

# **Code of Student Conduct 2024-2025**



## **Promoting Positive Student Choices**

**School Board of  
Hamilton County  
Jasper, Florida 32052**

**Superintendent of Schools**

Mrs. Lee Wetherington-Zamora

**Hamilton County School Board**

Mrs. Cheryl McCall - District 1

Mr. Gary Godwin - District 2

Mr. Saul Speights - District 3

Mr. Johnny Bullard - District 4

Mr. Sammy McCoy - District 5

**School Board Attorney**

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Ms. Kathy Griffin, Principal

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## Hamilton County School District

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**Lee Wetherington-Zamora, Superintendent**

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### **School Board Members**

Cheryl McCall – District 1  
Gary Godwin – District 2  
Saul Speights – District 3  
Johnny Bullard – District 4  
Sammy McCoy – District 5

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The Code of Student Conduct defines the rights and responsibilities of students of the Hamilton County School District. The document also clearly states the consequences for students whose actions disrupt the learning process. Students are expected to behave responsibly at all times.

It is vital the parents/guardians be directly involved in the education of their children, since they can be held accountable for the actions of their children. Please read and discuss the Code of Student Conduct with your child(ren). Parents/guardians are asked to sign the Notice of Receipt form and return the form to the school.

Signing the Notice of Receipt does not imply that the parent/guardian agrees with the content of the Code of Student Conduct. It indicates only that the parent/guardian has access to the document and that s/he is aware of the student's rights and responsibilities, and the consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The Code of Student Conduct was developed to provide students with a safe atmosphere conducive to learning. This safe learning environment can be maintained if we (families and the school system) work together. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important document, and for your cooperation in returning the signed Notice of Receipt to the school.

Sincerely,

Lee Wetherington-Zamora  
Superintendent

**"Ensuring a Successful Future for Every Student"**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document constitutes the rules regulations governing student conduct. Florida's plan for school reform and accountability, recognizes the importance of healthy and drug-free schools, safe school environments, and protection of civil rights with assurance of equitable treatment for all students, parents, and personnel.

This code applies to every student (pre-kindergarten through adult education) who is under the authority of the Hamilton County School System and shall be in effect on school property, at school-sponsored events, at school bus stops, and on school buses. Students not riding a school bus are not under the supervision, control or direction of the principal while en route to and from school. Nevertheless, all students are expected to follow this Code on their way to and from school. The principal or designee may take administrative action if a student's misconduct en route to or from school has a harmful effect on the health, safety, or welfare of other students and/or the school.

It is the policy of the School Board that misbehavior of any kind will not be tolerated. (Please see Glossary for definitions of misbehaviors.) In order for instruction to occur in a safe environment, there must be a cooperative relationship between students, parents/guardians, and the school system.

**STUDENTS** are expected to:

- \* assume responsibility for their own behavior.
- \* be in school every day, if well, and to learn.
- \* respect individuals and property.
- \* use appropriate, responsible behavior at all times.
- \* help maintain a safe, alcohol-free, drug-free, weapon-free environment.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS** are expected to:

- \* support their school's discipline plan in order to protect the learning environment.
- \* show interest in their child's progress and work with school personnel to solve any behavioral and/or academic problems.
- \* get to know their child's school, its staff, curriculum, programs, and activities by attending parent-teacher conferences and school/parent functions, such as School Advisory Council meetings and PTA meetings.
- \* make sure their child goes to school appropriately dressed per the dress code and on time every day, unless their child is ill or has a contagious disease.
- \* maintain up-to-date information at the school, including home, work, and emergency telephone numbers, addresses and health information.

**The SCHOOL SYSTEM** is expected to:

- \* administer through its teachers, staff, and administrators, appropriate consequences for misbehavior in order to ensure that teaching and learning can occur.

- \* provide and maintain a safe atmosphere which will encourage positive behavior and high achievement.
- \* provide courses of study, programs, and activities to meet the needs of all students.
- \* show respect for all individuals by treating them fairly and impartially.
- \* encourage open communication among students, parents/guardians, community agencies, and school personnel.
- \* discipline any student under its supervision, subject to limitations of the law and district policies.

## **SECTION ONE**

### **STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND RULES**

This section summarizes the basic principles of student rights. With each right comes a responsibility. The principal, under the supervision of the Superintendent and within School Board regulations, shall assume administrative responsibility and instructional leadership of the school to which he or she is assigned. The faculty and staff shall assist in the orderly operation of the school and ensure the rights of students.

#### **Attendance**

Florida law states that children who are six (6) by February 1st must attend school regularly until their 18th birthday, unless they are eligible for exemption or have been expelled by the School Board. The parent/guardian is responsible for the student's attendance.

A student who has 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days is a habitual truant under state law. The student may be dealt with as a child in need of services under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes. In addition, the parent/guardian may be subject to criminal prosecution under Chapter 232, Florida Statutes.

A student between the age of 16 and 18 may file a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment and will then not be subject to compulsory school attendance. This declaration must be signed by the student and the parent/guardian.

#### **Student Rights:**

- \* To be informed of School Board policies and individual school rules regarding absenteeism (excused and unexcused) and tardiness.
- \* To appeal a decision pertaining to an absence.
- \* To make up class work within an appropriate length of time when there is an excused absence.

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To attend classes daily and be on time.

