



# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE

*2016 – 2017*

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Shelby County Schools  
410 East College Street (35051-9301)  
P.O. Box 1910 (35051)  
Columbiana, Alabama  
205-682-7000

Mr. Randy Fuller, Superintendent

[www.shelbyed.k12.al.us](http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us)

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The information in this book has been approved by the Shelby County Board of Education.

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**Shelby County Schools Vision – *To be the model for excellence in education.***

**Shelby County Schools Mission – *To make every student a graduate and every graduate prepared.***

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\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

All students and their parents/guardians are required to sign an acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance at the beginning of each school year.

It is the intent of the Shelby County Board of Education that our schools remain safe and drug free for all students and school employees. The Board, therefore, has established policies and practices consistent with laws that promote a safe school environment -- free of illegal drugs, alcohol, or weapons on a school bus or campus.

*All policies of the Shelby County Board of Education are provided on the System Web Site at [www.shelbyed.k12.al.us](http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us).*

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	Dr. Angela Walker	Professional Development Supervisor
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	Dr. Lusia MacPherson	Advanced Programs Supervisor
	Leah Dobbs Black	ESL Program Supervisor
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	Julie Godfrey	Supervisor of Career & Technical Education
	Dr. Leah Anne Wood	Coordinator of Strategic Planning and Leadership Development
Dr. Linda Campanotta	Federal Programs Supervisor	
Dana Martin	School Improvement/Federal Programs Supervisor	

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	Nathan Hayes	Child Nutrition Program Coordinator
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	Tommy Gamble	Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor
	David Sellers	Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor
	Mike Carden	Construction Supervisor
	Rick Vines	Transportation Coordinator
	Brent Copes	Transportation Supervisor
	Brian Miller	Transportation Route Supervisor

## SHELBY COUNTY MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX
Calera High (9-12)	Joel Dixon	100 Calera Eagle Drive Calera, AL 35040	682-6100	682-6105
Calera Middle (6-8)	Dr. Branden Vincent	9178 Highway 22 Montevallo, AL 35115	682-6140	682-6145
Chelsea High (9-12)	Wayne Trucks	10510 Highway 11 Chelsea, AL 35043	682-7200	682-7205
Chelsea Middle (6-8)	Andrew Gunn	2321 Highway 39 Chelsea, AL 35043	682-7210	682-7215
Columbiana Middle (6-8)	Dr. Kerry Rush	222 Joinertown Road Columbiana, AL 35051	682-6610	682-6615
Helena High (9-12)	April Brand	1310 Hillsboro Parkway Helena, AL 35080	682-3650	682-3655
Helena Middle (6-8)	Scott Knight	1299 Hillsboro Parkway Helena, AL 35080	682-5300	682-5305
Linda Nolen Learning Center (K-12)	Michele Shepherd	2280 Highway 35 Pelham, AL 35124	682-5800	682-5805
Montevallo High (9-12)	Brandon Turner	980 Oak Street Montevallo, AL 35115	682-6400	682-6405
Montevallo Middle (6-8)	Shelia Lewis	235 Samford Street Montevallo, AL 35115	682-6410	682-6415
New Direction (9-12)	Michael Jones	701 Highway 70 Columbiana, AL 35051	682-5910	682-5915
Oak Mountain High (9-12)	Dr. Kristi Sayers	5476 Caldwell Mill Road Birmingham, AL 35242	682-5200	682-5205
Oak Mountain Middle (6-8)	Larry Haynes	5650 Cahaba Valley Road Birmingham, AL 35242	682-5210	682-5215
SC College & Career Center (9-12)	TBA	701 Highway 70 Columbiana, AL 35051	682-6650	682-6655
Shelby County High (9-12)	Barbara Snyder	101 Washington Street Columbiana, AL 35051	682-6600	682-6605
Vincent Middle/High (6-12)	Dr. Michele Edwards	42505 Highway 25 Vincent, AL 35178	682-7300	682-7305

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## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE - INTRODUCTION**

The Shelby County Board of Education (SCBOE) believes that instruction should occur in an environment conducive to learning because effective quality instruction requires orderly procedures and discipline. The purpose of this handbook, as well as the enforcement of its rules, is to insure the presence of a safe, friendly, and professional atmosphere in which students and school personnel work cooperatively toward mutually accepted goals. Acting in the best interest of all the residents of Shelby County, the SCBOE requires principals, faculties, staffs, students, parents, and guardians to comply with this adopted ***Student Code of Conduct and Attendance*** handbook. The guidelines and expectations set forth in this document are applicable to all students who are enrolled in the Shelby County School System, inclusive of both traditional (all-day) and non-traditional (virtual, charter, homeschool) students.

As students' progress in the public schools, it is reasonable to assume that an increase in age and maturity will result in the students' assumption of greater responsibility for their actions. Although it is true that differences in age and maturity require different types of disciplinary action, the expectation of student behavior identified in this handbook will apply to all students in grades kindergarten through twelve.

The contents of this handbook:

- Describe roles of the home, student, school, and school personnel.
- Describe student rights and responsibilities.
- Define student discipline in the context of the Board of Education's philosophy.
- Identify formal disciplinary actions.
- Identify classifications of violations and describe procedures for disciplinary actions.
- Standardize procedures for administering formal disciplinary actions.
- Conform to the mandates provided in The Education for All Handicapped Children Act; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and The Alabama Exceptional Child Act.

### **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the SCBOE that no person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.: Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; and the Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972. For more information contact the Title IX, 504, and/or ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 1910 Columbiana, AL 35051, or call 205-682-7000.

### **DUE PROCESS**

The policy of the SCBOE is to adhere to due process when carrying out the procedures contained in this handbook. Principals are responsible for familiarizing their staffs with due process procedures and providing each staff member with a copy of this handbook.

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

- School rules must be clearly stated and related to the educational purposes of the school.
- School rules must be fair and specific enough for students to know what they may or may not do.
- Students, parents, and guardians must be informed of the rules affecting behavior and discipline.
- When disciplinary action is involved, school personnel and students must comply with required procedures set forth in the ***Student Code of Conduct and Attendance***.
- When addressing incidents of misconduct, a student should be informed of the school rule(s) that has been broken and given an opportunity to share his/her account of the incident with school personnel.
- School personnel are permitted to speak to students regarding school-related issues without obtaining prior parent permission.

The consensus of this Board 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.

### **ROLES OF THE PARENTS, STUDENTS, SCHOOL AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

In order for effective teaching and learning to take place, there must be a cooperative relationship among students, parents and guardians, and educators. This relationship may be described as:

**Parents and Guardians who:**

- Keep in regular communication with the school authorities concerning their child's progress and conduct.
- Insure that their child is in daily attendance and promptly report and explain an absence or tardiness to school officials.

- Provide their child with the resources needed to complete class work.
- Assist their child in being healthy, neat, and clean.
- Bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects their child or other children.
- Discuss report cards and work assignments with their child.
- Maintain up-to-date home, work, and emergency telephone numbers and addresses at the school, including doctor, hospital preferences, and an emergency health care form.
- Attend scheduled parent-teacher conferences.

**Students who:**

- Attend all classes daily and are punctual in attendance.
- Are prepared to come to class with appropriate working materials.
- Are respectful to all individuals and of all property.
- Refrain from profane or inflammatory statements.
- Conduct their self in a safe and responsible manner.
- Are clean, neat, and appropriately dressed.
- Show a positive, cooperative attitude toward school.
- Abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school and Board.

**Schools that:**

- Encourage the use of good guidance procedures.
- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to good behavior.
- Exhibit an attitude of respect for students.
- Plan a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all students.
- Promote effective discipline based upon fair and impartial treatment of all students.
- Welcome and encourage participation by parents and guardians.
- Encourage the school staff, parents and guardians, and students to use the services of community agencies.
- Encourage parents and guardians to keep in regular communication with the school and to seek ways to involve students, parents, and community members in the educational process.

**School Personnel who:**

- Are regular in attendance and punctual.
- Are prepared to perform their duties with appropriate materials and lesson plans.
- Are respectful to all individuals and of all property.
- Refrain from profane or inflammatory statements.
- Conduct their self in a safe and responsible manner.
- Are clean, neat, and appropriately dressed.
- Abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school and Board.
- Seek changes in an orderly and recognized manner.
- Strive whenever appropriate to use a variety of informal disciplinary and guidance methods, prior to, during, and after formal disciplinary action including:
  - Students' program adjustment.
  - Referral to guidance personnel for group or individual counseling with counselors, peer counseling, psychological evaluations, and other services deemed appropriate.
  - Conferences and/or contacts between administrators, parents and guardians, teachers, and students.
  - Referral to special education or appropriate agencies for special problems.
  - Continuous improvement of professional knowledge and skills.
  - Positive, cooperative attitudes toward parents and guardians, students, co-workers, and the total school program.

**JURISDICTION OF SCHOOL BOARD**

Shelby County students are subject to the rules of the SCBOE during the school day, while in attendance at school related activities, and while being transported to and from school or school-related activities.

Jurisdictional control over student behavior may be extended beyond the school campus whenever the conduct of the student is deemed to have a detrimental effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the school community.

Administrators and teachers have jurisdiction to implement the disciplinary procedures of the Code of Conduct on any campus in the school system even though the student(s) may not be enrolled at the school in which the violation(s) occurs.

## GUIDANCE SERVICES

### **Philosophical Basis:**

Personal concerns of students can seriously limit or enhance educational development. Schools have the responsibility to provide a guidance program and to make relevant and objective information available to students in such a manner that it will enhance educational development.

### **Student Responsibilities are:**

- To use guidance services for their educational and personal improvement.
- To schedule appointments with guidance personnel in advance unless the problem or concern is an emergency.
- To work cooperatively with guidance personnel.

### **Student Rights are:**

- To be informed as to the nature of the guidance services available in school.
- To have access to individual and group guidance.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### **Philosophical Basis:**

Schools will provide appropriate special education services for any eligible student residing within the county unless the student is residing and/or receiving services in a state facility or institution.

### **Student Responsibilities are:**

- To use special education for educational and personal improvement.

### **Student Rights are:**

- To be informed of the least restrictive environment needed for appropriate education.
- To have access to small group instruction based on an individualized educational program where appropriate.

## PROBLEM SOLVING TEAMS (PSTs)

Problem-Solving Teams (PSTs) will help to guide general education intervention services for all students who have academic or behavior difficulties. PST is a school initiated process. The PST is central to the school's successful implementation of the Response to Instruction (RTI) framework. The PST is responsible for the day-to-day decisions which ensure that (1) students receive instruction and interventions matched to their identified needs, (2) appropriate progress monitoring tools are utilized to provide evidence of students' response to instruction and intervention, and (3) progress monitoring data are used to make timely instructional decisions which maximize student outcomes. Parents will be notified and informed of these instructional strategies, as well as their child's progress monitoring data.

Team members could include the following:

- Teachers
- Instructional Coaches (Reading, Literacy, Math, Graduation, etc.)
- School Counselor

Response to Instruction (RTI) refers to an instructional framework that promotes a well-integrated system connecting general, gifted, supplemental, and special education services in providing high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention that is matched to students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. The purpose of the RTI framework is to combine core instruction, assessment, and interventions within a multi-tiered system to increase student achievement and to reduce behavior problems.

Simply put, RTI involves:

- Doing what is needed to teach students.
- Teaching students using scientifically validated methods.
- Checking regularly to see how well students are learning.
- Adjusting instruction as needed to improve student outcomes.

## CURRICULUM

### **Philosophical Basis:**

Student opinion regarding curriculum offerings is extremely important and, therefore, deserves careful analysis and consideration. The degree of student involvement in curriculum development is determined by the student's age, grade level, and maturity. Final determination of course requirements and program consistency will rest with the professionals who are assigned the curriculum development responsibility.

### **Student Responsibilities are:**

- To request participation in academic programs and extra-curricular activities that is compatible with ability.
- To seek assistance in course selection from informed professionals in the school.



- To contribute to an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- To cooperate fully and exert every effort to achieve mastery of the basic skills.

**Student Rights are:**

- To have equal access to educational opportunities offered by their home school.
- To receive curriculum information that will facilitate informed choices.
- To receive instruction in courses of study under competent instructors in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- To participate in appropriate instructional programs in elementary, middle, and high schools.

**FREE SPEECH/EXPRESSION**

**Philosophical Basis:**

Citizens in our democracy are guaranteed self-expression under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States; therefore, in a democratic society, one of the basic purposes of education is to prepare students for responsible self-expression.

**Student Responsibilities are:**

- To respect the rights of others and to express disagreement in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others and that does not interfere with the orderly educational process.
- To act in a manner that preserves the dignity of all persons.
- To plan for, seek approval of, and conduct activities which are consistent with the educational objectives of the school.

**Student Rights are:**

- To form and express viewpoints through speaking and writing in a manner which is not obscene, slanderous, libelous, or disruptive to the educational process.
- To affirm identity with the American ideals as are exemplified in the Constitution of the United States.
- To refrain from any activities that violates the precepts of their own religion.

**PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Integrity means to integrate one's values and beliefs into every activity that is undertaken. The Shelby County School District believes that honesty is right and that stealing and cheating are wrong. Academic integrity means doing one's own work to the best of one's ability, without the unauthorized help or assistance of someone else. Therefore, in an effort to foster academic integrity in all Shelby County students, this honor code has been created to help students recognize, understand, and practice ethical conduct with regard to their academic assignments.

There are various academic scenarios pertaining to the completion of academic assignments that would be considered unethical. These instances include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cheating: copying another student's work, and is inclusive of both giving and receiving information on an academic assignment.
- Plagiarism: defined as either the intentional or unintentional use of another person's words, ideas, or data without providing the proper acknowledgement of the source through quotations, references, or footnotes.
- Fabrication/Falsification: scenario in which one either invents or distorts the origin or content of information used as authority. This is inclusive of citing a source that does not exist, citing information from a source that does not actually contain the information that was cited, as well as listing a bibliography source when the source was neither referenced nor cited in the assignment.

