibited.
- (f) Personal information such as name, address, or telephone number should not be revealed on the Internet.
- (g) Use of the Internet for product advertisement, political lobbying, commercial, for profit, buy/sell/trade/order goods, or services, or illegal activity is prohibited. Fraudulent copying, communicating, or modifying of materials in violation of law is prohibited and will be referred to appropriate authorities.
- (h) Malicious use of technology or the Internet to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer system and or damage the software components of a computer or system is prohibited.
- (i) Installing, downloading or uploading of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media (including music and movies) is prohibited.
- (j) Technology or the Internet shall not be used to disrupt the work of others.
- (k) The hardware, software, or programs of the Butler County Board of Education shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
- (l) Hacking is prohibited. Use of technology, local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet to intentionally browse, see information about, obtain copies of, or modify files, passwords, or data belonging to other users is prohibited.
- (m) All encountered or observed problems in system or network security should be reported to an administrator in your building.

### **Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Butler County Board of Education staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Director or designated representatives. Any person found to be in violation of this policy, applicable state and federal laws (including copyright laws), posted classroom

rules, or other relevant Board of Education policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures as outlined in (a) for a Student, the Student Code of Conduct or (b) for an Employee, the Butler County Policy and Procedure Manuals. Violators will also be subject to immediate revocation of Internet and/or computer privileges.

Pursuant to the State of Alabama law, any unauthorized access or attempted unauthorized access may be subject to criminal prosecution.

### **Education**

Each year, School Administrators will ensure that students are being educated about proper online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness, and response.

### **Adoption**

The Butler County Board of Education adopted this Internet Safety Policy at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on June 21, 2012. *CIPA definitions of terms:*

**TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE:** *The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:*

1. **OBSCENE**, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. **CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. **HARMFUL TO MINORS**. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
  - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
  - b. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
  - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
4. **SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT**. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND VACCINE**

### **What is meningococcal disease?**

- Meningococcal disease is any illness caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*.
- It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years of age in U.S.
- Meningococcal disease can be very serious, even life-threatening in 48 hours or less.
- The two most severe and common illnesses caused by meningococcal bacteria include;
  - Meningitis - an infection of the fluid and lining around the brain and spinal cord
  - Septicemia - a bloodstream infection

### **What are the symptoms?**

- Symptoms of meningococcal disease are similar to influenza (flu) and may include:
  - Sudden onset of a high fever
  - Increased sensitivity to light
  - Headache
  - Rash
  - Stiff neck
  - Confusion
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Severe aches and pain in the muscles, joints, chest or belly

### **How does meningococcal disease spread?**

- Meningococcal disease is spread person to person by sharing respiratory secretions, through kissing or coughing, close or lengthy contact, and among people who share a room or live in the same household.
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but teens and college freshmen who live in residence halls are at increased risk.
- Some people can “carry” meningococcal bacteria in their nose and throat without getting meningococcal disease, but can still infect other people.
- Most cases of meningococcal disease are spread by people who “carry” the bacteria with no symptoms, appear to be random, and not linked to other cases.
- Meningococcal outbreaks can occur in communities, schools, colleges, prisons, and in other high risk populations.

### **Where can I find more information?**

- Ask your doctor.

- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
- Go to [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) and type meningococcal disease in SEARCH box.

### **Who should get meningococcal vaccine?**

- Adolescents 11 through 18 years of age are routinely recommended for two doses
- of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).
- Preteens should get the first dose of MCV4 at their 11–12 years of age check-up
- and a booster dose of MCV4 is recommended at 16 years of age.
- Teenagers who missed a dose and are heading off to college as a freshman living in
- a residence hall. Ask your doctor about getting the vaccine now.
- Teenagers with HIV should get three doses of MCV4.
- People 55 years of age and older should get Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine
- (MPSV4).
- Both vaccines prevent 4 types of bacterial meningococcal disease.

### **Who should be vaccinated because they are at increased risk?**

- College freshmen living in dormitories.
- Laboratory personnel exposed to meningococcal bacteria.
- U.S. military recruits.
- Anyone traveling or living where meningococcal disease is common, like Africa.
- Anyone with a damaged spleen or who had the spleen removed.
- Anyone with an immune system disorder.
- Anyone exposed during a meningococcal meningitis outbreak.

## **IT'S THE LAW**

The Code of Conduct and related behavior and discipline policies adopted by the Butler County Board of Education will serve as guidelines for determining inappropriate behavior.

- a. Inappropriate student conduct or behavior may result in suspension from school -
- b. Suspensions will be reported to the Superintendent and District Attorney
- c. On student's third or subsequent suspension from school, parent will be subject to prosecution by the District Attorney pursuant to Section 16-28-12, Act 94, of the Code of Alabama. A parent may be referred to the District Attorney's Office on a student's first or second suspension, if, in the opinion of the superintendent of education the offense committed by the student warrants such action.

In an effort to assure that parents are informed of their school-related responsibilities, the State Board of Education has mandated that parents receive notification which addresses civil liabilities and criminal penalties for violence and misbehavior by students on school property or against school employees.

**It's the Law** is provided to advise you of those school-related civil liabilities and criminal penalties. You are encouraged to read the document carefully and retain it for future reference.