- \* To provide the school with an adequate explanation and appropriate documentation to explain an absence.
- \* To request makeup assignments from teachers upon return to school and complete them within the same number of days they were absent. If teachers are present at school the day the student returns, the teacher will have 24 hours to provide missed assignments to students.

**Excused Absences:** Students must be in school unless the absence has been excused for one of the reasons listed below. It is the responsibility of each student's parent/guardian to explain the student's absence to the school in a manner satisfactory to the principal. Reasons for excused absences include:

- \* Sickness, injury, death in the immediate family, or some other insurmountable condition (up to three [3] absences for illness per semester with parental note).
- \* Documented appointments with health care professionals.
- \* Documented absences for religious instruction or religious holiday.
- \* Participation in an academic class or school-sponsored activity approved by the principal.
- \* Court appearances (copy of subpoena required).

For kindergarten through eighth grade only, absences due to other individual circumstances may be excused by the principal. All other absences are considered unexcused.

High school students who exceed a certain number of absences may be unable to receive credit in accordance with school board policy. Please check with the administration of the high school for specific information.

If an attendance error is noted by either school personnel or by the student's parent/guardian, the absence is researched and, if applicable, corrected by the school data clerk. Documents to be researched would be teacher's attendance records, Skyward records, truancy records, and parent statements.

## **Respect for Persons Property**

Public and private safety are constitutional rights. Students, parents, and school staff need to work together to see these rights are preserved in our schools. Students have an obligation to assume responsibility for their own actions in a climate which fosters respect for persons and property.

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To be treated with respect by other students, school personnel and campus visitors.
- \* To expect that your property will be respected by other students and school personnel.
- \* To have a safe and orderly school.
- \* To protect yourself and your property against some injury attempted by another.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To treat other students, school personnel and campus visitors with respect.
- \* To respect others' property by not damaging or taking it.
- \* To treat school property with respect and to act in a way that does not interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to the health and/or safety of others.



- \* To avoid conflict, first seek help from an adult, if possible. Protect yourself from harm if no other option is available. Report the incident to an adult school employee as soon as possible.

### **Student Rules for Riding School Buses**

It is a privilege to ride a school bus. Students are expected to adhere to the rules. Conversations and actions by students on a school bus may be recorded by a video and audio recorder and may be used for disciplinary action.

Students must:

1. Obey the driver.
2. Stand off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
3. Be at the bus stop on time and conform to all applicable school rules.
4. Sit according to the seating chart.
5. Remain seated when the bus is in motion.
6. Keep arms, legs, head and objects inside the windows.
7. Remain quiet. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is dangerous.
8. Observe classroom conduct at all times while aboard the bus.
9. Not eat, drink or have or use tobacco products.
10. Cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus, when boarding or departing, after the driver signals that it is clear to cross.
11. Ride only the assigned bus to and from school unless duly authorized. Written parental permissions, with principal approval, is required to get off at a different stop or ride a different bus, providing room is available on the bus. Parents assume responsibility.
12. Pay for damage to school buses or property within 10 days after billing.
13. Not bring large boxes, balloons, cages, firearms, knives, glass bottles, animals, reptiles, offensive materials, etc., on the bus. Band instruments too large to fit in the student's lap or under the seat are not permitted.

## **Knowledge and Observation of Rules of Conduct**

Effective learning takes place in an atmosphere where students, parents/guardians, and school administrators know the rules for all students and the consequences for students who choose to violate the Code of Student Conduct.

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To have a copy of clearly defined rules of student conduct explained to you.
- \* To expect the rules to be enforced without discrimination.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To know and observe school rules and regulations which govern your conduct.
- \* To become familiar with the Code of Student Conduct, all school rules, all classroom rules, and all bus rules.

## **Right to Learn and Participate**

Students have the right to be involved in their education. Age, grade, maturity, and sophistication are factors which determine the level of involvement. Course selection and participation in school activities are an integral part of learning.

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To receive district curriculum descriptions that will help you make informed choices.
- \* To have equal opportunity with regard to academic programs and extracurricular activities without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, or disability.
- \* To receive instruction under competent instructors in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- \* To participate in quality academic programs in elementary, middle and senior high schools.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To ask for assistance from school personnel in selecting courses.
- \* To request participation in academic programs and extracurricular activities that match with your abilities.
- \* To cooperate with the teacher and contribute to a free, unprejudiced atmosphere.
- \* To cooperate fully and exert every effort to achieve mastery of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards.

## **Free Speech, Student Publication, and Assembly**

Citizens are guaranteed self-expression under the first and fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution. One of the basic purposes of education is to prepare students for responsible self-expression and the free exchange of ideas in group discussions.

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To express your viewpoints responsibly in writing or orally without jeopardizing your relations with other students, your teachers, or the school administration.
- \* To print and distribute publications only under the supervision of the principal/designee.
- \* To conduct meetings on school grounds or in school buildings in accordance with school rules and scheduled use of facilities.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To recognize the rights of others by expressing yourself in a manner which does not disrupt the orderly process of education, violate school rules, or infringe on the rights of others.
- \* To observe guidelines provided by school administrators and follow the rules of responsible journalism so as not to slander or libel other persons.
- \* To conduct yourself and your activities consistently with the educational objectives of the school, to refrain from disrupting the educational process and endangering the health, safety or welfare of others.