Generally, when academic assignments are made, the expectation is that each student will do their own work without the help or assistance of others. Exceptions to this expectation might include group projects in which the teacher authorized certain students to work together on a particular assignment. When instances of academic dishonesty have been discovered, typically, either reduced credit or possibly no credit (i.e., a "zero") will be awarded. Further, instances of academic dishonesty will be documented in the student's individual conduct file, and additional consequences may also be assigned as applicable to the particular incident.

**GRADES**

**Philosophical Basis:**

An academic grade should reflect the teacher's most objective assessment of the student's academic achievement. Academic grades will not be used as a means of maintaining order in a classroom.

**Student Responsibilities are:**

- To become informed of the method of grade determination in each class.
- To maintain standards of academic performance equal to ability, and to make every effort to improve performance upon receipt of notification of unsatisfactory progress.

**Student Rights are:**

- To be knowledgeable of a teacher's method of grade determination in each class at the beginning of each year or semester course.
- To receive periodic progress reports.

**PRIVACY AND PROPERTY RIGHTS****Philosophical Basis:**

Federal and state laws provide persons with a reasonable expectation of privacy in addition to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure of property. Such guarantees are not unlimited and must be balanced by the school's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students.

**Student Responsibilities are:**

- To attend school-related activities without bringing materials or objects prohibited by law or Board policy or which detract from the educational process.
- To respect the property rights of their fellow students, as well as those of others, on school grounds or at school activities, and to refrain from destruction of, or damage to, such property.

**Student Rights are:**

- To maintain privacy of personal possessions unless appropriate school personnel have reasonable cause to believe a student possesses any object or material which is prohibited by law or Board policy.
- To attend school in an educational environment in which personal property is respected.

**STUDENT RECORDS****Philosophical Basis:**

Student records will be maintained by the schools and will be used in making appropriate educational decisions for the students. All information regarding students and their families will be collected, maintained, and distributed under safeguards of privacy. These safeguards may be obtained through informed consent, verification of accuracy, limited access, selective discard, and appropriate use.

**Student and Parent/Guardian Responsibilities are:**

- To inform the school of any information that may be useful in making appropriate educational decisions.

**Student and Parent/Guardian Rights are:**

- To inspect, review, and challenge the information contained in records directly relating to the student.
- To be protected by legal provisions that prohibit the release of personally identifiable information to anyone other than legally authorized persons without the consent of the parent(s), guardian, or eligible student.

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS****Philosophical Basis:**

Education is the process of inquiring and learning, acquiring and imparting knowledge, and exchanging ideas. One of the important roles of the school is to provide effective avenues through which students may express themselves on a wide range of subjects.

**Student Responsibilities are:**

- To refrain from publishing libelous or obscene materials deemed disruptive to the educational process.
- To seek full information on the topic about which they write.
- To observe the accepted rules for responsible journalism under the guidance of the faculty advisor and/or principal.

**Student Rights are:**

- To participate, as part of the educational process, in the development and distribution of publications.

**SUMMARY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES**

The following summaries of laws relate to civil liabilities and criminal penalties for violence or other misbehavior by students on school property or against school employees. Local boards of education are required to provide notice to parents, guardians, and students.

**Attendance and Conduct (§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).

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting (§26-14-1)**

Certain persons and institutions are required by law to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect under a penalty of a misdemeanor, fine or sentence. Those who are required by law to report are: hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, school teachers and officials, peace officers, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals, or any other person called upon to render aid of medical assistance to a known or suspected victim of child abuse or neglect. Besides those persons who are required by law to report child abuse and neglect, any person may make such report, if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected.

### **Drop-Out/Driver's License (§16-25-40)**

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.

### **Drug Dealing (§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 (§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 physical 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 of readmission.

### **Pistol Possession/Driver's License (§16-28-40)**

Any person over the age of 14 who is convicted of a 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 permit or 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 the age of 14 possesses a driver's license on the date of conviction, the driver's license will be suspended for 180 days.

### **Sexual Harassment (§26-14-3)**

A student who believes that he or she has been or is being subjected to any form of sexual harassment shall immediately report the matter to a teacher, the school counselor, principal, or the Superintendent. Any student who suspects that another student is being sexually harassed shall immediately report the information to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or the Superintendent. A student's request to make his or her report to someone of the same sex will be granted.

### **Teacher Assault (§13A-6-21)**

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.

### **Tobacco Possession (§28-11-13)**

It is unlawful for any minor to purchase, use, possess, or transport tobacco or tobacco products within this state... (See Alabama Law §28-11-14 for additional reference.)

### **Vandalism (§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.

### **Weapons in Schools (§13A-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 switch-blade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or dagger; or any club, baton, billy, black-jack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.)

**LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS OF EDUCATION ARE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING ACT AND SECTION**

**Expectations of Parents Regarding Attendance and Behavior in Public Schools, Alabama Code §16-28-12**

"(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 any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section 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 public 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) Each local public board of education shall adopt a written policy for its standards on school behavior. Each local public school superintendent shall provide at the commencement of each academic year a copy of the written policy on school behavior to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or control of a child who is enrolled. Included in the written policy shall be a copy of this section. The signature of the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall document receipt of the policy."

"(c) 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 the 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 or his or her designee shall report suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days. Any principal or superintendent or his or her designee intentionally failing to report 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."

**Seclusion and Restraint for ALL Students, Alabama Administrative Code §290-3-1-.02(1)(f)**

1. Definitions. (i) Chemical Restraint - Any medication that is used to control violent physical behavior or restrict the student's freedom of movement that is not a prescribed treatment for the student's medical or psychiatric condition. Use of chemical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (ii) Mechanical Restraint - The use of any device or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body that is intended to restrict the normal freedom of movement and which cannot be easily removed by the student. The term does not include an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist when used as recommended by the physician or therapist to promote normative body positioning and physical functioning, and/or to prevent self-injurious behavior. The term also does not include seatbelts and other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation. Use of mechanical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (iii) Physical Restraint - Direct physical contact from an adult that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement. The term physical restraint does not include mechanical restraint or chemical restraint. Additionally, physical restraint does not include: providing limited physical contact and/or redirection to promote student safety or prevent self-injurious behavior, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing guidance to a location, providing comfort, or providing limited physical contact as reasonably needed to prevent imminent destruction to school or another person's property. (iv) Physical Restraint that restricts the flow of air to the student's lungs- Any method (face-down, face-up, or on your side) of physical restraint in which physical pressure is applied to the student's body that restricts the flow of air into the student's lungs. Use of this type of restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (v) Seclusion -a procedure that isolates and confines the student in a separate, locked area until he or she is no longer an immediate danger to himself/herself or others. The seclusion occurs in a specifically constructed or designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include situations in which a staff member trained in the use of de-escalation techniques or restraint is physically present in the same unlocked room as the student, time-out as defined in paragraph (1.) (vi) of this rule, in-school suspension, detention, or a student-requested

break in a different location in the room or in a separate room. Use of seclusion is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (vi) Time-out - A behavioral intervention in which the student is temporarily removed from the learning activity. Time-out is appropriately used when: (I) The non-locking setting used for time-out is appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled. (II) The duration of the time-out is reasonable in light of the purpose of the time-out and the age of the child; however, each time-out should not exceed 45 minutes. (III) The student is reasonably monitored by an attending adult who is in reasonable physical proximity of the student and has sight of the student while in time-out. (IV) The time-out space is free of objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

2. Requirements. (i) The use of seclusion is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (ii) The use of any method of physical restraint that restricts the flow of air to a student's lungs is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (iii) The use of mechanical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (iv) The use of chemical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs. (v) The use of physical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs except in those situations in which the student is an immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques. Notwithstanding the foregoing, physical restraint is prohibited in Alabama public schools and educational programs when used as a form of discipline or punishment. (vi) All physical restraint must be immediately terminated when the student is no longer an immediate danger to himself or others or if the student is observed to be in severe distress. (vii) Schools and programs that use physical restraint in accordance with paragraph (2.)(v-xiv) of this rule must develop and implement written policies to govern the use of physical restraint. Parents must be provided information regarding the school or program's policies governing the use of physical restraint. The written policies must include the following provisions: (I) Staff and faculty training on the use of physical restraint and the school or program's policy and procedures, (II) Written parental notification when physical restraint is used to restrain their student within a reasonable time not to exceed one school day from the use of restraint, (III) The use of physical restraint to be documented and a debriefing session held by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student in each instance in which the student is restrained, (IV) Procedures for the periodic review of the use of restraint and the documentation described in paragraph (2.)(vii)(III), (V) Procedures for reporting the use of restraint and the documentation described in paragraph (2.)(vii)(III) and any prohibited use of seclusion and chemical, mechanical, or physical restraint to the local board of education annually, (VI) The documentation described in paragraph (2.)(vii)(III) (monthly summary reports) and any prohibited use of seclusion and chemical, mechanical, or physical restraint is to be submitted to the Alabama Department of Education annually, and (VII) The written policies described in paragraph (2.)(vii)(I and II) are to be included in each local education agencies' code of conduct and/or the student handbook. (viii) Schools and programs that use physical restraints in accordance with paragraph (2.)(v-xiv) of this rule, must ensure that staff and faculty are trained in the use of physical restraint. This training shall be provided as a part of a program, which addresses prevention and de-escalation techniques as well as positive behavioral intervention strategies. Schools and programs must maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided. A list of participants that attended each training session must also be provided. Records of such training must be made available to the Alabama Department of Education or any member of the public upon request. (ix) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to interfere with a school system, school or program, or school or program employee's authority to utilize time-out as defined in paragraph (1.)(vi) of this rule or any other classroom management technique or approach, including a student's removal from the classroom, that is not specifically addressed in this rule. (x) Nothing in this rule modifies the rights of school personnel to use reasonable force as permitted under the Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-1-14 or modifies the rules and procedures governing discipline under the Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-28-12. (xi) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit a school system, school, or program employee from taking reasonable action to diffuse or break up a student fight or altercation. (xii) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit a school system, school, or program employee from taking reasonable action to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous objects on a student or within the control of a student. (xiii) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to eliminate or restrict the ability of an employee of a school system, school or program to use his or her discretion in the use of physical restraint to protect students or others from imminent harm or bodily injury. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to create a criminal offense or a private cause of action against any local board of education or program or its agents or employees. (xiv) In some instances in which a student is an immediate danger to himself or herself or others, the school or program must determine when it becomes necessary to seek assistance from law enforcement and/or emergency medical personnel. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or

emergency medical personnel. Parents must be promptly informed when students are removed from the school or program setting by emergency medical or law enforcement personnel.

### **DEFINITIONS AND RULES RELATING TO FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

*All students shall be afforded an opportunity for due process in all matters pertaining to disciplinary matters.*

#### **Detention Hall**

Detention hall is defined as a required period of time that may be used for study, isolation, or work detail before, during, or after school. Detention hall assignments are supervised by school personnel and take place inside the school building. It is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation.

#### **In-School Suspension**

In-school detention is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated or removed from regular classroom activities but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal or his/her designated person(s) has the authority to assign students to in-school detention for a reasonable and specified period of time.

#### **Saturday School Detention**

High school and middle school students may be assigned to Saturday School for various rule infractions. Students will be assigned a directed study of school materials.

Guidelines for Saturday School:

- A. The Saturday School administrator will have pupils sign in at 8:00 a.m. and out at 12 noon. Students will be required to show proof of identification.
- B. Students will be allowed one mid-morning rest room break.
- C. Regular school dress code will be in effect.
- D. No food or drink will be allowed.
- E. No transportation will be provided by the school system.
- F. Each student will be required to bring his/her own school materials. School administrators may assign extra work assignments. Students who fail to bring their school materials will be assigned one additional day of Saturday School.
- G. Only the home school administrator may excuse a student from Saturday School detention in a documented emergency.
- H. Students who are assigned to Saturday School and fail to appear on the assigned Saturday will receive in-school suspension in addition to serving the missed Saturday School. Failure to serve the in-school suspension and Saturday School may result in a 10-day referral to New Direction.
- I. Students failing to arrive on time at 8:00 a.m. will be assigned one additional Saturday School.
- J. Disruptive behavior at Saturday School will result in immediate further disciplinary action.

#### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment (paddling) may be used as a disciplinary option by an administrator.

The use of corporal punishment requires prior written consent of the parent, guardian, or other parental representative. Guidelines for the use of corporal punishment are available in the Central Office of the Board of Education and the local school office.

#### **Suspension**

Suspension is defined as the temporary removal of a student from school for a violation of school policies, rules, regulations, or for interfering with the orderly operation of the school. Without an appropriate disciplinary hearing, cumulative suspensions shall not exceed 10 school days per semester for non-special education students and 10 days per year for special education students. In the event a proposed suspension results in cumulative suspensions exceeding ten (10) school days per semester for non-special education students or ten (10) full days per year for special education students, an appropriate disciplinary hearing will be held. Only the Superintendent or his or her designee, principal, or assistant administrator shall have the authority to suspend students.

- A. Days absent from school because of suspension are unexcused. No credit for daily work is permitted when a student is absent as a result of suspension.
- B. At the discretion of the principal, credit for major tests, nine-week tests, midterm exams, and final exams may be given to students who have been suspended during exam periods.
- C. Any single suspension shall not exceed ten school days without an administrative hearing by the superintendent or his designee. Any suspension of 10 or more days is considered 'Long-term suspension'.
- D. After an administrative hearing, the Superintendent or his designee may suspend the student until action is taken by the Board.
- E. A student being suspended will be informed of the reason for suspension, the number of suspension days, and appeal rights. A disciplinary action notice form will be provided to the custodial parent or legal guardian.
- F. The custodial parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to confer with the principal before the student is readmitted to school.