### **Attendance and Conduct (Act 94-782; Alabama Code 16-28-12)**

Each parent/guardian or other person having control or custody of a child required to attend school who fails to require the child to enroll, to regularly attend school, or to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (may be fined up to \$100 and may be sentenced to hard labor for up to 90 days).

### **School Discipline (Alabama Code 16-28A-1)**

Teachers are hereby given the authority and responsibility to use appropriate means of discipline up to and including corporal punishment as may be prescribed by the local board of education. So long as teachers follow approved policy in the exercise of their responsibility to maintain discipline in their classroom, such teacher shall be immune from civil or criminal liability.

**Teacher Assault (Act 94-794; Alabama Code 16-124)**

A person commits the crime of assault in the second degree (Class C felony) if the person assaults with intent to cause serious physical injury to a teacher or to an employee of a public educational institution during or as a result of the performance of his or her duty.

**Drug Dealing (Act 94-783; Alabama Code 6-5-72)**

A person who unlawfully sells, furnishes, or gives a controlled substance to a minor may be liable for injury or damage or both suffered by a third person caused by or resulting from the use of the controlled substance by the minor, if the sale, furnishing, or giving of the controlled substance is the proximate cause of the injury or damage.

**Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons, Physical Harm, or Threatened Physical Harm (Act 94-784; Alabama Code 16-1-24.2; Alabama Code 16-1-24.1)**

The school principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when a person violates local board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened harm to a person. If any criminal charge is warranted, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. If that person is a student, the local school system shall immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing within 5 school days.

If a person is found to have violated a local board of education policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person or threatened physical harm to a person, the person may not be readmitted to the public schools until criminal charges, if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities and the person has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education as a condition for readmission.

**Weapons in Schools (Act 94-817; Alabama Code 13-A-11-72)**

No person shall knowingly with intent to do bodily harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school. Possession of a deadly weapon with the intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school or school bus is a class C felony. (Note: Deadly weapons include but are not limited to hand grenade, explosive or incendiary device; a pistol, rifle, or shotgun; or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or dagger; or any club, baton, Billy-jack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.)

## **Possession of Weapons and Firearms by Students**

It shall be a violation of Board policy for any student to have in his/her possession a firearm or weapon of any kind at any place in the school system during regular school hours or during any school function or activity.

This policy is to comply with Public Law 103-382, "Improving America's Schools Act of 1994", Part F, Section 14601, Gun-Free Requirement (Gun-Free Schools Act/GFSA). For the purposes of the GFSA, a "weapon" means a firearm as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

According to Section 921, the following are included within the definition:

- any weapon 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 explosive, incendiary, or poison gas
  - 1) bomb
  - 2) grenade
  - 3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces
  - 4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce
  - 5) fireworks/pyrotechnics of any class
  - 6) mine, or
  - 7) 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 one-half inch in diameter
- any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled

In addition items forbidden shall include, but not be limited to the following: knives, openers, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, double/triple/quadruple rings which are attached or connected in such a fashion that they may be used as a weapon, any items which may be used as clubs, all sharp or pointed objects designed for use as a weapon, or any other weapon, instrument or object.

Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon as defined in this policy to school, or to have in his/her possession

in a school system building, on school system property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or activity and found in violation of the policy will be:

1. Placed on immediate suspension from school.
2. Subject to a disciplinary hearing with final disciplinary action determined by the Board of Education.
3. Expulsion from the school system of no less than one calendar year; provided, however, that the Board of Education, in appropriate cases, may apply sanctions less severe than expulsion for one calendar year; and provided, further, that, in appropriate cases, such students may be expelled from the regular school setting and be provided educational services in an alternative education setting.

The school principal shall notify the superintendent or his/her designee of violations of this policy. Further the superintendent or his/her designee shall report suspected violations to the appropriate law enforcement authority, which may include city/town police, the Butler County sheriff, and the Butler County district attorney. In addition the school principal shall notify the parents of students who violate this policy. Any student determined by school authorities to have brought a weapon or firearm as defined above shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile court system.

Discipline of students with disabilities who violate this policy shall be administered on a case by case basis in accordance with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

### **Possession of Weapons and Firearms by Parents/Guardians and Other Persons**

Parents/guardians and other persons are prohibited from bringing firearms or other weapons on school system property at any time or to any school system function or activity. Items forbidden shall include, but not be limited to the following: any weapon 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 explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, fireworks/pyrotechnics of any class, mine, or similar device), any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, any combination of parts either

designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled, knives, openers, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, double/triple/quadruple rings which are attached or connected in such fashion that they may be used as a weapon, explosive devices including fireworks of any description, any items which may be used as clubs, all sharp or pointed objects designed for use as weapons, or any other weapon, instrument or object.

Authorized law enforcement personnel are excluded from provisions of this policy.

Parents/guardians and other persons found in violation of this policy will be:

1. Placed on immediate suspension from visitation or attendance at any school, or school system function or activity.
2. Referred to appropriate law enforcement or criminal justice authorities.

**Vandalism (Act 94-819; Alabama Code 6-5-380)**

The parents, guardian, or other person having control of any minor under the age of 18 with whom the minor is living and who have custody of the minor shall be liable for the actual damages sustained to school property, plus the court costs, caused by intentional, willful or malicious act of the minor.