## **Students Rules for Computer Use**

Students are responsible for good behavior on computers at school. Computer files, including e-mail, are not private. The use of the school's computers and computer networks, computer software, data files, Internet access, and intellectual property is a privilege and is intended for educational purposes only. Students must have a signed AUP on file each year in order to have access to the Internet at school. The privilege may be revoked or other disciplinary action taken for violation of any of the following rules:

1. Sharing computer account IDs and passwords, except when authorized.
2. Creating, copying, receiving, or using data, language or graphics which are obscene, abusive, harassing, or otherwise inappropriate at school.
3. Accessing, changing or deleting computer programs, data files or electronic mail belonging to others, without express permission.
4. Stealing or destroying the school's computer hardware or peripherals (printers, mice, monitors, modems, cables, connectors, etc.).
5. Stealing or destroying computer software or data files owned by the school or other persons.

6. Violating or attempting to violate the security of the computer/network systems.
7. Taking unauthorized actions which deny access to, disrupt, or destroy the service of the computer/network systems.
8. Making unauthorized or unlawful installation of personal computer software on the school's computers or the computer network, including, but not limited to, games, virus programs, and applications software. Student-provided software must be used only in accordance with the license agreement.
9. Using computers, computer networks, or computer peripherals (printer, mouses, monitors, modems, etc.) to commit a forgery or to create a forged instrument.
10. Using computers, computer networks, computer software, data files or intellectual property in any unauthorized way.

### **Privacy**

Federal and state laws provide persons with 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 and faculty.

### **Students Rights**

- \* To have privacy of your personal possessions unless appropriate school personnel have reasonable cause to believe a student has any object or material, which is prohibited by law or School Board.
- \* To expect that schools will keep student records safe and private.
- \* To learn how information is gathered, used, and what it means in your school records.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* Not to carry or conceal any such material prohibited by law, school board policy, or that would detract from the educational process.
- \* To accept the consequences for any contents stored within the student's locker, bookbag, purse, instrument case or other items as deemed necessary.

### **Drink Containers**

Drink containers from home should be sealed when brought on campus if they contain fluid. Drink containers are allowed to be brought onto campus for use with water filling stations.

## **Dress Code**

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To learn without being offended or distracted by the way other students are dressed.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To come to school or school-sponsored events fully clothed in accordance with the school dress code.

Students are expected to dress for school and school activities in a way that contributes to their health and safety that promotes a positive school learning environment and does not disrupt the events and activities of the school.

### **General Dress Code Requirements**

This general dress code applies to students from the time the student arrives on school property until the end of the school day and at all school activities during the school day. Exceptions may be made by the principal for field trips or other special activities.

The dress code is a long or short-sleeved shirt of any color.

Shirts/blouses/dresses must be fastened with no visible cleavage or undergarments.

Shorts/skirts/jumpers/skorts/dresses shall be worn no shorter than **three inches above** the kneecap. Leggings, tights or hosiery can be worn underneath dresses, skirts, or shorts, or be covered by a shirt that is at least thigh length.

Clothing must be the appropriate size for you, not be oversized or undersized. The waist of the garment shall be worn so that the waistband is worn at the waist and not below the waist. You may not wear baggy/saggy pants.

### **Shoes**

Shoes must be safe and appropriate. Students must wear athletic shoes during physical education activities. You may not wear bedroom slippers or shoes with wheels. You may not wear platforms, heels higher than two inches at HCHS and one inch at HCES or cleats.

No slides or open-toe shoes at HCES, which include but are not limited to sandals, crocs, or bubble slides even if a strap is attached.

**You may not wear:**

- A. clothing and accessories that are dangerous to health or safety and are distracting or disruptive.
- B. clothing in a way that reveals private body area(s) or undergarments.
- C. clothing, haircuts, display items/body art with markings or an accessory (such as backpacks, jewelry, buttons, and purses) that:
  - 1. promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang identification, weapons, or lewd sexual behavior; or
  - 2. denigrate or promote discrimination for or against an individual or group on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, race, religion or gender.
- D. clothing that is not properly fastened.
- E. clothing that is torn or has holes above the thigh.
- F. any style of shorts above the thigh in length, swimming shorts/bathing suits, or running shorts.
- G. visible undergarments, sleeveless shirts, sheer or see through tops, halter tops, low cut tops, sleepwear or outer garments traditionally designed as undergarments such as boxer shorts, or bras.
- H. hats, headgear, \*headphones, \*earbuds, hoodies, or other head coverings, including rags and bandannas inside the school building except when approved by the principal/designee.  
**\*For safety reasons, only one earbud (or headphone) may be used whether inside or outside.**
- I. jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons, such as chains, spiked jewelry, fish hooks on hats or arm bands and rubber bands.
- J. combs, curlers, or hair picks. Personal grooming such as combing, brushing, or spraying hair and applying cosmetics are allowed only in restrooms or designated areas.
- K. sunglasses on face inside the school building. You may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun protective wear while outdoors during school hours.

**DISCIPLINE**

The principal or designee has the authority to decide if your clothing complies with Board policy. If the principal determines that your clothing does not comply with Board policy, discipline will be according to the Code of Student Conduct.

## **Non-Discrimination**

A number of federal and state laws prohibit discrimination. Board Policy 2.18 prohibits discrimination in any educational program or activity.