G. Students suspended for any portion of the school day are not allowed to participate in or attend any school-related activities until reinstated by the school administrator.

H. The Superintendent or designee will be notified of all suspensions.

### **Alternative School Placement**

The SCBOE operates an Alternative Educational Program to which students may be referred depending on the circumstances and conduct involved instead of receiving long-term suspension or expulsion. There is no guarantee or commitment on the part of the SCBOE or its employees that all high school curriculum can be duplicated while a student is in attendance at New Direction.

Students who commit a Class III or Class IV violation, as defined by the **Code of Conduct**, or who repeatedly commit Class II violations such that they frequently disrupt the education of others may be referred to New Direction by the school administrators. Additionally, students that presently have criminal charges pending may be placed at New Direction until those charges have been adjudicated.

The New Direction Alternative School Program is located on a separate campus. Alternative school placements are used in the place of long-term suspension and/or expulsion. Students who are assigned to New Direction may not attend any school related function while enrolled. This includes but is not limited to all extracurricular activities including sport games and competitions, school dances, field trips, group class activities, graduation ceremonies, and other school activities. Students are expected to follow all guidelines and procedures established at the school. **Transportation to New Direction is not provided at the expense of the Board.** Upon a student's completion of his/her alternative school assignment and return back to the home school, the local school administrator will conduct a transition conference to support a successful new start.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is denial of school attendance by the Board of Education. Expulsion may be recommended for the remainder of the school year or for a time period determined on a case-by-case basis. Upon the receipt of the principal's recommendation, the Superintendent shall schedule an administrative hearing. In the event expulsion is recommended, the custodial parent will be notified by registered mail prior to action by the SCBOE.

### **Early Warning**

The Early Warning Program is a school/community-based program to assist public school personnel, parents, and law enforcement personnel in providing for early intervention for children and youth who are truant or in danger of becoming truant or for conduct.

### **Juvenile Court Referral**

Students may be referred to Juvenile Court for attendance or behavior related problems. Once a student is referred, the Court will take such action as it deems appropriate. Student referral will be in the form of a complaint or petition.

The kinds of petitions are as follows:

- A. **Child In Need of Supervision (CHINS)**, for status offenders;
- B. **Delinquent**, for juveniles committing misdemeanors or felonies;
- C. **Dependent**, for abused or neglected juveniles.

Students who are 18 years of age cannot be classified as juveniles, and, therefore, any court action will be through adult court.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS**

Proper behavior is that which enhances the learning environment. Classroom teachers are responsible for maintaining classroom discipline and will deal with general classroom disruptions. **Only when the action taken by the teacher is ineffective or the disruption is sufficiently severe should the student be referred to the principal or his or her designee.**

Parents or guardians of students who consistently disrupt class and/or exhibit poor work habits should be notified by the teacher or other school official and/or referred to a guidance counselor. When a student is brought to the office of the supervising employee, the principal/designee shall hear the student's explanation and consult further with other school personnel, if necessary, before determining the classification of violation or disciplinary measure.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into four classes: Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary action that is to be implemented by principals or their designee. Parental contact (verbal and/or written) will be made as disciplinary consequences are assigned to a student for misconduct.

## **CLASS I VIOLATIONS**

- 101 **EXCESSIVE TARDINESS** – Three or more incidents of reporting late to school, class, or assigned area during a calendar month.
  - 101.1 **TARDIES TO SCHOOL**
  - 101.2 **TARDIES TO CLASS**
- 102 **DISTRACTION OF OTHER STUDENTS OR THE SCHOOL PROGRAM IN GENERAL** – Any behavior which is disruptive to the educational process.
- 103 **NON-CONFORMITY TO DRESS CODE**
- 104 **MINOR DISRUPTION ON A SCHOOL BUS**
- 105 **INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**
- 107 **LITTERING OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**
- 108 **FAILURE TO COME TO CLASS PREPARED WITH ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS**
- 109 **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL OR ANOTHER PERSON'S PERSONAL PROPERTY**
- 110 **POSSESSION OF NUISANCE ITEMS** – Any item which disrupts the instructional program is not allowed at school. Such items will be confiscated and may be claimed by a parent or guardian. Examples include but are not limited to: iPods, CD players, radios, toys, trading cards, playing cards, or other hand-held video games. Students bring these items to school at their own risk. The local school is not responsible for attempting to recover these items should they be lost or stolen while at school.
- 111 **ANY OTHER OFFENSE WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM TO FALL WITHIN THIS CATEGORY**
- 112 **FAILURE TO ATTEND ASSIGNED CONSEQUENCES**
  - 112.1 **BEFORE OR AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION**
  - 112.2 **SATURDAY SCHOOL**

### **Class I Disciplinary Actions**

#### **First Violation:**

Principal/teacher/student conference, parental contact, or in-school parental conference if warranted. Placement in detention hall, in-school suspension, or extra work assignments may be assigned.

#### **Subsequent Violations:**

Disciplinary actions may include detention hall, extra academic work, in-school suspension, loss of parking, corporal punishment, Saturday School, and/or referral to the Early Warning Program. Repeated or cumulative Class I Violations may result in suspension from school and/or bus.

## **CLASS II VIOLATIONS**

- 201 **DEFIANCE OR DISRESPECT OF SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE'S AUTHORITY** – Any refusal to comply with a reasonable direction or order of a school board employee, or showing a lack of respect for a person or their authority through word or action.
  - 201.1 **DEFIANCE**
  - 201.2 **DISRESPECT**
- 202 **POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF PRESCRIPTION, NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, INHALANTS, AEROSOL SPRAYS, OR OTHER OVER-THE-COUNTER PRODUCTS** – Failure to comply with the SCBOE Medication Policy and Procedures. Required medications must be delivered to the school by the parent or other responsible adult accompanied by the completed Alabama State Department of Education designated medication authorization form and kept in accordance with the SCBOE medication policy and procedures.
- 203 **POSSESSION, USE, AND/OR SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS, LIGHTERS, OR MATCHES**
  - 203.1 **TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, VAPORIZERS, E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS, LIGHTERS, MATCHES, POSSESSION**
  - 203.2 **TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, VAPORIZERS, E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS, SALE**
  - 203.3 **TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, VAPORIZERS, E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS, LIGHTERS, MATCHES, USE**
- 204 **INTENTIONALLY TOUCHING OR STRIKING ANOTHER PERSON AGAINST THE WILL OF THE OTHER**
- 205 **USE OF PROFANE OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE**
  - 205.1 **POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHIC, SUGGESTIVE, OR INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL**
- 206 **THREAT, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING OF STUDENTS** – The threat by word or act to do harm to another student, with an apparent ability to do so, or doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in the person that such violence is imminent. Harassment is inclusive of name-calling, as well as conduct, which directly affect another individual's emotional state of mind.
- 207 **VANDALISM** – Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$200 to public property or the real or personal property of another. A police report will be filed.
- 208 **"SKIPPING" CLASS OR SCHOOL** – Unauthorized absence from class or school. Group skip days are included in this category and are not permitted by the Board of Education.



- 209 **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** – A breach of academic integrity as outlined in the Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty section in this book. Typically, with instances of academic dishonesty, the student will receive either reduced credit or no credit on the particular assignment, along with other appropriate disciplinary action.
- 210 **GAMBLING** – Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other items of value.
- 211 **INTENTIONALLY PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE**
- 212 **STEALING-LARCENY-PETTY THEFT** – The intentional taking and/or carrying away of property valued at less than \$100 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another.
- 213 **POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY** – The possession of stolen property valued at or less than \$100, with the knowledge that it is stolen.
- 214 **THREATS TO DO EXTORTION** – Verbal or written.
- 215 **TRESPASSING** – Willfully entering or remaining on any school property without first checking in at the main office, completing visitor check-in procedures and receiving approval.
- 216 **POSSESSION AND/OR IGNITING FIREWORKS OR FIRECRACKERS**
- 217 **INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR** – Verbal or written.
- 218 **USE OF PHYSICAL OR GRAPHIC OBSCENE GESTURES**
- 219 **THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PERSONAL OR SCHOOL)**
- 220 **USE OF SLURS: RACIAL, ETHNIC, OR OTHER** – Verbal or written insults, comments, or remarks that are derogatory or demeaning in nature, including but not limited to comments about one’s race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- 221 **ANY OTHER OFFENSE WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM TO FALL WITHIN THIS CATEGORY**
- 222 **MINOR VIOLATION OF STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY** – Examples of minor violations could include: the intentional attempt to circumvent the school’s computer filtering or security system; the unauthorized use, misuse, and/or abuse of the school computer equipment, other technological devices, or other school equipment.
- 223 **POSSESSION OF INAPPROPRIATE DEVICES** – Including but not limited to ammunition, artificial weapons, facsimiles and/or replicas.
- 224 **DISRUPTION ON A SCHOOL BUS**
- 225 **UNAUTHORIZED ORGANIZATION** – Any on-campus participation in non-sanctioned fraternities, sororities, secret societies, or non-affiliated school clubs.

### **Class II Disciplinary Actions**

Class II violations are serious enough that they may require an in-school parental conference plus the appropriate disciplinary action.

#### **First and Second Violations:**

Require parental notification and/or one or more of the following disciplinary actions: in-school suspension, extended work assignments before- and after-school, detention, corporal punishment, suspension from school and/or bus, Saturday School, or revoking of vehicle and/or parking privileges. Law enforcement and/or juvenile court personnel may be contacted.

#### **Subsequent Violations:**

May result in suspension up to ten school days plus additional disciplinary action as warranted. Special circumstances may warrant contact with law enforcement, referral to the Early Warning Program, New Direction, or the filing of a complaint or petition in Juvenile Court.

### **CLASS III VIOLATIONS**

- 301 **CHARGE OF A MISDEMEANOR CRIME**
- 302 **MISUSE OR ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION OR NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, INHALANTS, AEROSOL SPRAYS, OR OTHER OVER-THE-COUNTER PRODUCTS** – Required medications must be delivered to the school by the parent or other responsible adult accompanied by the completed Alabama State Department of Education designated medication authorization form and kept in accordance with the SCBOE medication policy and procedures.
- 303 **STEALING-LARCENY-GRAND THEFT** – The intentional taking and/or carrying away of property valued at more than \$100 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another.
- 304 **BURGLARY OF SCHOOL PROPERTY** – Entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein.
- 305 **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/VANDALISM** – Willful and malicious injury or damages at or in excess of \$200 to public property or to real or personal property belonging to another.
- 306 **POSSESSION OF A KNIFE**

- 307 **POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DEVICES** – Including but not limited to mace, tear gas, “blank” guns, facsimiles, replicas, and/or artificial weapons or any item used inappropriately with intent to harm.
- 308 **INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUPS INCITING OR PARTICIPATING IN UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS AND/OR DISORDERLY ACTIVITIES** – Which lead to disruption of the normal school program. This includes **any** gang related behavior, instigators, and students who have been fighting and attempt to reengage after the fight has been stopped and other types of misbehavior that disrupt the school day.
- 309 **THE INTENTIONAL THREAT, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, STRIKING, OR BULLYING OF A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE** – The threat by word or act to do harm to an employee, with an apparent ability to do so, and doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in the person that such violence is imminent. Harassment is inclusive of name-calling, as well as conduct, which directly affect another individual’s emotional state of mind.
- 310 **THE INTENTIONAL THREAT, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, STRIKING, OR BULLYING OF A STUDENT** – The threat by word or act to do harm to another student, with an apparent ability to do so, and doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in the person that such violence is imminent. Harassment is inclusive of name-calling, as well as conduct, which directly affect another individual’s emotional state of mind.
- 311 **FIGHTING** – Any physical conflict involving two or more individuals.
- 312 **DIRECTING OBSCENE, PROFANE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES TO A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE** – Verbal or written.
- 313 **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** – Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- 314 **MAJOR VIOLATION OF STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY** – Examples of major violations could include: tampering with another student’s class work; the intentional use of school system or personal technology, while on school property, to break laws involving theft, identity theft, and distribution of stolen and/or illegal items; the intentional destruction of school-owned technology equipment; the intentional disruption of network services resulting in school or district level network outages. Students may be required to pay for any repair and replacement damages, including labor costs. In addition, the student’s privilege to bring personal technology to school and/or use technology while on school property may be revoked.
- 315 **INTENTIONALLY PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE OR HINDERING THE INVESTIGATION IN REGARD TO A CLASS III OFFENSE**
- 316 **UNJUSTIFIED ACTIVATION OF A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM OR ITS COMPONENTS, EMERGENCY OR SECURITY SYSTEMS**
- 317 **ANY OTHER OFFENSE WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM TO FALL WITHIN THIS CATEGORY**
- 318 **ASSAULT**
- 319 **THE MISUSE AND/OR ABUSE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PERSONAL OR SCHOOL)** – Sending inappropriate messages and/or images via electronic communication devices or any other form of technology, whether personally owned or owned by the school district, at any time may result in serious school, personal, and/or civil or criminal legal consequences. There is an expectation of privacy in restrooms, locker rooms, and performance areas; therefore, cell phones or other recording devices are banned from use in these areas.
- 320 **SEXUAL OFFENSES** – Acts of a sexual nature including, but not limited to lewd behavior, indecent exposure, sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or other conduct intended to result in sexual gratification.

**Class III Disciplinary Actions**

The disciplinary action for such violations committed on school premises or during school related functions **shall** be suspension from school and/or bus suspension up to ten days with possible recommendation for expulsion or referral to New Direction. Parental contact will be made as soon as possible. Law enforcement and/or juvenile court personnel **shall** be contacted and a complaint or petition may be filed after consultation with juvenile authorities.