**Pistol Possession/Driver's License (Act 94-820; Alabama Code 16-28-40)**

Any person over the age of 14 who is convicted of the crime of possession of a pistol on the premises of a public school, or a public school bus, shall be denied issuance of a driver's license to operate a motor vehicle for 180 days from the date the person is eligible and applies for a permit or license. If a person over age 14 possesses a driver's license on the date of conviction, the driver's license will be suspended for 180 days.

**Drop-Out/Driver's License (Act 94-820 which amended Act 93-368 as codified in section 16-28-40, Code of Alabama 1975; Alabama Code 16-28-40 through 16-28-45)**

The Department of Public Safety shall deny a driver's license or learner's permit to any person under 19 who is not enrolled or has not received a diploma or certificate of graduation. Exceptions are students who are enrolled in a GED program, are enrolled in a secondary school, are participating in an approved job training program, are gainfully employed, are a

parent of a minor or unborn child, or are the sole source of transportation for the parent.

**Unsafe School Choice Option (Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education *Administrative Code*, Section 290-3-1-02.e – 2 – Adopted ER effective March 13, 2003; adopted ER as regular rule May 8, 2003, effective June 12, 2003)**

1. Definitions: A transfer option school (TOS) in the state of Alabama is one in which for three (3) consecutive school years the school has expelled one percent (1%) of the student population or five (5) students (whichever is greater) for violent criminal offenses committed on school property during school hours or committed at school-sponsored activities. The words “transfer option school, “TOS,” or “TOS school” shall mean a “persistently dangerous school” as those words are used in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, Title IX. §9532(a) and (b). For the purpose of this definition, a “violent criminal offense” shall mean homicide; robbery; assault in the first and/or second degree; sexual battery (including rape) as these offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of Alabama (see § 13A-6-1, et. seq., Ala. Code 1975); and use of a handgun, firearm component, explosive, knife, and other “unknown weapons” as defined by the Student Incident Report (SIR).
  
2. A student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense committed on school property during school hours or at school-sponsored activities shall be given an opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the LEA. The LEA shall notify the student’s parent/guardian of the right to transfer as soon as practicable, not to exceed ten (10) calendar days from the date of a final determination by the school board or its designee that a violent criminal offense has occurred. All LEA transfer procedures will be observed. It shall be the policy of the Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) to notify the LEA annually when one or more of its schools have been identified as a transfer option school. Each Superintendent or his or her designee shall orally notify the Prevention and Support Services Section of the State Department of Education within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision that a violent criminal offense has occurred, followed by written confirmation. The State Department of Education will assist the LEA in resolving all safety issues. At a minimum, an LEA that has one or more schools identified as persistently dangerous must:

- a. Step 1 Notify parents/guardians of each student attending the school within ten (10) working days that it has been identified as a transfer option school and offer students the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the LEA if another school is available.
- b. Step 2 Complete the transfer for those students who opt to do so within 20 working days.
- c. Step 3 Develop a corrective action plan to be submitted to the SDE for approval within 20 working days of the LEA's receipt of status.
- d. Step 4 Implement the corrective action plan

Once a school has been identified as a transfer option school, it can return to safe status by (1) completing Steps One through Four above and (2) completing two consecutive years with less than one percent (1%) of the student population or five (5) students (whichever is greater) expelled for violent criminal offenses as defined in its policy.

***Charles "Chuck" Poland Act (Act 2013-347, §§1, 2.)***  
**Trespass on a school bus in the first degree.**

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr., Act.

(b) A person commits the crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree if he or she is found guilty of doing any of the following:

- (1) Intentionally demolishing, destroying, defacing, injuring, burning, or damaging any public school bus.
- (2) Entering a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
- (3) As an occupant of a public school bus, refusing to leave the bus on demand of the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
- (4) Intentionally stopping, impeding, delaying, or detaining any public school bus being operated for public school purposes with the intent to commit a crime therein.

(c) The crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (b) do not apply to a child who is less than 12 years of age or to authorized school personnel who are boarding the school bus as a part of their job assignment.

### **GRADING, PROMOTION & RETENTION POLICY**

The following statements regarding grading are proposed to provide congruency within our school system for regular, academic course work. The intent is to protect and promote the integrity of the grades assigned to students in the Butler County School System. This uniformity allows a Board-approved format for assigning grades, a consistent grading policy within our school system aiding in the transfer of grades between and among our schools, a basic policy of grading easily explained to parents/guardians, and a policy that assists administrators when the need arises to interpret a student's grade in the absence of the teacher.

#### Academic Grading Scale

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-0

\*\*\*If a student transfers into the Butler County School System without numerical grades, use the grading scale below:

A=95	B=85	C=75
D=65	F=55	

- Academic bonus points will not be given.
- Academic points will not be given or taken away from a student's grade for non-academic actions or infractions (i.e., discipline, no name on the assignment, etc.)
- Students cannot earn grades above 100

### **Elementary**

#### Kindergarten Standards-Based Report Card

A standards-based report card will be used for all kindergarten students. This type of report card records a child's progress toward meeting state and district standards. It gives specific information on a student's level of proficiency on a given standard.

An important benefit of the standards-based report card centers on providing parents/guardians and teachers a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each child based on the Alabama Course of Study.