### **Student Rights:**

- \* To attend school and learn where all students and adults are treated equitably without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, marital, status, or disability.
- \* To attend school and learn in an environment free of harassment.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- \* To treat others equitably and fairly.
- \* To conduct yourself and your activities so as not to harass others and to report harassment or discriminatory situations to school administrators.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **DISCIPLINE BY LEVELS**

To establish reasonable consistency in the schools, a uniform Discipline Code has been developed. Definitions of terms used can be found in the Glossary. Consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, **the principal or designee is responsible for discipline** and determines the level of the behavior and its appropriate consequence. Schools and teachers may develop individual rules and disciplinary practices which supplement the Code but do not conflict with it. It is the intent of the School Board of Hamilton County that the principal or designee of each school has a reasonable degree of choice in determining the level of a student's behavior and the resulting consequences. The factors to consider include, but are not limited to:

- \* Seriousness of offense
- \* Premeditation, impulse, or self-defense
- \* Age and/or disability
- \* Strength of evidence
- \* Cooperation/remorse
- \* Disciplinary history

Behaviors and their consequences are divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequence.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students who have been identified as educationally disabled and are receiving ESE services are subject to additional disciplinary guidelines that are different than those for non-disabled students.

#### **Level IV Discipline**

Level IV offenses are minor acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly classroom procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student's own learning process. These offenses may be handled first by the teacher or other staff member involved. If additional action is necessary because of continued violation or other concerns, the student will be referred to the principal or designee for appropriate disciplinary action. The teacher or school administrator/designee, after review of the student's explanation, consultation with other persons involved and further investigation (when needed), will determine appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code and attempt to contact parents.

#### **Level III Discipline**

Level III offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct which require administrative intervention, including, but not limited to, repeated minor misconduct and acts directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others. School support staff and/or community resource agencies may be involved. After review of the student's explanation, consultation with other persons involved, and further investigation (when needed) the school administrator/designee will determine appropriate disciplinary action consistent with this Code and attempt to contact parents.

#### **Level II Discipline**

Level II offenses are serious acts of misconduct, including, but not limited to, repeated similar misbehavior, serious disruptions of the orderly conduct of school, threats to health, safety, or property and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal/designee and may result in immediate removal of the student from the school or extracurricular activities. The principal/designee will investigate the behavior and determine appropriate disciplinary action consistent with this code and contact parents. Violent or Level II disruptive students may be referred for mental health services.

#### **Level I Discipline**

The most serious acts of misconduct are included in this level; they must be reported immediately to the principal/designee. These violations are so serious that they may require district administrators, outside agencies and/or law enforcement to immediately remove the student from school property. **Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.** The principal/designee may recommend the expulsion of any student who has committed a **serious breach of conduct.** Violent or Level I disruptive students may be referred for mental health services.



## **Discipline Charts**

A minor to major discipline chart listing recommended consequences is included on the following pages. A range of consequences is available for each inappropriate behavior. If a principal / designee needs to deviate from the suggested range, she / he must write the rationale and place it in the student's discipline folder. The principal is authorized to take appropriate action in response to other misbehaviors not included in the chart and in lieu of the recommended consequences may substitute another appropriate consequence. We believe in building good student character through discipline procedures. Therefore, in certain incidents, administration may temporarily suspend students from any and all extra-curricular activities until a disposition is served.

Any student who participates in extracurricular opportunities at Hamilton County High School, which include but are not limited to clubs, cheerleading, and athletics, is held to a higher standard of conduct as representatives of the student body in public arenas. All extracurricular activities are extensions of the classroom and school. As such, any student who participates in any extracurricular activity may be subject to additional discipline through the activity they participate in as well as the discipline assigned through the discipline matrix. If a student athlete is assigned ISS on the date of a game, that student is not eligible to participate, they may still participate in practice but not a game. Students deemed truant are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities (prom, sports, clubs, etc.) until the next semester.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **PROHIBITIONS AND NOTICES**

#### **Notice: Prohibition of Violence Against School District Personnel**

Battery against any school personnel by a student is a level I violation of the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately and knowingly commits an act of battery against school personnel shall be suspended from school. The principal shall recommend expulsion and will offer to assist the staff member in pressing such charges as are appropriate. Subject to federal and state mandates, any student charged with a violation of section 784.081, F.S. (assault, aggravated assault, battery, or aggravated battery upon a school employee) shall be removed from the classroom immediately and suspended or placed in an alternative school setting pending disposition. Any student found to have committed a violation of section 784.081, F.S. shall be expelled or placed in an alternative school setting for a minimum period of one year. [F.S. 1006.13 (4)]

#### **Notice: Prohibition and Zero Tolerance of School-Related Crimes**

The School Board has zero tolerance for crimes, violence, weapons and drugs. This policy includes the reporting of delinquent acts and crimes occurring whenever and wherever students are under the jurisdiction of the School Board.

1. Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity shall receive the most severe consequences provided by Board Policy.
  - a. homicide (murder, manslaughter);
  - b. sexual battery;
  - c. armed robbery;

- d. aggravated battery;
  - e. battery or aggravated battery on teacher or other school personnel;
  - f. kidnapping or abduction;
  - g. arson;
  - h. possession, use, or sale of any firearm;
  - i. possession, use, or sale of any fireworks, explosive, destructive device;
  - j. possession, use, or sale of controlled substances
  - k. makes a threat or false report as defined by 790.162, F.S. and 790.163, F.S.
2. Appropriate due process procedures will be followed. If a student committing one of the offenses outlined above is identified as disabled, school personnel will follow the special procedures for such student.
  3. Local law enforcement authorities shall be notified when any crime or delinquent act is committed on school property, on school sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, if the offense involves a victim, school officials shall notify the victim and the victim's parents or legal guardian if the victim is a minor of the offense and of the victim's rights to press charges against the offender. School personnel shall cooperate in any investigation or other proceedings leading to the victim's exercise of rights as provided by law. [Rule 6A-1.0404, FAC]

### **Notice: Prohibition of Weapons**

Weapons and use of weapons are prohibited on school property, including buses, at school-sponsored activities and in any vehicle brought onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity. Violation of this prohibition shall be considered a serious breach of conduct. The term "weapon" shall include, but not be limited to, any pointed, sharp or blunt instrument which has no legitimate educational purpose for the student at school and/or items that closely resemble weapons or operate similarly, such as pellet guns, BB guns and starter pistols.

#### **1. Firearms/Explosives/Destructive Device**

For firearms/explosive/destructive device violations, a student shall be suspended from school for ten (10) days, and the principal shall recommend expulsion. Violations include possession, sale, distribution, display, transfer or use of any firearms/explosive, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded.

Any student who brings a weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, F.S., to school will be expelled from the regular school for not less than one year and referred for criminal prosecution. [F.S. 1006.07]

Any student who **brings** a firearm to school will be expelled from the regular school for not less than one year and referred for criminal prosecution. [F.S. 1006.07]

#### **2. Other Weapons**

A student **possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or transferring** a weapon of any type, other than a firearm/explosive/destructive device, shall be suspended from school for five (5) to ten (10) days and the principal may recommend expulsion. Violations include possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or transferring knives of any type, boxcutters, razorblades, firecrackers, fireworks and M80s.

Any student who brings a weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, F.S., to school will be expelled from the regular school for not less than one year and referred for criminal prosecution. [F.S. 1006.07]

A student **using** a weapon of any type, including pointed or sharp instruments such as ice picks, penknives or razor blades, shall be suspended from school for ten (10) days and the principal shall recommend expulsion.

### 3. Non-Weapons Used as Weapons

A student **using as a weapon** any article or substance not normally considered to be a weapon (e.g., rocks, pens, pencils) shall be suspended for ten (10) days, and the principal shall recommend expulsion. For students with disabilities, the mandatory penalties provided by this policy shall be subject to the procedures for discipline of students with disabilities.

### Notice: Prohibition of Alcohol and Drugs

The use of illegal drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful and is a Level I violation of this code. Possession, sale, transfer, distribution or use by any elementary, middle or high school student of any form of alcoholic beverage, drugs with abuse potential, hallucinogens or similar items, except those specifically prescribed by a licensed physician, is prohibited on school property, including buses, and at school-sponsored activities. Drugs with abuse potential are defined as those classified as “designer drugs” under Florida Statutes. Any drug with abuse potential prescribed by a licensed physician must be delivered to the school clinic and administered under the supervision of a school employee.

1. Violation of this prohibition shall be considered a serious breach of conduct. Appropriate law enforcement officials and parents or guardian will be promptly notified.
2. A student in **possession of, using or being under the influence of** any item listed above, except under the direction of a licensed physician for that student, shall be immediately suspended from school for a period of ten (10) days for the first offense and the principal may recommend expulsion. The student may be required to show proof of enrollment in an appropriate rehabilitation program prior to readmission to regular classes and may be placed on probation. For a second offense, the student shall be suspended for ten (10) days and the principal shall recommend expulsion.
3. A student **selling** any item listed above or represented by the student to be any item listed above shall be immediately suspended from school for a period of ten (10) days for the first offense and the principal shall recommend expulsion. **Soliciting a sale and transfer or distribution** other than selling shall result in immediate suspension for a period of ten (10) days and the principal may recommend expulsion. For a second transfer or distribution or distribution offense, the suspension shall be for ten (10) days and the principal shall recommend expulsion.

4. The application of this policy applies to the **use of any legal substance to attain a mood-altering effect** and the **possession** of any equipment or device for preparing or taking drugs.
5. State law provides additional penalties for students formally charged with a felony, including those allegedly occurring off school property. By their nature, such incidents shall be considered to represent an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline or welfare in the school. A student adjudged guilty of a felony under Chapter 893, Florida Statutes, may be recommended for expulsion from all educational programs in the Hamilton County public school system.
6. Pursuant to state law, any student may be entitled to a waiver of discipline or expulsion if he divulges information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who supplies such controlled substance to him or if he voluntarily discloses his unlawful possession of such controlled substance prior to his arrest. A waiver also may be granted if the student successfully completed a state-licensed or school board approved drug abuse program. [F.S. 1006.09]
7. For students with disabilities, the mandatory penalties provided by this policy shall be subject to the procedure for discipline of students with disabilities.

#### **Notice: Prohibition of Tobacco Products**

Use, possession, distribution and sale of tobacco products are prohibited on school property, at school-sponsored events, at school bus stops and on school buses. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, consuming, displaying, or selling any tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, electronic smoking devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters at any time on school property or at any school related or school-sponsored event. "Electronic smoking device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through the inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. "Electronic smoking device" includes but is not limited to devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, similar devices, or under any other product name or descriptor. "Electronic smoking device" also includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately, including but not limited to, e-liquids, e-juice, cartridges, or pods. "Tobacco product" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine, whether synthetic or natural, that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to: cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, cigars, little cigars, and other kinds and forms of tobacco.