**CLASS IV VIOLATIONS**

401 **ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS** – The unauthorized use, sale, transfer, possession, soliciting, trafficking, misuse, and/or abuse of drugs. These include alcoholic beverages, barbiturates, central nervous system stimulants, hallucinogens, synthetic replicas, THC oils and waxes, drug paraphernalia, and all other drugs to which the narcotic and drug abuse laws of the United States, local municipalities, and the State of Alabama apply. Students who are intoxicated or impaired by the use, consumption, or ingestion of any illegal controlled substance or alcohol are not permitted to be on school property, or to attend or participate in any Board sponsored or sanctioned event, program, activity, or function.

401.1 **ALCOHOL, POSSESSION**

401.2 **ALCOHOL, SALE**

401.3 **ALCOHOL, USE**

- 401.4 **DRUGS, POSSESSION**  
 401.5 **DRUGS, SALE**  
 401.6 **DRUGS, USE**
- 402 **ARSON** – The willful and malicious burning of any part of School Board property.
- 403 **ASSAULT UPON SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES** – The intentional touching or striking of a school employee against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a School Board employee.
- 404 **POSSESSION OR DISCHARGING OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS OR DEVICES** – In the school building, on the school campus, in a vehicle, or at any school related function. The term “dangerous weapon” means a firearm or anything designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious physical injury, and such term includes but not limited to a bazooka, hand grenade, missile, or explosive or “incendiary device;” a pistol, rifle, or shotgun; or a switch-blade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or dagger.
- 404.1 **KNIFE, USE**
- 405 **EXPLOSIVES** – Preparing, possessing, or igniting on School Board property explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.
- 406 **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT** – Acts of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, abuse, battery, attempted rape, or rape.
- 407 **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** – Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon.
- 408 **ROBBERY** – The taking of money or other personal property from a person by force, violence, assault, or putting the person in fear of same.
- 409 **THE CHARGE OF A CRIME** – As defined under the laws of the city, State of Alabama, or United States while on school property or participating in a school activity. (§16-1-24.1, *Code of Alabama*, 1975)
- 410 **BOMB THREAT** – Any such communication(s) which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment.
- 411 **POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN RESULTS IN EXPULSION FROM THE SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR**
- 411.1 **HANDGUN, POSSESSION**  
 411.2 **HANDGUN, SALE**  
 411.3 **HANDGUN, USE**  
 411.4 **RIFLE/SHOTGUN, POSSESSION**  
 411.5 **RIFLE/SHOTGUN, SALE**  
 411.6 **RIFLE/SHOTGUN, USE**
- 412 **INTENTIONALLY PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE OR HINDERING THE INVESTIGATION IN REGARD TO A CLASS IV OFFENSE**
- 413 **MISUSE OR ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** – The unauthorized use, sale, transfer, possession, soliciting, trafficking, misuse of prescription drugs. These include any drug that requires a doctor's prescription to legally possess. Students who are impaired by the use, consumption, or ingestion of any illegal controlled substance are not permitted to be on school property, or to attend or participate in any Board sponsored or sanctioned event, program, activity, or function.
- 414 **ANY SECOND MAJOR OFFENSE FROM THE CLASS III CATEGORY**
- 415 **ANY OTHER OFFENSE WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM TO FALL WITHIN THIS CATEGORY**
- 416 **TERRORIST THREAT** – A threat by any means (verbal or otherwise) to commit a crime of violence or to damage any property.

**Class IV Disciplinary Actions**

The disciplinary action for such violations committed on school premises or during school related functions **shall** be suspension from school and/or bus up to ten days with possible recommendation for expulsion or referral to New Direction. Parental contact will be made as soon as possible. Law enforcement and/or juvenile court personnel **shall** be contacted and a complaint or petition may be filed after consultation with juvenile authorities.

Additional disciplinary actions as a result of a Class IV Violation may result in one of the following:

1. Additional suspension days or other disciplinary action as determined by the principal after consultation with the Superintendent or his designee.
2. Long-term assignments to New Direction.
3. Expulsion from the Shelby County School System.

The SCBOE finds that there is a compelling public interest in insuring that all schools are safe and drug free. The SCBOE, consistent with Ala. Code §16-1-24.1, adopted disciplinary actions which **will** be enacted in addition to any other disciplinary action outlined in the Code of Conduct.

When a student violates any SCBOE policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person, the principal **shall** notify appropriate law enforcement officials.

If any criminal charge is warranted arising from the conduct, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. The local schools **shall** immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing at the earliest possible date, which shall not be later than five (5) days.

If the student is found to have violated any SCBOE policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person, the student **shall not** be readmitted to a Shelby County school other than New Direction, until (1) criminal charges or offenses arising from the conduct, if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities, and (2) the student has satisfied all other requirements imposed for readmission. Readmission of any student determined to be guilty of an offense involving drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person, may be conditioned upon the student meeting certain conditions mandated by the Board of Education, the Superintendent and/or his designee.

### **ADDITIONAL CONDUCT POLICIES**

#### **Participation in Graduation Ceremonies and Class Recognition Programs**

Any student, including a graduating senior, may be denied the opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies and special recognition programs at the discretion of the principal. The principal may deny participation and assign appropriate disciplinary action for major conduct infractions, class pranks, and other incidents which disrupt the educational process and reflect a negative image on the individual, class or school in general.

#### **Search and Seizure Policies**

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. This can include specially trained dogs and metal detectors.

As used in this policy, the term "unauthorized" means any item dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to the students.

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

#### **Personal Searches:**

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

If the school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has on his or her person an item imminently dangerous to the student or to others, a more intrusive search of the student's person may be conducted. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only upon the prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

#### **Locker Searches:**

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

Students shall not be issued lockers until such time that the "Acknowledgment Concerning Use of Student Lockers" form has been properly completed and returned to the school. Such forms shall be maintained on file at the school.

#### **Vehicle Searches:**

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of student vehicles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized, and/or contraband materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Students shall not be allowed to park vehicles on campus until such time that the "Acknowledgment Concerning Use of Student Parking Lots" form has been properly completed and returned to the school. Such forms shall be maintained on file at the school.

### **Searches Involving Outside Personnel, Dogs, And/Or Detection Devices**

Searches of students which involve outside (non-school) personnel, dogs, and/or detection devices are permitted and will be conducted when appropriate.

### **Seizure of Illegal Materials**

If a properly conducted search yields illegal, unauthorized, and/or contraband materials, said items may be impounded by school officials. Student shall be given a receipt for any items impounded and parents or guardians shall be notified of all items seized.

### **Documentation**

The principal shall fully document every incident where a search is conducted. Such documentation shall include a detailed account of the search, items impounded, the student(s) involved, a list of all witnesses present, and other information regarding the incident.

### **Grievance Procedures**

A grievance shall mean a complaint by a student or group of students that there has been a violation, a misinterpretation, or inequitable application of any policy or practice of the school or school system. The primary purpose of this procedure is to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of appeals for long-term suspensions, alternative school placements, and expulsions. The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures that will provide for fair consideration and orderly review of all other student complaints and grievances.

Attendance hearings, disciplinary hearings, or other matters not specifically mentioned herein, that may be appealed under provisions provided in the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance or other authorized and prescribed procedures are not subject to the provisions of this policy.

The grievance may be initiated orally or in writing at Level One and must be filed within 20 workdays following the act or condition which is the basis for the complaint. Beyond the initial step, the grievance shall be in writing.

### **Procedures**

Each level of the procedure shall be observed and proper channels followed. At the request of the student or parent, exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent in emergency situations.

#### **A. Level One (Informal Procedures)**

- The aggrieved student shall first seek resolution of the complaint or grievance through free and informal communications as close as possible to the point of origin. A student with a grievance must first take it to his/her immediate teacher, and then to the principal. Both shall be consulted prior to further resolution procedures.

#### **B. Level Two (Formal Procedures)**

##### **Step 1**

If, as a result of the discussion between the student, teacher, and principal, the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student, then within five workdays, the student shall set forth the grievance in writing to the Superintendent specifying:

1. The nature of the complaint or grievance
2. The nature or extent of the injury, loss, or inconvenience
3. Relief sought
4. The results of previous discussions
5. Dissatisfaction with the decision previously rendered

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall hear the grievance and render a decision within 15 workdays after receiving the notice of appeal concerning a long-term suspension, alternative school placement, or expulsion. At this hearing, the student may be accompanied by a representative of the student's choice.

##### **Step 2**

Concerning an expulsion consequence, a student may appeal to the Board of Education. The written appeal must be filed within five workdays after the decision at Level Two, Step 1. At the Board hearing, the aggrieved student may be accompanied by a representative of his/her choice and present evidence supporting the grievance.

### Step 3

In the event the student is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance by the Board of Education, the student may appeal the Board's decision to expel to the appropriate authorities as provided by law or seek recourse through the state or federal court system.

### Miscellaneous Provisions

#### A. Time Lines

- It shall be understood that the time lines imposed at each level and step shall be strictly enforced, and unless the appeal is made within the time allotted, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and the student shall have no further right of appeal with said grievance.

#### B. Hearing Procedures

- The Superintendent and/or the Board of Education may establish hearing procedures to be followed at Level Two, Step 1 and Level Two, Step 2.

### Field Trips

Students making a trip under the sponsorship of the school are required to have a form signed by their parents/ guardians giving them permission to take the trip and releasing the school from any liability for any accident or injury. Students will be transported via school bus and/or charter bus to/from field trip locations. Prior to the day of the field trip, students should communicate with teachers about deadlines and due dates of class assignments.

### Dress Code

A standardized dress code of Shelby County Schools has been adopted to assure that all students are provided safe and appropriate educational opportunities which are free from unnecessary disruptions or outside influences and to instill in students the need to dress appropriately and have respect for each other and authority. For young people, especially teenagers who are beginning to find their true identities in the middle of peer pressure and parent prodding, dress is an important issue. For the younger children, lifetime habits of taste and dress are greatly affected by their childhood dressing patterns. This dress code will be strictly enforced in all Shelby County Schools, middle through high school.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following explanation behind the choice of the standards.

The way a person dresses reflects the way he thinks. We want to prepare students for the world of work, and we believe a neat professional appearance is a good habit to develop in the childhood years.

Just as students would dress one way for a picnic or ball game, there is an appropriate way to dress for school.

A well-groomed student should come to school with an attitude that prepares him or her for neat, conscientious work. His or her attire should give him or her respect for self, fellow students, and teachers.

Students who have questionable or inappropriate dress will not be allowed to attend class. The following items will serve as a minimum guide to acceptable dress for Shelby County students.

Any school modifying the SCBOE Dress Code must obtain Superintendent approval. All modifications must be presented in writing to students prior to enforcement.

### Dress Code Guidelines

- A. All students must wear shirts, blouses, or dresses with a collar or with a non-revealing neckline, such as crew neck, jewel neck, or boat neck. Low cut, open back, bare midriff or clothing that allows the midriff to be exposed, are not permitted.
- B. Male students must wear sleeved garments. Female students may wear sleeveless garments which adequately cover undergarments. Spaghetti and/or thin-strapped shirts may be worn only if over another T-shirt or if covered by a blouse with sleeves. Only sleeveless blouses or dresses in which the shoulder is fully covered from the base of the neck to top of arm will be considered acceptable.
- C. No obscene language and/or illegal substance advertisements (to include alcoholic and tobacco advertisements) may be worn on clothing or accessories.
- D. No hats, caps, head coverings, hair curlers, picks, or sunglasses will be worn in school.
- E. Skirts, shorts and dresses must be mid-thigh or longer in front and back. No slits or leg openings may be above mid-thigh. Leggings, or other similar garment (i.e. jeggings), should be worn with the appropriate outer garment (i.e. t-shirts, shorts, dress, or skirt) and the outer garment must be at least mid-thigh length. Excessively tight leggings or jeggings will not be allowed.
- F. Belts must be worn at the waist with pants, shorts, and skirts that have belt loops. Pants, shorts, and skirts without belt loops must be worn at the waist and should fit properly. Articles of clothing worn too low, too long, too large, too tight, or too loose are not permitted. Pajama style pants, snap aways, and sweatpants are prohibited. Athletic type pants may be worn only during physical education classes. (Including but not limited to, wind suit pants and soccer shorts.)

- G. Jackets and coats are to be worn in good taste. Generally, these are inappropriate to be worn in the classroom.
- H. Students are required to wear appropriate shoes at all times. Shoes with wheels are not appropriate for the school environment.
- I. Students' clothing should be neat and clean and should not be in noticeable disrepair. Unhemmed (cut-off) shorts, skirts, shirts, pants, and garments with inappropriate holes or inappropriate slits above mid-thigh are not allowed.
- J. Ear piercings are allowed. All other visible piercings are prohibited. Students are prohibited from wearing body jewelry and visible tattoos. Earrings, hairstyles, and other adornments that draw attention to oneself in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process are also prohibited.
- K. Appropriate undergarments must be worn and not visible.
- L. Students are prohibited from wearing any metal chains, metal spiked apparel, over-sized belt buckles, or accessories.
- M. Students are to wear clothing in the manner it is designed to be worn, i.e., clothing worn backwards or inside out is not allowed. No excessively tight or revealing clothing, such as fishnet or see-through garments, may be worn.
- N. Students are prohibited from wearing any sign, symbol, logo, or garment, which has become synonymous with any gang, cult, Satanism, or unauthorized club or organizational activity. This also includes any avenue for the promotion of products or activities prohibited by school policy or that is inflammatory and may generate negative feelings among the student body.

The above items serve as a minimum to guide. The principal shall have the discretion to outline other appropriate guidelines for their campus or for special occasions.