### Kindergarten Promotion/Retention

If a student needs to be retained based on the student's academic performance and/or other factors, the parents/guardians of that student should be informed as early in the school year as possible. Ultimately, Kindergarten students may only be retained upon approval/agreement of the student's parents/guardians. It is highly recommended that the decision of whether a student should be promoted or retained be made on the basis of which grade placement provides the student a better chance of progressing in his/her educational development.

### Computation Scale & Grading Categories 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

- 10% Category - Homework
- 30% Category – Minor Grades (class assignments, spelling tests, etc.)
- 60% Category – Major Grades (Tests, projects, essays, 9 week exams, etc.)

### Graded Assignments 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>:

- A minimum of 9 grades are required, at least one (1) grade per week.
- At least four (4) of the grades should be major grades and five (5) should be minor. Homework grades are optional.
- All assignments (i.e. class work, tests, projects, etc.) should be aligned to the ACOS.  
Written assignments are required at all grade levels.

Grade	Promotion/Retention
1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Students must achieve at least a 60% yearly average in all classes to be promoted</p> <p>Students who do not pass the required courses each year will be retained at their current grade level. An <i>administrative promotion</i> or retention may be exercised by the Response to Instruction (RTI) Team in accordance with administrative directives.</p>

Grade	Promotion/Retention
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	<p>A student must receive passing averages in each of the required and elective Carnegie unit courses. Carnegie unit credit will be based on a per semester basis with each semester standing alone. Students will earn a ½ Carnegie unit (credit) for each class with a semester average of 60% or higher.</p> <p>Students must earn the <b>minimum</b> number of Carnegie units (credits) necessary for grade placement as indicated below:            9th graders must earn 6 units to be considered a sophomore, at least 3 of these units must be core.            10th graders must earn 12 units to be considered a junior at least 6 of these must be core.            11th graders must earn 18 units to be considered a senior at least 9 of these must be core.            12th graders must have a minimum of 24 units to graduate.</p> <p>A student who fails to earn a semester average of 60% or higher in a specific semester will repeat that semester. Core classes can be retaken through credit recovery.</p> <p>Promotion of all students takes place once per year at the end of the school year.</p>

### HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an integral part of the student's total school program. Teachers at all levels are encouraged to require home study.

The purpose of homework is to increase the educational opportunities of students by providing additional learning time after the regular school day for reinforcing, extending and enriching instruction.

### HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

The assignment of the amount and type of homework should be the professional responsibility of the teacher based upon the needs of the child and the subject matter. It is the

teacher's responsibility to communicate his/her homework policy to the student.

Within the above context, homework assignments should:

- be coordinated between subject area departments (when possible)
- be a meaningful extension of classroom learning and lessons
- be attainable, assuring that all students are capable of successful completion of assignments
- be related to skills previously taught in the classroom, although special interest projects may be an outgrowth of classroom instruction or may extend and enrich specific interests
- be acknowledged
- be of high quality, which should be representative of the school, the instructional program, and student effort

### **PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS**

Progress Reports will be issued at the end of every 4 ½ weeks. Parental contact will be made for any student who has a failing grade in any subject at the end of each grading period.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY**

Credit Recovery is a course-specific, skill-based extended learning opportunity for students who have failed to master content or skills required for course credit or promotion. Credit Recovery allows students to demonstrate competency in deficient areas rather than requiring a repeat of the entire course. School counselors are available to discuss the admission process.

### **ACCELERATION**

It is the belief of the Butler County School System that students who can exceed the grade-level indicators and benchmarks set forth by the Alabama Course of Study be given the opportunity and encouragement to do so. All children should be provided adjustments when necessary in order to address their individual needs. Academic acceleration provides the opportunity for students to advance in an individual subject area or for an entire grade. School counselors are available to discuss the acceleration program.

### **NO PASS/NO PLAY**

The Butler County Board of Education recognizes the value of athletics and other extracurricular activities as they relate to the total education of students. The Butler County Board of Education also recognizes and supports high academic

standards and the necessity of developing a framework to annually assess each student involved in athletics and extracurricular activities and his/her progress toward graduating from high school on schedule with his/her class. In addition to standards set forth by the AHSAA, the Board of Education encourages parents and students to make graduating a priority over participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. This Board of Education also recognizes that the Class of 2010 and subsequent classes will be required by the Butler County Board of Education policy to earn a minimum of 24 credits in Grades 9-12, with four (4) credits each in science, mathematics, social studies, and English.

The Butler County Board of Education prescribes the following regulations for eligibility by students in this school system to participate in athletics:

1. Each student in Grades 9-12 must for the immediately preceding school year earn the appropriate number of credits in each of six (6) subjects that total six (6) Carnegie units of credit, including one credit each in English, science, social studies, and mathematics.
2. Physical education may count as only one (1) unit per year.
3. No more than two (2) Carnegie units may be made up during summer school.
4. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student that is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student that regains eligibility at the beginning of second semester remains eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned. Bona fide transfers may be dealt with according to rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for sports and rules to be developed by this Board of Education as it pertains to other extracurricular activities.
5. Each eligible student must have a minimum composite numerical average of 70 on the six (6) Carnegie units from the preceding year, including summer school. Summer school work passed may substitute for regular schoolwork failed in computing the 70 average.
6. Each eligible student must meet the definition of a regular student as defined by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.
7. Any student who earns more than four (4) credits in the core curriculum in any given year, or who accumulates a total in excess of the required four (4) per year may be exempt from earning the four (4) core courses in the succeeding year as

long as that student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.