[F.S. 386.212; 569.11 386.201- 386.209]

#### **Notice: Medications or Medical Treatment**

Should a student require medication administration or medical treatment during school hours, Florida State Statutes and School Board Policy states written permission must be obtained from the student's parent/guardian and physician. The Medication/Treatment Authorization Form is available on the Hamilton County School District website and from the school nurse at each school. The Medication/Treatment Authorization Form must be signed by both the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician. A new form will be required to be completed each school year. A separate

form must be completed for each medication/treatment that must be given during school hours or school sponsored activity.

A parent/guardian or an authorized adult, designated by the parent/guardian must transport the medication to and from the school Health Room. Medication cannot be transported back and forth for nighttime or weekend doses. All medications received at the school health room, must be counted and verified upon receipt, with the parent/guardian/designated adult delivering the medication and the school health staff receiving the medication. DO NOT send medication to school with your child. Staff can accept no more than a 30-day supply of prescription medication.

All prescription medications must be received and stored in the original pharmacy container, with the original, valid, unaltered, updated prescription label attached. All non-prescription/over-the-counter medication must be received in the original, sealed, unopened container with the manufacturer's label attached and the student's name clearly written on the container. This medication must not be expired.

Only medications prescribed during school hours will be administered at school. Doses missed at home will not be administered at school. First dosage of any new medication will not be administered during school hours because of the possibility of an allergic reaction.

Notify the school nurse directly of any medication changes, including discontinuation of any medication. A new prescription bottle with correct labeling and a new Medication/Treatment Authorization form completed by the parent/guardian and prescribing physician is required for any dosage change.

No student will be allowed to have prescription medication in his/her possession on school premises, on school transportation, or at school functions. Exceptions to this rule may include Epi-pens, insulin pens, or inhalers with appropriate documentation and authorization forms obtained. The school nurse, along with the parent/guardian and prescribing physician, shall determine whether or not the student is ready to responsibly self-carry and administer medication at school or during school sponsored activities without endangering the health and safety of themselves, school staff, and/or fellow students. Under NO circumstances should a student show, share, dispense, or deliver prescription or non-prescription medication to another student.

If a medication is discontinued, it must be picked up immediately by the parent/guardian or adult designated by the parent/guardian. This medication will be counted and verified by school health staff returning the medication, and the parent/guardian/designated adult receiving the medication. All medication must be picked up by dismissal time on the last day of the school year by the parent/guardian or designated adult. All unclaimed medication will be immediately disposed of. A method of disposal of any unused or expired medication shall be designated by school health staff. The school will not store any medication over the Summer.

#### **Notice: Prohibition of Misconduct on School Bus/at Bus Stop**

Students who use Board bus privileges are expected to follow the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop may be a Level IV violation of the

Code of Student Conduct. **Students may have their bus riding privileges suspended and may also be suspended from school for misbehavior on the bus.**

#### **Notice: Prohibition of Bullying and Harassment**

It is the policy of the Hamilton County School District that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The District will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type against any students, employees, visitors, volunteers or agents who work on school related activities, subject to the control of school officials. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited. See policy 5.101

#### **Notice: Prohibition of Sexual Harassment**

The School Board forbids discrimination against any student on the basis of sex. The Board will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any of its students. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion, consistent with this Code.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when such conduct substantially interferes with a student's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. It is sexual harassment for a student to subject another student to any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Students who engage in such conduct shall be subject to discipline.

1. Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include but is not limited to the following:
  - \* verbal harassment or abuse;
  - \* pressure for sexual activity;
  - \* repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications;
  - \* unwelcome or inappropriate touching;
  - \* suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threat.
2. Any student who alleges sexual harassment by another student may use the student grievance procedure or may complain directly to the principal. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not affect the student's status, extracurricular activities, future grades or work assignments.
3. The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Board's legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.
4. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The Superintendent or designee has the responsibility of investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

**Notice: Prohibition of False Accusations**

It is a Level IV violation for a student to intentionally make false accusations that jeopardize the professional reputation, employment or professional certification of a teacher or other member of the school staff. [F.S. 1006.09]

**Notice: Removal of Student from Class**

Each school shall develop progressive discipline guidelines for removal of chronically disruptive students from the regular classroom. A student may be removed from class by a teacher for behavior which interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Under these circumstances and subject to federal and state mandates, the student will not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent. If a teacher withholds consent, a placement review committee will determine the student's placement. [F.S. 1003.32].

**Notice: Prohibition of Display or Use of Electronic Devices & Cellular Telephones**

If the display or use of electronic devices or cellular telephones on school property or at a school-sponsored activity causes a disruption it may be grounds for discipline.

Electronic devices may not be used anytime for inappropriate recordings to post on social media (Facebook, You Tube, etc.). Other inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to: texting, phoning, or web surfing until the final dismissal bell; taping conversations, music or other audio; photographing or videoing self or others; and any other activity that could in any way infringe on the rights of others including, but not limited to, teachers, students and staff. Students may use electronic devices before the first bell, during lunch, and after the last bell. Students may also use electronic devices in class for instructional purposes while participating in teacher led activities that relate to the subject/content. The use(s) of these devices in such activities will be solely at the teacher's discretion.