#### **Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Ability Impairments**

Any student who has been identified as ability impaired under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Americans with Disabilities Act; and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, may be suspended or expelled when all procedural safeguards set forth in the above mentioned applicable laws are followed. Concerns and questions relating to Section 504 should be referred to the Coordinator of Special Education.

#### **Public Complaints**

The proper channeling of complaints involving individual students or a local school matter is as follows: 1) the teacher; 2) the principal; 3) the Superintendent of Schools; 4) the Board of Education.

#### **Student Pregnancy**

Pregnant students may attend school and participate in regular school programs. The principal/guidance counselor should be contacted for the purpose of a possible limitation of normal activities.

#### **School Visitors**

Visitors to the school must report to the principal's office for permission to visit. Authorized visitors will be issued a visitor's badge prior to visiting in the school. Persons without badges will be considered trespassers. Security cameras are located throughout the school buildings and campuses and anyone on school property may be videotaped.

#### **Transportation**

Parents and students should be aware that the sole purpose of a school bus is to transport students safely to and from school. Since the school bus driver carries this heavy burden of responsibility, the school bus is considered an extension of the classroom and all SCBOE rules apply. The following guidelines are to be followed when riding the bus. Any student not abiding by these guidelines may be subject to discipline as outlined in the DEFINITIONS AND RULES RELATING TO FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION in this publication:

- A. Students will be picked-up and dropped-off at their residence or designated bus stop only.
- B. Students should be at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to the designated time.
- C. Once students arrive at their school bus stop, they are subject to the rules of the school system. It is recommended that parents assist with supervision at the bus stop.
- D. Students must obey instructions given by the driver.
- E. Students must be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver. (Do not annoy other students.)
- F. Horseplay, threats, and fighting are not permitted on or around the bus or at bus stops.
- G. Students should remain silent when approaching and crossing railroads.
- H. Students should talk only in a normal voice and not use profane or obscene language.
- I. Students should remain properly seated, not change seats, and keep head and hands inside the bus.
- J. Students are not allowed to eat, chew gum, drink, smoke, or strike matches on the school bus.
- K. Weapons of any kind are not permitted on the bus.

- L. Students are not allowed to tamper with any of the equipment on the bus, especially the emergency door.
- M. Students are not allowed to litter the bus, or throw objects within or outside the bus.
- N. Students are not allowed to leave the bus except at the regular bus stop without written permission from the administration.
- O. No objects should be transported on a school bus that may compromise the safety of the students or the driver. This includes, but is not limited to; animals, fireworks, sharp objects, glass, balloons, and any other objects that could obstruct a driver's vision, distract a driver's attention, or otherwise endanger the lives of anyone who rides a school bus.
- P. Books, packages, coats, band instruments, and other items should not be in the aisles or in the driver compartment and should not be left on the bus. These items must be held in the child's lap and must not occupy the seat of another child.
- Q. Students are not allowed to transport Prescription or Non-Prescription medications on the bus except emergency medications and approved medications prescribed for self-administration.
- R. Due to the possible distraction to the bus driver by the use of cell phones, beepers, or other personal electronic communication devices, the use of these items will not be allowed on the school bus. Under emergency situations (i.e., mechanical break-down of the school bus, accidents, or other possible safety issues) the use of these items may be allowed.

**Discipline Procedure for Shelby County College and Career Center**

Conduct violations occurring en route to the Shelby County College and Career Center and while at the Shelby County College and Career Center will be handled by the Shelby County College and Career Center Principal in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Bus incidents while returning to the home school will be handled by the local school administration.

**Student Arrival at School**

Students not transported by bus should not arrive prior to the arrival of the first bus since supervision is not available.

**Enrollment of New Students and Transfer Students**

Students who apply for enrollment in a Shelby County School must attend school in the attendance zone where they reside with a custodial parent or legal guardian. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the immediate withdrawal of student from said school.

All transfer students must be in good disciplinary standing from their previous school(s) with no outstanding suspension or expulsion offenses pending. SCBOE honors suspensions and expulsions from other official Boards of Education.

**ATTENDANCE CODE FOR SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Daily attendance is very important. Students learn and increase their knowledge by being in class each day. Students deserve every opportunity for academic success. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and courts are partners in developing good attendance.

**Responsibilities of the Student:**

- A. Arriving at school prior to the opening time.
- B. Being seated and ready for instruction in each class before the tardy bell rings.
- C. Bringing to each class those books and materials necessary to make attendance meaningful.
- D. Remaining in class for the entire class period.

**Responsibilities of the Parent:**

- A. Encouraging their child to be present daily and on time.
- B. Discouraging their child from absences related to family trips and/or vacations during the school year, and appointments that could be better scheduled so as to not interfere with the school day.
- C. Refraining from asking the school to violate the check-out procedure approved by the SCBOE.
- D. Scheduling necessary appointments for their child outside the school day when possible.
- E. Cooperating with the school in providing valid excuses for their child's absence.
- F. Attending conferences arranged by the principal.

**Responsibilities of the Teacher:**

- A. Developing class incentives related to improved attendance.
- B. Establishing contact with parents concerning their child's attendance patterns.
- C. Working with the guidance counselor in scheduling students in programs that meet their individual needs.
- D. Recognizing the importance of each class period and scheduling teacher request for students accordingly.
- E. Demonstrating to the student that planned learning experiences will take place each day.



### Responsibilities of the Administration:

- A. Designing local school plans for improving attendance.
- B. Enforcing a check-out system consistent with administrative policy.
- C. Providing a **Perfect Attendance Award** to students who have been present every complete day of the school year with no tardies, checkouts, or early dismissals.
- D. Providing an **Exemplary Attendance Certificate** for those students who attend school each day of the school year. Excessive tardies, checkouts, and/or early dismissals resulting in a detention may prevent a student from earning this award.
- E. Developing a procedure whereby high school students may be exempted from all final exams the second semester.
- F. Considering many alternatives in an effort to reduce the number of suspensions and, thereby, absent days.
- G. Attempting to keep parents aware of each absence daily.

### Responsibilities of the Courts:

- A. Communicating with parents concerning attendance problems.
- B. Scheduling informal conferences with parents and/or students concerning attendance violations.
- C. Accepting CHINS, Delinquent, and Dependent complaints and/or petitions for program violators.
- D. Exerting every effort to protect the best interest of the juvenile by supporting the Attendance Program.

### State Definition of Truancy & Laws Governing of School Attendance

In December, 2004, the State Department of Education adopted a uniform definition of truancy to be applied throughout the state. Under this definition, it is the responsibility of a parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child enrolled in an Alabama public school (K-12) to explain in writing the cause of any and every absence no later than three (3) school days following the student's return to school. Failure to furnish such explanation shall be evidence of the child being truant each day s/he is absent. The child shall also be deemed truant for any absences determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual. As unexcused absences develop, the local school will communicate with the parent/guardian to bring awareness to the attendance concern.

Upon the seventh unexcused absence during the school year, a truancy referral will be made to the Early Warning Program, with mandatory parent participation. Seven unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court.

Listed below are excerpts of pertinent statutes relating both directly and individually to school attendance:

- The law requires that every child between the ages of six and 17 years shall be required to attend school. (§16-28-3.1, **Code of Alabama**, 1975)
- \*Effective July 1, 2000, §16-28-16 of the **Code of Alabama**, 1975, is amended to read as follows:
  - o "(b)...Each child who is enrolled in a public school shall be subject to the attendance and truancy provisions of this article except that any parent or parents, guardian or guardians who voluntarily enrolls their child in public school, who feels that it is in the best interest of that child shall have the right to withdraw the child at any time prior to the current compulsory attendance age."
- The law also gives the responsibility for attendance and control of the child to the parent. (§16-28-12, **Code of Alabama**, 1975) If the child is truant, there are several actions that can be filed against the parent and/or the child.

### Actions Against Adults:

- A. A criminal action can be brought against any "parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child . . . who fails to have such child enrolled in school or who fails to compel such child to properly conduct himself as a pupil" and they "shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$100 and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days . . ." (§16-28-12, Code of Alabama, 1975)
- B. "It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian, or other person to willfully aid, encourage, or cause any child to become delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision or by words, acts, threats, commands, or persuasions, to induce or endeavor to induce, aid, or encourage a child to do or perform any act or to follow any course of conduct which would cause or manifestly tend to cause such child to become or remain delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision or by the neglect of any lawful duty or in other manner contribute to the delinquency, dependency, or need of a child. Failure on the part of any parent, guardian, or other person having custody of the child to cause such child to attend school as required by the compulsory attendance law shall be held to be encouraging, causing, and contributing to the delinquency, dependency, or need of supervision of such child." (§12-15-111, Code of Alabama 1975, Revised)

- “Whoever violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$500 or sentenced to hard labor for the county for a period not to exceed 12 months or both.” (§12-15-111, Code of Alabama 1975, Revised)

C. Educational neglect: “Dependent child: A child whose parent(s), guardian, or custodian fails, refuses, or neglects to send such child to school in accordance with the terms of the compulsory school attendance laws of this state . . .” (§12-15-102 (8)(a)(4), Code of Alabama 1975, Revised)

**Action Against the Alleged Truant Child:**

“In case any child becomes a habitual truant, or because of irregular attendance or misconduct has become a menace to the best interest of the school ... and the parent ... files a written statement in court ... the attendance officer must file a complaint before the judge of the juvenile court ... whereupon such child must be proceeded against ... for the purpose of ascertaining whether such a child is a dependent, neglected, or delinquent child.” (§16-28-14, **Code of Alabama**, 1975)

**Notice:**

“In all cases investigated where no valid reason for non-enrollment or non-attendance is found, the **Attendance Officer** shall give written notice to the parent ... and **shall be required** to bring criminal prosecution against the parent ...” (§16-28-16, **Code of Alabama**, 1975)

Literal, not substantial, compliance is required of the notice provisions of this section. See, *Ex parte Hill*, 381 So.2d 94 (Ala. 1980) (Attached)

**Custody:**

When a child is found away from home and not in the custody of the person having charge or control, “it shall be the duty of the attendance officer, probation officer, or other officer authorized to execute writs of arrest to take into custody **without warrant** any child required to attend school ...” (§16-28-17, **Code of Alabama**, 1975)

**Regulations Governing Attendance**

A. Enrollment and Attendance

1. Compulsory enrollment and attendance is mandated by Alabama Law for any child between the ages of six and 17 years. Compulsory enrollment and attendance are required each year for these ages unless the pupil is legally excused from enrollment by the Superintendent, Board of Education, or the courts. Only these officials have authority to excuse a child from enrollment and attendance.
2. All school personnel shall report known cases of non-enrollment and irregular attendance to the principal. The principal shall report cases of non-enrollment or irregular attendance to the System’s attendance officer.

B. Absenteeism

1. Parents or guardians shall send a note of explanation, i.e., court notes, doctor’s notes, or parent excuses to the school the day the child returns to school. Failure of the parent or guardian to send a note will ordinarily result in the absence being marked unexcused.
2. Check-outs and check-ins shall be considered as an absence for the classes missed. Notes of explanation for the absence will be required as in section B (1) above.
3. Only an excused absence permits work to be made up. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the teacher within three days of returning to arrange for make-up work.
4. Students will not be allowed to participate or attend a school function such as an athletic contest, prom, school dance, band trip, job training program, etc., if they are not in school for at least one half of the instructional day of the event, except for emergency situations approved by the principal.
5. Credit for class work is not permitted for students suspended from school. At the discretion of the principal, credit for major tests, nine-week tests, midterms, and final exams may be made up and credit given for those students who have been suspended during exam periods.

C. Number of Absences Allowed

The SCBOE recommends a minimum attendance standard of 168 days per school year. Therefore, a student who accumulates more than 12 absences during a school year is subject to loss of credit and/or retention. For parents/students who submit a physician’s letter to explain chronic issues that impact school attendance, a signed release of medical information form must be on file to verify specific attendance expectations with the medical provider.

1. Any student enrolled in grades 6-12, who accumulates more than 12 absences during the year, is subject to being retained in the same grade the succeeding year. **Absences beyond 12 (excluding 2X and 3X absences) must be documented with a doctor’s or court excuse or permission of the principal.** Parent-written notes will not excuse time missed from school after any combination of absences coded 1X, 4X, 6X, or 7X has exceeded 12 or more. Once a student has accumulated 12 or more absences (coded 1X, 4X, 6X,

and 7X), a doctor's excuse will be required to explain any future absences through the end of the school year.

2. Regarding semester classes, any student enrolled in grades 9-12 who accumulates more than 6 absences in any course or subject in any semester is subject to losing credit for the semester's work in that course or subject. **Absences beyond 12 (excluding 2X and 3X absences) must be documented with a doctor's or court excuse or permission of the principal.**
3. School sponsored or sanctioned activities are exempt and do not count toward the total absences allowed; however, arrangements must be made for making up work as required.
4. A student who is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons for any number of days will have that number of days charged against the total number of absences allowed.
5. According to the Alabama State Department of Education, excused absences are as follows:
  - a) Illness
  - b) Death in the immediate family
  - c) Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the child as determined by the principal
  - d) Legal quarantine
  - e) Emergency conditions as determined by the principal
  - f) Prior permission of the principal and consent of the custodial parent or legal guardian (a parent's prior notification to the school does not automatically excuse the absence).
6. The following information is provided to you concerning the codes for absences which will be on your child's attendance record: **1X** - Parent note for student illness, **2X** - Doctor's excuse which indicates that the student visited the doctor and was treated for the illness, **3X** - Court excuse, **4X** - Principal's Permission/Death in the Immediate Family, **5X** - Suspension, **6X** - Parent Note - unexcused, **7X** - No note or explanation. **1X, 2X, 3X, and 4X** are excused absences. **5X, 6X, and 7X** are unexcused absences.