Each student below Grade 9 shall pass five (5) subjects with a composite numerical average of 70 with all other rules applying the same as to students in Grades 9-12

For purposes of definition, athletic events are defined as those recognized and sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Extracurricular activities are defined as those that are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course(s). Regular curricular activities are defined as those that are required for satisfactory course completion. School sponsors are required to submit a request for each curricular activity that occurs outside the regular school day and/or school to the principal, superintendent, and local board of education for approval. Each request for full participation by all students, regardless of academic standing in a curricular activity shall be granted if the principal, superintendent, and local board of education approve it as an extension of a course(s) requirement(s) and/or it is a sanctioned event by a state/national subject matter association.

Eligibility for extracurricular activities that are not subject to the standards and sanctions imposed by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) may establish stricter academic and other eligibility requirements (i.e., discipline referrals, attendance, etc.) than those required by AHSAA with the approval of the school principal and the superintendent of education. The extracurricular activity sponsor must submit the proposed standards in writing to the school principal who in turn will submit the request to the superintendent for final approval. All stakeholders must be informed in writing of the new standards prior to the next eligibility determination period.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT MASTERY**

### **The Principal:**

The principal is responsible for:

1. Monitoring the instructional program to insure success;
2. Insuring the flow of information about the instructional program between the school and the parents;
3. Assuring that teachers notify parents regarding student progress at prescribed intervals and/or more often as deemed by the teacher(s); and,
4. Placing students appropriately so that they can receive the proper kinds of instruction

**The Teacher:**

The teacher is responsible for:

1. Making sure that the specified skills for mastery are taught from an appropriate management system;
2. Keeping parents informed about their children's progress; and,
3. Systematically scheduling conferences with parents to review students' progress.

**The Parents:**

The parents are responsible for:

1. Monitoring the children's progress through reviewing progress report card grades and test scores available at the school;
2. Making sure that their children attend school regularly and adhere to performance and behavior expectations;
3. Scheduling school visits often; and,
4. Providing a specified time for children to do homework in an environment that is free of distractions.

*The information provided here is only a summary of the Promotion/Retention Policies. If you need further details or would like to see a copy of the entire document, contact your child's teacher or the principal at his/her school.*

**DIPLOMA PATHWAYS FOR  
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities have three pathways for earning the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway, Essentials/Life Skills Pathway, and Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS) Pathway.

- Students with disabilities may choose between the General Education Pathway and the Essentials/Life Skills Pathway.
- Core content area courses for students with disabilities can be General Education courses, Essentials/Life Skills courses, or a combination of both.
- Movement between the General Education Pathway and the Essentials/Life Skills Pathway is allowed.
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet the criteria for the *Alabama Alternate Assessment* are eligible for the AAS Pathway.

**SENIOR CLASS RANK DETERMINATION &  
GRADUATION/DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS  
(APPLIES TO GRADUATING CLASSES  
OF 2020, 2021 AND 2022)**

The following procedure will be used to determine senior class rank. Using numerical grades earned for Carnegie units in Grade 8 through December 31 of Grade 12, only courses in the core curriculum are considered. Core curriculum courses include Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Language Arts includes English 9-12.

Computation of Weighted Credit: Schools and parents can calculate the weighted numeric average in this way.

- Add up all of the numeric grades the student has earned Carnegie units in grades 8 through December 31 of grade 12 in the core curriculum (Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math).
- Add 10 points per semester for dual enrollment courses in the core curriculum
- Add 5 points per semester for Pre-AP
- Add 10 points per semester for Advanced Placement
- Divide this number by the total number of classes the student has taken in the core curriculum. This will result in the weighted average.

This procedure will be used for the purpose of determining class rank only. Numerical grades recorded on the permanent record will be the numerical grades earned until the end of the school year, and will not reflect the added weights. Numerical grades earned, not weighted, will be used for transcripts. However, weighted class rank and weighted GPA for students pursuant to this policy may be used for scholarship applications.

Subject to the weighting requirements listed above, the valedictorian and salutatorian will be those students having the two highest numerical grade point averages on the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement and have been enrolled in that particular school for their junior and senior year.

**Honor Graduate Criteria:**

	<b>AP</b>	<b>ACT Score</b>	<b>GPA</b>
Honors with Distinctions	A minimum of 4 AP and/or Dual Enrollment Courses	A minimum of a 20 Composite Score	90 Weighted GPA
Honors	None	A minimum of a 20 Composite Score	95 Un-weighted GPA

**SENIOR CLASS RANK DETERMINATION &  
GRADUATION/DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS  
(APPLIES TO GRADUATING  
CLASS OF 2023 AND FORWARD)**

The following procedure will be used to determine senior class rank. Using numerical grades earned for Carnegie units in Grade 8 through December 31 of Grade 12, only courses in the core curriculum are considered. Core curriculum courses include Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Language Arts includes English 9-12.

Computation of Weighted Credit: Schools and parents can calculate the weighted numeric average in this way.