If a student uses their cellphone or other mobile device for sexual harassment or harassment, or accesses inappropriate sites while on campus/school network, student would have a loss of cellphone/device privileges on campus.

**The school will not be responsible for the loss or theft of items as a result of a student's violation of this policy.**

**Notice: Prohibition of Threats or False Reports (Including Fire Alarms and Bomb Threats)**

Any student who is determined to have made a threat or false report as defined by 790.162 F.S. and 790.163 F.S. involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity will be expelled from the regular school for not less than one year and referred for criminal prosecution. Whoever, without reasonable cause, by outcry or the ringing of bells or otherwise, makes or circulates or causes to be made or circulated, a false alarm of fire shall for the first conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and punishable by law (s. 775.082, 775.083). A second or subsequent conviction under this section shall constitute a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided by law (s. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084). It is unlawful for any person to threaten to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to any property of any person, and any person convicted thereof commits a felony of the second degree and punishable by law (s. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084). It is also unlawful for any person to make a false report, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapons of mass destruction as defined in s. 790.166 and any person convicted thereof commits a felony of the second degree and punishable as defined in law (s. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084).

**Notice: Restrooms and Changing Facilities**

The Hamilton County School District designates restrooms and changing facilities for exclusive use by male and female students, respectively, based on the student's assigned sex at birth as required by § 553.865, Fla. Stat. In accordance with Florida law, male students shall use the restrooms and changing facility designated for exclusive use by male students. Female students shall use the restrooms and changing facility designated exclusively for female students. In the alternative, students may use a unisex restroom, where such restroom has been expressly designated as such. No student of the opposite sex shall willfully enter a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex. Any student who remains in a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex after being asked to depart by school personnel will be subject to discipline.



## **SECTION FOUR**

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **Student Detention, Search and Seizure**

1. Any designated instructional or administrative staff member shall be authorized to temporarily detain and question a student under circumstances which reasonably indicate that the student has committed, is committing or is about to commit a violation of Florida Statutes or School Board Rules. No student shall be temporarily detained longer than is reasonably necessary.
2. If, at any time before or after the onset of the temporary detention, a reasonable suspicion arises that the detained student is concealing weapons, stolen goods, illegal substances, mood modifiers or any other prohibited items on his / her person, or within his / her locker, vehicle or other student storage space, an administrative staff member may search the personal property of the student and his / her locker, vehicle or other storage space for the purpose of locating suspected stolen or illegal property. Strip searches of students by School Board personnel are prohibited. Any search of a student's clothes or personal items will be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. Stolen or illegal property which is seized during a search of the personal property of a student or his / her locker, vehicle or other student storage area shall be given to law enforcement authorities, when appropriate.
4. Each principal shall place a sign, clearly visible to students and in prominent location(s) within the school, which contains the following text:

#### **Notice to Students**

School authorities may search student lockers, vehicles or other storage areas upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object is contained within the area. [F.S. 1006.09(9)]

5. Metal detectors and trained dogs may be used to screen for prohibited weapons and substances. The following provisions shall apply to canine screening for illegal substances:
  - a. Canine sniffers shall be used primarily for school purposes to bring disciplinary action against students who are found to be in possession of illegal substances.
  - b. The Superintendent shall determine whether and at what times the canine sniffers shall be utilized. The principal or designee will be notified each time the canine sniffers are brought on campus.

- 1) The canine sniffers shall be controlled and directed at all times by qualified handlers from the Sheriff's Department or local police departments.
- 2) Sniff screening shall be conducted at the qualified handler's direction in cooperation with the school's administrative personnel. Student lockers, vehicle and storage areas may be sniff screened; individual students may not.
- 3) School administrative personnel shall be responsible for necessary parental notification, student disciplinary action, student due process and public relations related to such screening.
- 4) Custody, analysis and disposal of the illegal substance shall be the responsibility of law enforcement.

### **Student Suspension**

Suspension, also referred to as out-of-school suspension, is the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal or designee, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. The student will be released to his/her parents/guardians. Specific homework assignments will be provided to the parent or student within 48 hours of a written email request to the teacher by the parent or within 24 hours of the student's return to school. The principal or administrative designee shall have the right to suspend a student from school for a serious act of misconduct (Level I-IV offense under the Code). For a student with a disability, the principal shall follow the discipline procedures for students with disabilities. The procedure below shall be followed for suspension from school:

1. The student will be told of the charges and the evidence against him or her. In a conference, the student will have an opportunity to respond to the charges and to explain his/her behavior. Except as stated in paragraph 5 below, a suspension shall not be made prior to the conference opportunity.
2. The principal or designee will determine whether the student has committed the misbehavior and, if so, what will be the consequence. If the principal or designee determines that there are sufficient grounds for suspension, then the student will be informed that he/she is being suspended from school and for what length of time. The student will normally be suspended effective at the end of the school day.
3. The principal or designee will make a good faith effort immediately to inform the student's parent or guardian by telephone of the suspension and the reasons for it and will also send written notice to the student's parent or guardian within 24 hours of the start of the suspension or on the next regular work day. Delivery will be by U.S. mail and also, if appropriate, by hand. The notice will state the length of the suspension and the reasons for it. Parent or guardian must be notified before an out of school suspension can begin. Student will remain in isolation until the parent can be contacted. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the school with current contact information.