#### D. Make-Up Work

1. **Excused Absences** - If a student is absent for any excused reason as defined above, the student **shall be allowed** to make up assignments and other work missed during said absence or absences at a time agreeable to the teacher(s). Students shall be given a reasonable opportunity to learn the lessons missed due to excused absences. Given the number of days missed due to excused absences, students shall be given an appropriate time period in which to complete the assignment(s). For assignments that were due on the day in which the student was absent, provided that the due date was previously communicated prior to the student's absence, the student should be prepared to turn-in the assignment upon returning to school.
  - The parent or guardian shall be responsible for arranging necessary make-up work.
  - Time limit: Excuses for absences must be turned in within three (3) days of the student returning to school from an absence. Arrangements for make-up work must be made within three (3) days after returning to school from an excused absence.
2. **Unexcused Absences at the middle and high school levels** - Teachers shall not provide make-up work for students absent for unexcused reasons. Exceptions for unusual circumstances will be left up to the principal's discretion.

#### E. Check-Out/Check-In Procedure

- Parent/Legal Guardian will be required to show a picture ID when checking students in or out of school. Students checking out of school must be signed out by the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or designated responsible adult. **Notes, faxes, email, and telephone calls will not be accepted.** The principal has the responsibility of making a decision in the best interest of the student when emergency situations and unusual circumstances arise.

#### F. Notification of Parent or Guardian

1. Attendance letters will be mailed to parents of students in grades 6-8 after the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> absence that is not documented by court, doctor, excused parent note, or principal's permission during the school year. In grades 9-12 attendance letters will be mailed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> absence that is not documented by court, doctor, excused parent note, or principal's permission each semester.
2. Tardies will be closely monitored and students with consistent tardies to school and/or excessive unexcused check-ins and check-outs may be summoned to the Early Warning Program. Tardies to school and excessive unexcused check-ins/check-outs should not exceed more than 2 per month.
3. In keeping with the procedures of the Early Warning Program, maximum flexibility is allowed. The principals and teachers to determine if absences are truancy cases before mailing the first notification to parent or guardian. All excuses must be documented in writing by the parent or guardian. The attendance officer or principal reserves the right, despite submission of such written excuse, to evaluate each case on its

individual merits to determine if referral to the Early Warning Program is appropriate. Reasons for non-referral after the requisite number of absences shall be documented by the principal or his designee. Only those names listed on the Request for Early Warning Referral will be sent a letter from Juvenile Court Services to report to Early Warning session.

4. The following protocol shall be followed by schools when absences occur:
  - A. Attempted phone contact upon the occurrence of any school absence.
  - B. Written notification upon the second unexcused absence.
  - C. Conduct a pre-Early Warning Program referral conference upon the third or fourth unexcused absence.
  - D. Submit an Early Warning Program student referral upon the seventh unexcused absence.

G. Early Warning Program

- Purpose: The Early Warning Program is a school/community-based program to assist public school personnel, parents, and law enforcement personnel in providing for early intervention for children and youth who are truant or in danger of becoming truant. A child is truant if no explanation is provided for absences or the child is absent for reasons other than those recognized as excusable.
- Description: The Early Warning Program is a cooperative effort involving the SCBOE; Honorable James R. Kramer, District Court Judge of Shelby County; The District Attorney for Shelby County; Juvenile Court Services; and The Department of Human Resources.
- Procedure: Parents will be notified when trancies have occurred. Per State Department guidelines, participation in the Early Warning Program is required. Should trancies occur, the parent(s) and child may be summoned to a juvenile court session.

Further trancies could result in the filing of a petition.

H. Loss of Credit for Excessive Absences

When a student in grades 6-8 has accumulated more than 12 absences per year, the principal shall evaluate the attendance record and may recommend retention. A student who has 8 unexcused absences out of a total of 12 absences may be retained due to excessive absences. If such is the case, the parent/guardian and the System Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing in the event of retention.

Regarding high school students and semester classes, when a student in grades 9-12 has accumulated more than 6 absences in a class during the semester, the principal shall evaluate the attendance record and may recommend loss of credit. A student who has 4 unexcused absences out of a total of 7 or more absences during a semester shall be denied academic credit for excessive absences. The parent/guardian and the System Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing in the event of loss of credit.

A student who has been retained or lost credit because of noncompliance with attendance policies shall receive a **Noncompliance Attendance** (NCA) on the report card and all other records for that semester for that year.

NCA loss of grades will be made up in the same manner other failures and retentions are made up.

I. Due Process Procedures

1. The parent, guardian, or student may request a hearing with the principal in writing, signed and dated, within five days from the date of the notification of the loss of credit or retention.
2. The failure of the parent, guardian, or student to request a hearing shall be sufficient evidence to sustain the loss of credit or retention.
3. The decision of the principal at the local school to deny credit or to retain a student may be appealed to the Superintendent in writing within five days after the hearing at the local school has taken place.

**NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 93-380**

Parents or guardians have the right to inspect and review all official records, files, and data directly relating to their children including the permanent record folder. This right is conferred upon the student when the student becomes 18 years of age.

A request to review such records must be made to the school principal. Upon review of such records, the parent, guardian, or eligible-age student may request a hearing to challenge the content of such records if desired.

No personally identifiable information of students will be released without the written consent of parent, guardian, or eligible-age student **except to:**

- A. School personnel involved in the educational process
- B. Officials of other schools in which the student enrolls or intends to enroll
- C. Authorized representative of:
  1. Comptroller General of the United States
  2. The Secretary of the Office of Education

3. An administrative head of an education agency
4. Any state education agency

Transcripts of permanent records will be sent to other schools in which a student enrolls, or intends to enroll when requested by school officials or when requested by the parent, guardian, or eligible-age student.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDS TO MILITARY RECRUITERS**

According to Alabama law (§16-1-25, **Code of Alabama**) all city and county public school systems of Alabama shall allow reasonable access of their public school facilities to official recruiting representatives of branches of the armed forces and military forces of the United States, consistent with policies governing other agencies not a part of the school system, to inform students on the educational and occupational options in military service. **If you choose for your child's name and address not to be given out to official recruiting representatives of branches of the armed forces and military forces, you must notify the school of this request in writing.**

#### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

According to Alabama law (§16-30-4, **Code of Alabama**) Boards of Education shall require each pupil who is otherwise entitled to admittance to present an Alabama Certificate of Immunization. Therefore, no student will be admitted to Shelby County Schools without this certificate of immunization. These certificates may be obtained from the Shelby County Health Department or your local physician.

#### **NOTICE OF GIFTED EDUCATION SERVICES**

Gifted students are those who perform or have the potential to 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. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. In addition, some students with disabilities may be gifted. The SCBOE prohibits discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to his/her participation in the gifted program.

A student may be referred 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 using a gifted behavior checklist.

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

- A. *Aptitude* - Assessed through an individual or group test of intelligence or creativity.
- B. *Characteristics* - A behavior rating scale designed to assess gifted behaviors is completed by system/school personnel.
- C. *Performance* - At least three indicators of performance at a gifted level such as 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.

Contact the student's teacher or the school counselor to refer a student for consideration for gifted services. For more information, contact the Supervisor of Advanced Programs at the Shelby County Instructional Services Center, 205-682-5976.

#### **STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

The SCBOE requires that all students report to school, sport practices and competitive events without prohibited substances in their system. Participating in student competitive extracurricular activities and parking a vehicle on school grounds is a privilege, not a right, and the student must be willing to conform to the guidelines of the Competitive Extracurricular Substance Abuse Program and the Student Parking Privilege Substance Abuse Program in order to participate in these activities.

In order to enforce these rules, the Board reserves the right to require all students participating in a competitive extracurricular activity or parking vehicle on Board property to submit, at any time prior to, during or following any practice, competitive event or otherwise while under the supervision or care of this School, to drug tests to determine the presence of prohibited substances. Failure to conform to the Substance Abuse Policy will result in a student being suspended from participation for a minimum period of seven weeks and the completion of an approved drug education program.

#### **HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE, THREATS OF VIOLENCE, AND INTIMIDATION**

Passed by the state of Alabama Legislature, House Bill 216 became effective July 1, 2010. As a result, public school districts in Alabama are now required to establish school board policy to address and prevent harassment, violence, threats to do violence, and intimidation in the school environment. Subsequently, the SCBOE recently adopted its own anti-harassment policy which strictly prohibits this behavior. Harassment is defined as a continuous

pattern of intentional behavior, and includes (but is not limited to) written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived to be threatening by the student-victim.

In an effort to minimize this type of behavior in the school environment, the SCBOE has created a process whereby a student, or the student's parent or legal guardian, may report instances of harassment to the school administrator for further review and investigation. The reporting form is available through the school district's website. When incidents of harassment are investigated and confirmed, the school administrator will apply appropriate disciplinary consequences.

### **STUDENT CELL PHONE USE**

The SCBOE respects parent wishes for their child to bring a cell phone to school. However, cell phones brought to school must be stored appropriately. The school is not responsible for attempting to recover lost or stolen cell phones when students have not properly secured them. Cell phones cannot be audible on school property. When a student is found to be using his/her cell phone without permission or during designated times on school property, the phone will be taken from the student and given to a school administrator. Students whose cell phones contain any illegal or inappropriate material are subject to the appropriate school consequences, as well as possible legal consequences. There is an expectation of privacy in all restrooms, locker rooms, and performance areas; therefore, cell phones or other recording devices are banned from use in these areas. Please refer to your local school handbook regarding additional information about cell phone use.

When a student violates the school system guidelines for cell phones, the individual's cell phone will be confiscated and consequences applied as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Booklet.

With regard to incidents that occur during the administration of a state-mandated test, the Alabama State Department of Education has stipulated that: (1) the possession of a digital device is strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test; (2) when a digital device is discovered during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated and subject to a search; and (3) if it is determined that the device was used during the administration of a secure test, the student's test will automatically be invalidated. Visual or audible possession of a digital device will result in the device being confiscated. Once confiscated, school administrators are required to investigate the incident and determine if the device has been used by the student to cheat, or for some other unpermitted purpose. If the device is a "smart phone," the device should be turned off immediately after the search to help prevent a potential remote-access data-wipe. When the investigation of the incident is completed, the local school must notify the school district's supervisor for the testing and complete a testing irregularity report in accordance with the Alabama Department of Education. The return of the student's digital device, as well as the assignment of any school disciplinary consequences, will be in accordance with school system procedural protocol.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE PRACTICE (AUP) RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **Technology**

Shelby County Schools (District) provides students with access to technology in order to enhance student learning. The term "technology" refers to all forms of hardware, digital devices, software, and accounts. Although cell phones and smart phones can be used for many of the same activities as other forms of technology, additional rules may apply to the possession and use of these communication devices. This AUP applies to all technology, regardless of ownership, used on school property during school hours or during other school-related activities. It also applies to the use of District-owned or managed technology regardless of location or time of day.

#### **Online Accounts & COPPA**

Throughout the year, teachers may wish their students to use free, educationally-appropriate websites or apps that require individual accounts in order to enhance learning. Examples of these include Edmodo, Discovery Education, TechSteps, Animoto, Remind, Google Apps for Education, and others. In order to create the online account, the District may upload certain 'directory information' (see FERPA) to the provider; generally the student's name, school, and grade level. Due to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and other conditions, many websites require that minors first obtain their parent's permission before an account is established. Unless the parent properly notifies the school, the District will assume that parental permission is granted for a student account to be set up on websites pre-approved by the District.

#### **Parental Right to Restrict**

Parents have the option of restricting certain activities related to technology use. For complete information and directions on how to notify the school about any of the following restrictions, see the "Parental Notifications" section later in this Code of Conduct.

- Restrict a student under the age of 17 from independently using the Internet while at school

- Restrict a student account from being established on free, pre-approved websites when the websites require parental permission
- Restrict a student (grades 4-12) from being issued a Google Apps for Education account

Students whose parents have notified the school that they want certain restrictions to be applied should abide by their parent's wishes in addition to all other rules in this Acceptable Use Policy.

### **Personally-Owned Technology**

As part of the District's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, some schools allow students to bring their own devices to school for educational use. The use of any personally-owned technology at school is a privilege, not a right. The Board reserves the right to place conditions on, restrict, or prohibit the use of personally-owned technology on its property, including the use of personal online accounts. Devices and rules may vary from school to school.

Students must first determine if their school has a BYOD program and, if so, which devices are allowed. Before bringing a device to school, the student should get their parent's permission to do so. The following devices may not be brought to school:

- Most wearable technologies, such as smart watches
- Any technology, such as wireless access points or hotspots, used to set up a network for Internet access
- Any technology which interferes with or adversely affects the functions or operations of the Board's resources or infrastructure

Students may only use personal technology during school hours when given specific permission to do so by their teacher or a school administrator.

Students must also follow all rules established by the transportation department regarding the use and storage of personal devices while on the bus.

Students are responsible for keeping their device safe while in transit and at school. School staff and/or bus drivers will not be responsible for attempting to recover lost or stolen personal technology when the student has not properly secured it.

In addition to any other applicable consequences, students who are found to have used their personal device at school in manner that violates any section of the Shelby County Schools Code of Conduct, including this Acceptable Use Policy, **may lose the privilege to bring their personal device to school either temporarily or permanently.** This includes:

- Use of a personal device to access inappropriate content, not limited to content that would be blocked by the District's Internet filter. This includes content that may be stored on the device itself.
- Use of the device to capture video, images, or audio in areas of the school where others have an expectation of privacy. These include, but are not limited to locker rooms, restrooms, etc.