- Add up all of the numeric grades the student has earned Carnegie units in grades 8 through December 31 of grade 12 in the core curriculum (Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math).
- Add 10 points per semester for dual enrollment courses in the core curriculum
- Add 10 points per semester for honors courses in the core curriculum
- Add 5 points per semester for Advanced courses in the core curriculum
- Add 10 points per semester for Advanced Placement courses
- Divide this number by the total number of classes the student has taken in the core curriculum. This will result in the weighted average.

This procedure will be used for the purpose of determining class rank only. Numerical grades recorded on the permanent record will be the numerical grades earned until the end of the school year, and will not reflect the added weights. Numerical grades and weighted, will be reflected on the transcripts. Weighted class rank and weighted GPA for students pursuant to this policy may be used for scholarship applications.

Subject to the weighting requirements listed above, the valedictorian and salutatorian will be those students who are Honors graduates and have the two highest numerical grade point averages on the Alabama High School Diploma with Honors Endorsement and have been enrolled in that particular school for their junior and senior year.

**Honor Graduate Criteria:**

	<b>ACT Score</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>Honors Graduate</b>	A minimum of a 20 Composite Score	4.0 Weighted Standard GPA

### Diploma Requirements (All Students)

Areas of Study	Standard High School Diploma	Career & Technical Endorsement	Honors Endorsement
<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
<b>SCIENCE</b>	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit
<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	0.5 Credit	0.5 Credit	0.5 Credit
<b>CAREER PREPAREDNESS</b>	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit
<b>CTE AND/OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND/OR ARTS EDUCATION</b>	3 Credits Students choosing CTE, Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language are encouraged to complete two courses in sequence <u>or</u> *two CTE courses and Workforce Essentials <u>or</u> **AAS Life Skills	3 Credits Students choosing CTE, Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language are encouraged to complete two courses in sequence.	3 Credits Students choosing CTE, Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language are encouraged to complete two courses in sequence.
<b>Electives</b>	2.5 credits	2.5 Credits	5.5 Credits
<b>Career Tech Requirements</b>	None	Minimum of 3 sequential career tech courses	None
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>

## **GRADUATION PARTICIPATION**

Students who fail to successfully complete all diploma requirements will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. A student completing the graduation requirements after the scheduled graduation date may receive his/her diploma during the school's next graduation ceremony, at a regular Board of Education meeting, or at his/her school. Students who transfer to Butler County Schools from another school system must meet the same graduation requirements as those already enrolled in order to receive a diploma.

### **Board Position**

It is the desire of the Board of Education that all eligible students participate in the graduation ceremony. Further, it is the duty of the Board to maintain high standards and encourage all students to meet expectations for receiving a diploma. The Board of Education recognizes the critical role of the parent/guardian in encouraging and supervising a student in his/her pursuit of graduation. The Board assumes responsibility for providing instruction to prepare our students for graduation, and holds parents/guardians responsible for making decisions that will impact their student's on-time graduation.

The Butler County Board of Education values athletics and other extracurricular opportunities but encourages students to be successful on State Assessments and to graduate within four years. These should be priorities over participation in extracurricular activities and athletics.

A parent/guardian that allows his/her student to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities even though the student has not met all academic requirements does so without the approval of the Board. The parent/guardian assumes all responsibility for the decision and its resulting impact on the academic success of the child.

### **PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW**

It is the policy of the Butler County Board of Education to implement required components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or ESEA Parent's Right-to Know provisions, which is found in Section 1111(h)(6).

At the beginning of each school year, Butler County School System shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at as minimum the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, any school receiving Title I funds will provide to each individual parent the following information:

- Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments.
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

All of the notices and information provided to parents under the parent's right to know provision will be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand. All information collected will be collected and disseminated in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.

If you would like to receive this information, feel free to contact Tina Powell at the Butler County Board of Education (334-382-2665).

## **STUDENT BULLYING AND HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY**

### 1. Bullying, Harassment, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited.

No student shall engage in or be subjected to bullying, harassment, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by the Board in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

## 2. Definitions.

- (a) The term “bullying” as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on or off school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic (cyberbullying), verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics set forth in Section 3 (b) below. To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
- Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
  - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
  - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
  - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on or off school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
  - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
- (b) The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
- (c) The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
- (d) The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefit, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.
- (e) The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Butler County School System.

## 3. Description of Behavior Expected of Students.

- (a) Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of

Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting bullying, harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristics of the student.

- (b) Violence, threats of violence, bullying, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim:
- The student's race;
  - The student's sex;
  - The student's religion;
  - The student's national origin; or
  - The student's disability;
  - The student's physical/personal attributes.

#### 4. Consequences for Violations.

A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

#### 5. Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures.

- (a) Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board approved complaint forms available at the principal and/or counselor's office. The complaint must be signed by the student alleging the violation or by the student's parent or legal guardian and delivered to the principal or the principal's designee either by mail or personal delivery. At the request of the complaining student or the student's parent or legal guardian, incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.
- (b) Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will, in their sole discretion determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal's designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or principal's designee will undertake an immediate investigation of the complaint. The investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence and will be completed within twenty (20) working days, when

practical. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.

- (c) Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will result in the student be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- (d) If a threat of suicide by a student is reported, the principal or the principal's designee will inform the student's parent or guardian of the report.