### **Rules and Limitations**

Students should strive to be good 'digital citizens.' In addition to following this AUP, school rules, and Board Policies; students must also comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws when using technology. Any student identified as a security risk, or as having a history of such, may have their access to technology restricted or denied and may be prohibited from bringing personally-owned technology on campus.

### **Expectations of Privacy**

Students should not expect that their files, communications, or Internet use while using District-owned or managed technology are private. Authorized staff may access, search, examine, inspect, collect, or retrieve information of any kind from the District's technology, at any time and without prior notice in order to determine if a user is in violation of any of the Board's rules, or for any reason not prohibited by law. In addition, authorized staff may delete or remove a user's files from District-owned or managed technology without warning when those files violate the AUP or when necessary to maintain safe and correct operations of the District's technology.

School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any personally-owned technology upon reasonable suspicion that the contents or recent utilization of the technology contains evidence of a violation of these or other rules and policies, as well as any local, state, or federal laws.

### **Permission to Use Technology**

In general, students should only use technology with permission of a teacher or administrator. The school's BYOD policy will determine when and how students may use personally-owned devices. During school hours students should only use technology, whether the District's or their own, for school-related purposes. While in school, students must have specific permission from their teacher in order to:

- Use personally-owned technology in class
- Publish information to websites, blogs, wikis, messaging apps, or other online workspaces, including Twitter
- Create an account in any online software program or app

Additionally, students must have the permission of a school administrator and complete any necessary paperwork prior to removing any District-owned technology from the school.

### **Google Apps for Education (GAFE) Services**

As part of its technology program, Shelby County Schools (SCS) will provide students in grades K-12 with a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) account. GAFE accounts give students access to certain Google services in an environment managed by the school district. These services include an individual Google Drive, which provides students with online storage for their files and web-based tools (a.k.a. Google Docs) for creating documents, collaborating, and researching. In addition, each student will receive a GAFE email account and calendar for school use. Shelby County Schools will issue all GAFE accounts and manage which features are made available to students. This includes restricting email to within the school, within the district, or not restricted. Parents will have the ability to view their child's account.

Students should use their GAFE account for school work, not for their personal use and correspondence. In addition, students are advised to be careful and purposeful when sharing access to their documents with others, something that GAFE services makes easy to do in order to help students and teachers collaborate on projects.

Parents must grant their permission in order for a student to be issued a GAFE account. The parent's signature on this Code of Conduct will be considered as granting this permission. Parents who do not wish their child to be issued a GAFE account must submit a Restriction Letter to the school within 5 days of their student's first day of school. See directions for submitting the Restriction Letter in the "Parental Notifications" section of this Code of Conduct.

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13. Google's privacy policies assure school districts that regardless of the student's age it does not use GAFE services to collect or use student data for advertising purposes or to create advertising profiles. Ads are not displayed to students when they use GAFE services. In addition, GAFE email is not scanned for advertising purposes, nor is the information stored in GAFE Drives collected or used for any advertising purposes. Google has signed the K-12 School Service Provider Pledge to Safeguard Student Privacy ([http://studentprivacypledge.org/?page\\_id=45](http://studentprivacypledge.org/?page_id=45)). More information about Google Apps for Education and privacy can be found at <http://www.google.com/edu/privacy.html>.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and corresponding Alabama law, a student's educational records, excluding 'directory information', are protected from disclosure to third parties. The following 'directory information' will be uploaded to the SCS GAFE domain in order to create individual student accounts: student name, grade, school, and a password. Once a student begins using their account they may create educational records using GAFE services, for instance using Google's web-based tools to write papers or submit assignments for which grades may be given. Because Google will host these documents within the SCS GAFE domain, Google will be considered a "School Official" (as that term is used in FERPA and its implementing regulations). This means that Google will also comply with FERPA rules.

The general right of privacy will be extended to the extent possible in the electronic environment. However, Shelby County Schools cannot and does not guarantee the security of electronic files located on Google systems. Google does apply a powerful content filter for email. However, no protection measures can be 100% effective. Therefore, the District cannot assure that the student will not be exposed to unsolicited information or that their account will never be hacked.

*Parents who do not agree to these terms must properly notify their child's school by following the directions in the "Notifications to Parents" section of this Code of Conduct within 5 days of their student's first day of school.*

### **Examples of Unacceptable Use**

The following list does not cover every possible inappropriate action or use of technology. Students may be held responsible for other inappropriate actions whether or not they are specifically included in this AUP.

#### **Students shall not tamper, disable, damage, disrupt, or install:**

1. Tamper with or modify technology, utilities, and configurations, or modify access control permissions, either with or without malicious intent.
2. Dispose of, move, or remove technology from its assigned location without the express direction or permission of the supervising teacher.
3. Disable, circumvent or avoid security measures, including the use of proxies to bypass Internet filters, logon procedures, or any other security feature.
4. Send or intentionally receive files dangerous to the integrity of the network.
5. Intentionally damage, destroy, disable, or remove parts from technology devices. In such cases, students or their families may be held financially responsible for the repair, replacement, or reconfiguration of affected equipment.



6. Intentionally damage, delete, destroy, or interrupt access to software or data files. In such cases, students or their families may be held financially responsible for the reinstallation, replacement, or reconfiguration of affected software and files.
7. Develop or install malicious software (on or off campus) designed to infiltrate computers, damage hardware or software, spy on others, or compromise security measures.
8. Disrupt the use of others by creating excessive network congestion through the use of online gaming, video, audio, or other media for non-school purposes.
9. Use technology in any way with the intention of annoying, bullying, harassing, interfering with, or causing harm to individuals, institutions, organizations, or companies.
10. Install or download any software, including toolbars, without authorization.
11. Broadcast messages or participate in sending/perpetuating chain letters on Board-owned or managed networks.
12. Install or modify wireless connectivity devices such as wireless access points and routers.
13. Connect personal devices to Board-owned or maintained equipment, or "tether", in order to use WiFi or cellular services, through which unfiltered Internet access may be gained.

**Students shall not invade, trespass, spy, falsify, cheat, waste, or use technology resources for personal purposes:**

14. Attempt to obtain, steal, hack, or otherwise alter another user's login ID and/or password.
15. Access or use another user's account, resources, programs, files, or data.
16. Allow others to use your network account and/or password to access the network, email, or the Internet.
17. Use another person's identity or a fictitious identity.
18. Save information on any network drive or device other than your personal home directory or a teacher-specified and approved location.
19. Cause files to appear as if they were created by another person.
20. Forge or otherwise falsely reproduce or alter report cards, letters from the school, or other school system correspondence.
21. Forge or attempt to forge or "spoof" email messages.
22. Send or attempt to send anonymous email messages.
23. Use technology to cheat or plagiarize, or assisting others to cheat or plagiarize.
24. Send or request information including but not limited to hoaxes, chain letters, jokes, phishing scams, etc.
25. Intentionally waste supplies and materials.
26. Download games or play online games for personal entertainment rather than learning.
27. Use any Board technology or resource for personal gain, commercial, political, or financial gain.
28. Participate in personal, non-instructional, digital or online communications without the explicit permission and supervision of authorized school personnel (i.e. chat, email, forums, text or instant messaging, blogging, etc.)
29. Create, access, view, or post to personal online accounts while at school.

**Students shall not use Technology for improper, antisocial, unethical, or illegal activity:**

30. Use inappropriate language, gestures, or symbols in any digital communications or files, including audio/video files.
31. Create, store, access, use, request, display, or post impolite, abusive, offensive, obscene, profane, racist, inflammatory, libelous, inaccurate, derogatory, malicious, insulting, embarrassing, bullying, or threatening language, images, audio files, messages or other files.
32. Edit or modify digital pictures with the intent to embarrass, harass, or bully.
33. Link to external sites considered inappropriate by Board standards.
34. Intentionally view or encourage/enable others to view any material that may not have been filtered, but would be classified as inappropriate for the school environment whether on the Internet; sent via email, text or any other message sharing technology; or stored on any device. This applies even when the service or device being used is personally-owned.
35. Commit the Board, any school, or any employee of the Board, to any unauthorized financial obligation. Any resulting financial burden will remain with the user originating such obligations.
36. Conduct communications about unlawful activities including references to illegal or controlled drugs, gun crimes, or violence.
37. Violate federal, state, or local laws, including use of network resources to commit forgery, or to create a forged instrument (i.e. counterfeit money, fake identification, etc.)
38. Violate copyright laws, including illegally copying software, music, videos, and documents. (Students should become familiar with Copyright, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and Fair Use laws to ensure they fully understand the limitations of Fair Use rights.)

39. Copy or use logos, icons, graphics, trademarks, or other legally protected data or images.
40. Use or access any anonymizing or disappearing messaging apps or programs for any purpose.

**Students shall not use Technology to compromise the personal privacy, reputation, identity, or safety of themselves or others:**

41. Attempt to read, delete, copy, forward, or modify email or electronic files of others.
42. Post any false or damaging information about other people, the school system, or other organizations.
43. Falsely post as an employee of the Board of Education on any website, online forum, social networking site, or other online venue.
44. Post the image or intellectual property of others without their permission.
45. Post or expose the personal information of yourself or others. Personal information includes, but is not limited to a person's full name, home or work address, phone number, and social security number.
46. Post your own full name or the full name of other students to a school website, blog, wiki, or other publicly accessible Internet site. When posting information about yourself or a fellow student, you may only use the first name and first letter of the last name of the individual. In addition, no information may be posted about a student if their parent or guardian has notified the school in writing that their child's information cannot be posted on the web.
47. Make appointments to meet unknown individuals contacted via electronic communications.

**Disciplinary Actions**

Students are responsible for their behavior as it relates to technology. Therefore, students who are issued individual accounts shall take responsibility for keeping their login IDs and passwords secure.

School and/or district-level administrators will make the determination as to whether specific behavior has violated acceptable practices. Disciplinary actions for violating the AUP will be commensurate with those outlined in the SCBOE Student Code of Conduct and Attendance. In certain cases, financial penalties may apply.

Technology networks can provide individuals with access to locations in the United States and around the world. Persons should be aware that they may be liable for hurtful speech, invasion of privacy, copyright, and other violations in all 50 states and worldwide. The SCBOE will cooperate with any properly executed request from any local, State, or Federal law enforcement agency or civil court.

**Limitation on Liability**

The Board makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the Board's technology will be error-free or without defect. The Board will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data, failure to block or filter, or interruption of service.

The Board will take reasonable steps to maintain the security of its technology; however, no assurance can be given that security breaches will not occur. Students should report any suspected or actual breach of security.

Although the Board claims ownership of its various technology, all user-generated data, including email content and digital images, is implicitly understood to be representative of the author's individual point of view and not that of the school or school system. Students and their parents must also be aware that the Board cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources.

**Acknowledgement Form**

By signing the Student Code of Conduct Acknowledgement form, students and parents affirm that they have received and understand these rules and regulations. However, failure to sign or return a signed form does not release students from their obligation to abide by these rules and regulations and all other applicable Board policies.

**FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Shelby County Schools (District), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Shelby County Schools may disclose appropriately designated 'directory information' without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Shelby County Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Publications may be in print or digital format.

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks, take school pictures, or process data.

In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, and institutions of higher learning, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Shelby County Schools to disclose 'directory information' from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school principal in writing within five (5) school days of the student's first day of attendance.

The District may disclose the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- A student number assigned by the District (in some cases\*)

\*In order to make certain software applications available to students and parents, the District may need to upload specific 'directory information' to the software provider in order to create distinct accounts for students and/or parents. Examples of these include, but are not limited to MyLunchMoney.com, Blackboard Connect, and various education software applications. In these cases, the District will provide only the minimum amount of 'directory information' necessary for the student or parent to successfully use the software service.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) offers parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.
- Parents or eligible student should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect.
- The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.
- Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate.
  - If the School principal decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School principal will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.
  - Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent.
  - One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with

whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

- A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- Upon request, the School discloses education records **without consent** to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

#### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education –
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of* –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law;
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect, upon request and before administration or use* –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The SCBOE will develop these policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student's privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The SCBOE will notify parents and eligible students of these policies annually through the publication of the Shelby County Code of Conduct & Attendance and upon enrollment of students thereafter.

- *Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

#### **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION FORM INSPECTION**

Each year, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) conducts an audit of student immunization records to ensure that children enrolled in school in Alabama are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases or have a valid exemption from vaccination.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act mandates parental consent be obtained for persons not employed by this school to view the records of its students.

If you **DO NOT** wish for your child's immunization record (blue slip) to be evaluated by ADPH personnel, please notify your child's school in writing and your request will be placed with your child's form.

**NO RESPONSE** from you will indicate that you will allow ADPH to audit the immunization of your child.

### **MEDIA AND WEB RELEASE**

#### **Media Release**

From time to time the school and/or school district may wish to publish the image and/or intellectual property of students in order to enhance individual, group, school, or system-wide accomplishments. Intellectual property includes, but is not limited to, photographs, audio/video productions, and other written and graphic works. These reproductions can be used to publicize/promote the child's school or the school district through the commercial print or television media and through its own media productions. This also includes school yearbooks, school newspapers, and programs for school events such as athletics, choral, and band.

Unless parents notify the school in writing that they do not grant the SCBOE the right and permission to publish their child's image and/or intellectual property, these images and/or intellectual property may be used for publication, broadcast, or reproduction without limitations, or reservation, or any fee.

#### **Web Release**

From time to time a teacher, the school, and/or the school district may wish to publish the image and/or intellectual property of students to various official websites operated by the district, including official online school newspapers. Intellectual property includes, but is not limited to, photographs, audio/video productions, and other written and graphic works. The intent of such postings is to report school or district news and to enhance individual, group, school, or system-wide accomplishments.

In addition, many teachers now use blogs or other online learning management programs as a means of having students submit comments and intellectual property as a modern-day method of engaging students in learning. In some cases, the work that students submit to these blogs is readable by the general public. Students are instructed never to use their full name in such postings.

Unless parents notify the school in writing that they do not grant the school and/or SCBOE the right and permission to publish their child's image and/or intellectual property on its various official websites, online school newspapers, and official teacher blogs, then these images and/or intellectual property may be used in web publications without limitations, or reservation, or any fee.

#### **Online School Newspapers**

As a general practice, teachers are instructed never to publish a minor child's individual, identifiable photograph along with their full first and last name to any website. However, in the case of official online school newspapers, the school may naturally wish to publish the student's full name and picture. Parents who do not wish their child's full name and identifiable picture to be used in an official school newspaper must also notify the school in writing within 15 days of enrollment.

#### **Restricting Media and Web Publishing**

Parents should refer to the Parental Permission section of this Code of Conduct for information on how to notify the school of any restrictions they wish to place on either Media or Web publishing.

### **IMPORTANT PARENT NOTIFICATIONS AND PARENT'S RIGHT TO RESTRICT**

#### **Parent's Right to Restrict**

In an effort to reduce paperwork for both parents and staff, Shelby County Schools now requires that parents notify their child's school in writing if they wish any of the following restrictions to be applied. If the school does not receive a written notice within the specified time, then, by signing this Code of Conduct, the parent will be considered to have consented to the use of these services.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Parent Restrictions on Independent Internet Access**

According to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) parents of students under the age of 17 may prohibit their child from accessing the Internet independently while at school. This restriction applies to the student independently operating any Board-owned technology to access the Internet. It does not prohibit the student from viewing Internet sites presented as part of a lesson, or from using Internet-hosted software used by the school.

Parents, who want to prohibit their child from using the Internet independently while at school, must notify the school principal in writing within five (5) school days of the student's first day of attendance each school year. If the child attends more than one school, such as a high school and the SC College and Career Center, both schools should be notified in writing.

In these cases, school personnel will take appropriate steps to restrict the student from using Board-owned technology to access the Internet beyond the scope of the lesson or assessment. It is not reasonable that school staff can directly supervise every student every minute of the day. Therefore, parents should explain this restriction to their child in order to help the school enforce their wishes.

#### **Parent Restrictions on Student Setting Up Online Account without Parental Permission**

Throughout the year, teachers may find free, educationally-appropriate online software or apps that they wish their students to use to enhance learning. Due to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and other conditions, many online applications require that minors first obtain their parent's permission before setting up an account. Shelby County Schools will use the following process:

Teachers will request a review of the site/program they wish students to use. School and/or District administrator will review the application and the publisher's Terms of Use and Privacy Policies. If these are found to be appropriate and acceptable, then the site will be listed on the District's Technology website and students will be able to create accounts in the application. Only the minimum amount of information necessary to set up an account will be used.

Parents who do not want their child to be able to set up an online account in an approved program, but would rather be informed individually about each program being used, must notify the school in writing within five (5) school days of the student's first day of attendance each school year. If the child attends more than one school, such as a high school and the SC College and Career Center, both schools should be notified in writing.

Once this letter is on file, the teacher may choose to notify the parent of their intentions to use a free program that requires parental permission and the parent will need to send a written permission form to the school for that individual program before the child can create an account and use the program at school. It is the parent's responsibility to explain to their child that they do not wish them to use a particular program. If a parent denies permission for their child to set up an account in a specific program but the child subsequently sets up an account from home or elsewhere on their own, it will not be the school's responsibility.

#### **Parent Restrictions on Google Apps For Education Account**

Parents who do not wish their child (grades K-12) to be issued a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) online account must notify the school in writing within five (5) days of the student's first day of attendance each school year. If the child attends more than one school, such as a high school and the Shelby County College and Career Center, both schools should be notified in writing. For more information about Google Apps for Education review the material on our Technology website and the Google Apps for Education section of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy in this Code of Conduct.

#### **MEDIA AND WEB PUBLISHING**

##### **Parent Restrictions on Media and Web Publishing**

Parents who do not grant the school permission to publish their child's image and/or intellectual property as explained earlier in this Code of Conduct must write to the school principal within five (5) school days of the student's first day of attendance each school year. If the child attends more than one school, such as a high school and the SC College and Career Center, both schools should be notified in writing. Once submitted, parents can change or remove these restrictions by submitting such changes in writing to the school's principal. However, the district and/or school cannot retract or change any items that were sent to publishers prior to the parent submitting the change.

##### **Online School Newspaper Publishing**

Parents who do not wish their child's full name and identifiable picture to be used in an official online school newspaper must notify the school in writing within five (5) days of enrollment.

##### **Yearbook Publishing**

Parents should pay close attention to the fact that yearbook pictures are also covered by any general publishing restrictions they put in place.

##### **Booster Websites**

At some schools booster organizations have established websites of their own to support school teams, bands, clubs, etc. These are not official Shelby County School's websites and are not published on our servers. Booster organizations are advised that they should obtain the parent's permission in order to post pictures and information on minor-aged students on their website. If parents have a child who participates in activities that are publicized by a booster website and they wish to restrict the use of their child's image or information, then they should contact that booster organization.

### **Form for Restrictions**

Parents are advised to refer to the form provided on the System's Parent website before sending a letter prohibiting the school or district from publishing. This form provides parents with the option of denying all such publishing or requesting partial restrictions that would prevent public publishing, but allow their child's image to be included in yearbooks, school newspapers, online school newspapers, etc.

### **MILITARY RECRUITER**

If you choose for your child's name and address not to be given out to official recruiting representatives of branches of the armed forces and military forces, you must notify the school of this request in writing.

### **PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE**

Alabama law mandates that every child between the ages of six and 17 years shall be required to attend school and that every parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child required to attend school shall explain the cause of any absence of child under his control or charge. This law has been amended to also state that each child who is enrolled in a public school shall be subject to the attendance and truancy laws of the State of Alabama. When the parent/student signs the acknowledgment form that will be given out by the local school, the parent/student acknowledges all of the information in the Code of Conduct has been reviewed and the parent/student is accepting responsibility to abide by the guidelines that are set forth in the Code of Conduct and Attendance Manual.

## Shelby County Schools - Medication Procedures Summary

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On July 13, 1998, the Shelby County Board of Education approved medication procedures for all students in the Shelby County School System. This letter is to inform you of the requirements of the medication procedures, should your child require **Prescription or Over-the-counter (OTC)** medications while attending school.

- ❖ **All medications**, whether Prescription or Over-the-Counter, **must** be turned into the school office by the student's parent/guardian or other responsible adult.
- ❖ Medications **cannot** be transported on the bus (*except emergency medication and approved medications prescribed for self-administration and carry on person*).
- ❖ No student will be permitted to carry or possess any type of medications, whether Prescription or OTC, on his/her person at any time (*except emergency medications and approved medications prescribed for self-administration and carry on person*).
- ❖ **Controlled Substances** cannot be approved for self-administration or carry on person by a licensed prescriber.
- ❖ **The parent/guardian must sign a School Medication Physician/Prescriber /Parent Authorization Form (Form A)** before **any** medication, Prescription or Over-the-Counter, can be administered at school.
- ❖ **Over-the-Counter medications will require the parent/guardian signature only on the medication authorization form and is valid for the entire school year.**
- ❖ **Prescription medication will require the physician/prescriber signature on the authorization form (Form A) as well as the parent/guardian signature.**
- ❖ If the **Prescription medication** order is **changed** during the school year, a **new** authorization form (Form A) is required. Both physician/prescriber and parent/guardian must sign the form.
- ❖ For **Prescription** medications, a **current pharmacy labeled** container is required which includes the student's name, physician name, name of medication, strength, dosage, time interval, route and date of drug's discontinuation when appropriate.
- ❖ For **Over-the-Counter** medications, **an unexpired, unopened, age appropriate, original manufacturer's container** is required and all manufacturers' labeling must be clearly legible. The student's name must be written on the container.
- ❖ The school will not supply any Prescription or OTC medication to staff or students.
- ❖ All unused medications not picked up by parents/guardians by **the last day of each school year will be discarded** according to appropriate disposal guidelines.

These medication procedures were developed with your child's safety in mind. If you have any questions concerning these medication procedures, please contact your school nurse.



**SCHOOL MEDICATION PRESCRIBER/PARENT AUTHORIZATION**

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **No known drug allergies---if drug allergies list:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight:** \_\_\_\_\_pounds

**PRESCRIBER AUTHORIZATION** (To be completed by licensed healthcare provider)

**Medication Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dosage:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Route:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Frequency/Time(s) to be given:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Start Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **Stop Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Reason for taking medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
Potential side effects/contraindications/adverse reactions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Treatment order in the event of an adverse reaction: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Is the medication a controlled substance? Yes  No   
Is self- medication permitted and recommended? Yes  No   
If "yes" I hereby affirm this student has been instructed  
On proper self-administration of the prescribe medication.  
Do you recommend this medication be kept "on person" by student? Yes  No

**Printed Name of Licensed Healthcare Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Licensed Healthcare Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT AUTHORIZATION**

I authorize the School Nurse, the registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) to administer or to delegate to unlicensed school personnel the task of assisting my child in taking the above medication in accordance with the administrative code practice rules. I understand that additional parent/prescriber signed statements will be necessary if the dosage of medication is changed. I also authorize the School Nurse to talk with the prescriber or pharmacist should a question come up with the medication.

**Prescription Medication** must be registered with School Nurse or trained Medication Assistants. Prescription medication must be properly labeled with student's name, prescriber's name, name of medication, dosage, time intervals, route of administration and the date of drug's expiration when appropriate.

**Over the Counter Medication** must be registered with the School Nurse or Trained Medication Assistant, OTC's in the original, unopened and sealed container. Local Education Agency Policy for OTC medication to be followed:

**Parent's/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**SELF-ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION**

**(To be completed ONLY if student is authorized to complete self-care by licensed healthcare provider.)**

I authorize and recommend self-medication by my child for the above medication. I also affirm that he/she has been instructed in the proper self-administration of the prescribed medication by his/her attending physician. I shall indemnify and hold harmless the school, the agents of the school, and the local board of education against any claims that may arise relating to my child's self-administration of prescribed medication(s).

**Signature of Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent Request Form for Excused Absence

**\*\* Completing this form and presenting it to Administration does not guarantee automatic approval. \*\***

Date(s) of planned absence: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom/First Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of school days to be missed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student(s):

Student Name	School	Grade	Absences to Date

Are siblings at other Shelby County Schools also included in this request? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If so, please list.)

Student Name	School	Grade	Absences to Date

Number of days requested for excused absences this year: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain the purpose / reason for this request:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Pending administrator approval of this request, the student(s) will be responsible for securing and completing all academic assignments that are missed as a result of this absence.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***For School Office Use Only:***

Decision regarding this parent request:      Approved      Denied  
Follow-up with other local school Administrators

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Reminder for Administrators – Prior to Approval, check with neighboring schools that may be serving siblings.***

# Shelby County Schools

## 2016-2017 School Calendar

2016

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2017

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						180 187

- Jul 4 ..... Independence Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Aug 2-3 ..... New Teacher Orientation
  - Aug 4 ..... Local Professional Dev.
  - Aug 5 ..... System Prof. Dev.
  - Aug 8 ..... Teacher Workday
  - Aug 9 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Begins
  - Sep 5 ..... Labor Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Oct 10 ..... 1/2 Teacher Workday, 1/2 Prof Dev (No Students)
  - Nov 11 ..... Veterans Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Nov 21-25 ..... Thanksgiving Break (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Dec 16 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends,  
Students Dismissed at 1 p.m., Staff at 3 p.m.
  - Dec 19-Jan 3 ..... Christmas Holidays (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Jan 3 ..... Teacher Workday, No Students
  - Jan 4 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Begins
  - Jan 16 ..... M.L. King, Jr. Birthday (Schools & Offices Closed)
  - Feb 20 ..... Presidents Day (Schools & Offices Closed)  
(Weather day if needed)
  - Mar 10 ..... Teacher Workday, No Students
  - Mar 27-31 ..... Spring Break
  - May 22-25 ..... High School Graduations
  - May 25 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Ends,  
Students Dismissed at 1 p.m., Staff at 3 p.m.
  - May 26 ..... Teacher Workday
  - May 29 ..... Memorial Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
- Blue** highlighted date indicates Weather Day if needed.

- ### TESTING DATES
- TBD ..... ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments  
(Block Schedule)
  - TBD ..... ACT WorkKeys Internet Version
  - TBD ..... ACT WorkKeys Paper/Pencil Test
  - TBD ..... ACT WorkKeys Paper/Pencil Make-Up Test
  - TBD ..... ACT WorkKeys Paper/Pencil with Accommodations
  - TBD ..... ACCESS for ELLs
  - TBD ..... Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
  - TBD ..... ACT Aspire Paper/Pencil (Grades 3-8 and 10)
  - TBD ..... ACT Aspire Computer-Based (Grades 3-8 and 10)
  - TBD ..... ACT Plus Writing Paper/Pencil
  - TBD ..... ACT Plus Writing Paper/Pencil Make-up Test
  - TBD ..... ACT Plus Writing with Accommodations Paper/Pencil
  - TBD ..... ACT Plus Writing Online Format
  - TBD ..... Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA) Online Collection
  - TBD ..... ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments

- ### GRADING PERIODS
- | Period Ends                   | # Days | Grades Sent Home |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period Oct 7  | 43     | Oct 14           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Dec 16 | 43     | Jan 6            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Mar 9  | 45     | Mar 17           |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period May 25 | 49     | *May 26          |
- \*Some schools will hand deliver report cards on the last day of school. All others will be mailed as soon as they are available.
- End-source dates when students are not in school are in red. End-source dates indicate Institute, professional development, and teacher workdays.



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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