#### 6. Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules, and Forms.

This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the Butler County Board of Education website.

*Approved November 20, 2014;  
Amended July 2018 - Alabama Act 2018-472 (Jamari Terrell  
Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act)*

***The harassment reporting form is posted on the school system's website at [www.butlerco.k2.al.us](http://www.butlerco.k2.al.us) and copies are also available at each school's office.***

### **Butler County Schools Bullying Hotline**

In an effort to provide a safe school environment, the Butler County School System has established a hotline and email address for parents and students to report bullying issues. Please report any bullying concerns by calling the following numbers or e-mailing the address below.

**334-382-4989 or 866-663-8244  
[stopbullying@butlerco.k12.al.us](mailto:stopbullying@butlerco.k12.al.us)**

## **PROTECTED POPULATION SCHOOL ADMISSION**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001, all homeless, migrant, immigrant, Foster Care, English Learners (EL), and disabled children and youth must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. This shall be the policy of the Butler County School System. Such children and youth will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all children and youth are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, immigrant, Foster Care, English Learners (EL), and disabled children and youth shall not be denied or delayed due to any of the following barriers:

- Residency requirements
- Lack of Birth Certificate
- Lack of Immunizations
- Legal guardianship custody requirements
- Lack school records or transcripts
- Lack of Transportation

Homeless Students Dispute Resolution (722(g) (1) C) of the McKinney –Vento Act)

- If a verbal or written dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment, the LEA must immediately enroll the homeless student in the school in which enrollment is sought.
- The School Liaison must immediately provide a written copy of the dispute resolution policy to the unaccompanied youth, parent, or guardian and notify his/her school administrator.
- Within three business days of providing the unaccompanied youth, parent, or guardian with a written copy of the dispute resolution policy, the school principal or school homeless liaison must notify and the District Homeless Liaison of the dispute in writing.
- The District homeless liaison will consult with the Superintendent and must render a decision in writing within five (5) business days to the unaccompanied youth, parent, or guardian. The written decision must include a clear explanation of the decision regarding eligibility, school selection or enrollment including the

rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth to appeal the decision at the local level with a final appeal to the state level.

- If the unaccompanied youth, parent, or guardian appeals the District Homeless Liaison's decision to the LEA's Superintendent, the Superintendent shall issue the District's decision within 5 business days of second dispute appeal. The Superintendent's decision must be provided to the unaccompanied youth, parent, or guardian in writing and include clear explanation of the decision regarding eligibility, school selection or enrollment including the rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth to appeal the decision at the state level.

*Revised 1/23/18*

### **STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE**

A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;

If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and

That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records. (ESEA Section 1111(g)(E)(i)-(iii)).

Foster Care Students Dispute Resolution: If the Butler County Department of Human Resources seeks to place a child in foster care in a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the educational decision-maker<sup>1</sup>, the educational decision- maker shall be provided written notice of his/her right to appeal the decision, including:

1. The contact information for the Butler County School System Foster Care Point of Contact and the State Education Agency (SEA) foster care point of contact.
2. An explanation of the reasons for the decision.
3. A step-by-step description of how to the dispute decision (Level I procedure), including a dispute form.
4. An explanation that if the educational decision-maker chooses to initiate a dispute, the student shall remain in the school of origin, receiving all appropriate educational services, until the dispute reaches its final resolution.
5. Timelines for resolution of the dispute at each level.

6. Notice of the right to appeal to the SEA if the local-level resolution is not satisfactory.

To dispute Butler County Department of Human Resource's decision related to school selection (best interest) or enrollment for a child in foster care, an educational decision-maker must request dispute resolution in writing by submitting a dated appeal letter specifying the school in which enrollment is sought and the basis for seeking enrollment in that school. The appeal letter must include the name and contact information (phone, email and mailing address) for the educational decision-maker.

The Butler County Department of Human Resources shall inform the Butler County Board of Education promptly of the name and contact information of the appropriately designated or appointed educational decision-maker for every child in foster care enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in the Butler County School System.

The educational decision-maker must submit the appeal letter within five (5) school days of receiving written notice of the right to dispute the decision. The letter may be submitted via an email with the subject "Foster Child Appeal," or delivered to any school to the attention of the superintendent. Regardless of how the appeal letter is submitted, the school or school system point of contact (POC) shall ensure the Butler County's superintendent or designee receives it immediately.

The submission of the appeal letter by email or delivery to any school initiates the dispute. From that point, the student shall remain in the school of origin until the dispute reaches its final resolution. The student shall be provided with all appropriate educational services for which the student is eligible during the pendency of the dispute. Students attending their school of origin during the pendency of the dispute will be entitled to receive transportation. The BCSS POC will provide or arrange transportation during the dispute. Once the dispute is resolved, transportation will be provided pursuant to the local transportation procedures developed collaboratively between the BCSS and Butler County Department of Human Resources (BCDHR).

*Level I: Butler County Board of Education Decision*

The superintendent, or superintendent's designee, will arrange for a personal conference to be held with the educational decision-maker, the student (if appropriate), and at least one representative from the local child welfare agency. The

personal conference will be arranged within five (5) business days of the receipt of the Level II appeal letter and will take place as expeditiously as possible.

Within five (5) business days of the personal conference, the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, will inform the educational decision-maker of the decision in writing, using the contact information provided in the appeal letter. The superintendent or designee may consult with the BCDHR foster care point of contact in making the decision. The written decision provided to the educational decision-maker must include:

- A copy of the complete Level I appeal packet.
- The decision rendered at Level I by the superintendent or designee and an explanation for that decision.
- Instructions regarding how to file a Level II dispute, including the name, phone number and email address of the SEA foster care point of contact.

If the educational decision-maker disagrees with the Level I decision and wishes to appeal to Level II, the educational decision-maker shall inform the Butler County superintendent or designee of the intent to appeal to Level II within five (5) school days of receipt of the Level I decision. If the educational decision-maker does not appeal within five (5) school days, the child shall be enrolled and provided all appropriate educational services in the school determined by the BCDHR. If that school is not the school the child had been attending during pendency of the dispute, the BCSS POC and BCDHR POC will prioritize minimizing the disruption to the child's education in effecting the transition to the new school.

*Revised 1/23/18*

## **Youth Suicide Awareness & Prevention Policy (The Jason Flatt Act, May 5, 2016)**

### Introduction

Suicide is the tenth cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For youth between the ages of 10 and 24, the cause of death rankings are 2nd and 3rd in the nation, and these rankings are higher for youth in the same age brackets in the state of Alabama. The *Jason Flatt Act* was passed in order to equip education institutions and their personnel to recognize and act on signs of suicide risk in order to provide prevention, intervention and postvention with students at risk, their families and the communities who may be affected.

The *Jason Flatt Act*, which amends the 16-28B-8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, includes several elements listed below (*in italics*) which should be interpreted as Policy. "To the extent that the legislature shall appropriate funds, or to the extent that any local board may provide funds from other sources, each school system shall implement the following standards and policies for programs in an effort to prevent student suicide":

Section 1. Prevention of Suicide

The *Jason Flatt Act* was passed in order to equip Alabama school districts and their personnel to recognize and act on signs of suicide risk in order to provide prevention, intervention and postvention with students at risk, their families and the communities who may be affected. This act, which amends 16-28B-8 of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, includes prevention of harassment and violence.

Section 2. The *Jason Flatt Act* includes several elements which should be interpreted as Policy. The Butler County School System will:

1. Foster individual, family and group counseling services related to suicide prevention.
2. Make referral, crisis intervention, and other related information available for students, parents, and school personnel.
3. Foster training for school personnel who are responsible for counseling and supervising students.
4. Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and suicide.
5. Educate students in recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of suicide.
6. Inform students of available community suicide prevention services.
7. Promote cooperative efforts between school personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel.
8. Foster school-based or community-based, or both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.
9. Develop a strategy to assist survivors of attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the death of a student, and healing.

10. Engage in any other program or activity which the local board determines is appropriate and prudent in the efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.
11. Provide training for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students on the local board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence.
12. Develop a process for discussing with students local board policies relating to the prevention of student suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.
13. Provide annual training for all certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This training may be provided within the framework of existing inservice training programs or as a part of required professional development offered by the local school system.

### Section 3. Description of Behavior Expected of Students

Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required to (1) comply with the requirements of the law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation and (2) to comply with the system's prevention strategies related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention support.

### Section 4. Responsibility of Reporting

Any person involved in a cause of action or omission resulting from the implementation of this suicide prevention policy or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section, shall be subject to state immunity law.

### Section 5. Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules and Forms

This policy and any procedures and rules developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the Butler County School System website.

**BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOLS  
HANDBOOK AND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT  
Equal Education Opportunity, Attendance, Truancy and  
Tardy Policy, School Conduct Intervention, It's The Law,  
Dress Code, Search of Property, Technology/Internet Use  
and Ethics Code, BYOD Policy, Promotion/Retention  
Policies, Loss of Personal Property and Release to Video  
Tape, Photograph, Broadcast, and Print**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We acknowledge that we have received a copy of and have read, or had read to us, the foregoing Butler County Board of Education Handbook and Code of Student Conduct and the Parent/Student Compact, and we fully understand the terms thereof. I am fully aware of my responsibility to see that my child attends school daily and properly conducts himself/herself and of the penalty for my failure to do so. Each parent must notify their child's principal, teacher, bus driver, and other personnel regarding any health issue affecting their child. Parents are responsible for damage or loss to any and all school property that may be lost or damaged by their child. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing personal items of value to school since loss, theft, or damage is possible. Personal items that become distracting to the educational process may be confiscated by school personnel. The school system is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items including those in lockers or those that have been confiscated by school board personnel. I understand and agree to abide by the rules and conditions of the Butler County School System BYOD policy. I further understand that bringing my device is a privilege, not a right, and that this privilege can be revoked for violations of these rules or any other Code of Conduct violation. The school system is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

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I **DO** \_\_\_ or **DO NOT** \_\_\_ prefer that corporal punishment (padding) be used as a disciplinary measure for my child. However, I acknowledge the right of the school system's authority to use any and all disciplinary measures provided for under board policy, statutory and case law, including padding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed) *Student*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed) *Parent/Guardian/Custodian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**NOTE:** Please detach this page after signing and have the student return to his/her homeroom teacher. This **ACKNOWLEDGMENT** becomes a part of the student's cumulative file.