4. A parent and /or student may appeal a suspension decision through the Student Grievance procedure.
5. In an emergency, the principal may temporarily suspend a student prior to a conference when, in his/her judgment, the safety or health of students, staff or other persons in the school may be threatened by the continued presence of the student. When temporary suspension is necessary, the principal will inform the parent or guardian by the most rapid means (including telephone). As soon as feasible under the circumstances, the principal shall hold a conference with the student or parents. Following the conference, the principal may formally suspend the student; however, in no case shall the principal's temporary and formal suspensions exceed ten (10) days for the same offense.
6. Students who are assigned out-of-school suspension (OSS) or in-school suspension (ISS) are not allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities or events until all suspension days are completed.

### **Student Expulsion**

Expulsion is the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the Board, and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one additional year of attendance. The school principal may recommend to the Superintendent the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct, including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open defiance of authority of a member of his staff, violence against persons or property or any other act which substantially disrupts orderly conduct of the school. For a student with disability, the principal shall follow the expulsion procedures for students with disabilities.

The procedure below shall be followed for expulsions from school:

1. The student will be told of the charges and the evidence against him or her. In a conference, the student will have an opportunity to respond to the charges and to explain his or her behavior. The student may present witnesses to the incident and may question witnesses, so long as the questioning does not threaten, harass or intimidate.
2. The principal will determine whether the student has committed the misbehavior and if so, what will be the consequence. The principal determines that there are sufficient grounds for expulsion, then the student will be informed that he/she is being suspended from school for ten (10) days and that a recommendation for expulsion is being forwarded to the Superintendent. The student will normally be suspended effective at the end of the school day. The student is not allowed on school property while suspended or expelled.
3. The principal or designee will make a good faith effort immediately to inform the student's parent or guardian by telephone of the suspension and the reasons for it and will also send written notice to the student's parent or guardian within 24 hours of the start of the suspension or on the next regular work day. Delivery will be by U.S. mail and also, if

appropriate, by hand. The notice will state that the student has been suspended for ten (10) school days, that a recommendation for expulsion has been forwarded to the Superintendent and the reasons for the action taken.

4. Upon request, the parent or guardian or the adult student will be given an opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal on the grounds for suspension and the recommendation for expulsion. This opportunity will be provided within 48 hours of the request (excluding Saturday, Sunday and school holidays).
5. Upon receipt of a principal's recommendation for expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall make such investigation as deemed necessary. Alternatives to expulsion shall be considered based upon sound educational reasons.
6. If the Superintendent finds a sufficient basis for an expulsion recommendation to the Board, notice of charges and a summary of the factual, legal and policy grounds for the proposed expulsion will be served on the parent. The parent, guardian or adult student may request a hearing on the charges within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Superintendent's notice. Failure to timely request a hearing or failure to appear at a hearing after notice of the date of hearing shall be deemed a waiver of any hearing on the matter. However, upon presentation of good and sufficient reasons for nonappearance, the hearing may be rescheduled at a time convenient to the parties.
7. When Board action on a recommendation for expulsion is pending, the Superintendent may extend the suspension beyond ten (10) school days if such suspension expires before the next regular or special meeting of the Board. The parent or guardian will be informed in writing of any such extension. Students may not participate in any school activities until the board hearing is concluded and a decision has been made. If the student is expelled, the student is not allowed on school property, therefore, the student may not attend or participate in any school related activities.
8. Hearings will be conducted in accordance with Florida Statutes and the Uniform Rules of Procedure relating to informal administrative hearings, and Policy 5.12.
9. The hearing for expulsion shall be before the School Board.
10. The Superintendent shall notify the parent and student of the Board action.

### **Suspension from Bus-Riding Privileges**

Bus misconduct reports shall be made for student actions which distract the driver, disrupt order on the bus or endanger the health or safety of other students. Misconduct reports shall be referred to the principal for appropriate action, which may include temporary bus suspension, for up to ten (10) school days, or a recommendation to the Superintendent for long-term bus suspension, for more than ten (10) school days.

On recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board may suspend bus riding privileges of students. Long-term suspension of bus privileges shall be based on persistent student misconduct which disrupts order on the bus and endangers the health, safety and welfare of other students riding the bus.

### **Reassignment to Alternative Education Center**

1. An alternative Dropout Prevention/Disciplinary program is offered for students in grades 6-12. Assignment may only be made through approval by the school board. For a student with a disability, the principal shall follow the discipline procedures for students with disabilities.
2. School Board determines eligibility of student to attend Alternative Ed Program during expulsion hearing or at a subsequent hearing on a request, in writing, filed on behalf of the student by the parent.
3. A written performance contract is signed by student and parent prior to attendance. The Alternative Education Oversight Committee will review any contract violations by the student in the alternative program. Students recommended for removal from the program will be referred to the Superintendent and/or School Board for further action regarding their enrollment.
4. Students enrolled in the Alternative Education program will be assigned appropriate coursework for their current schedule through the program(s) used to obtain credit at Hamilton County High School. For students in need of credit recovery, programs will be used to receive lost credit. The Florida Virtual School will be available for those students who desire to pursue other coursework while in the alternative education program. Credit will be awarded on a performance based method.
5. Students work independently using the assigned mode of instruction.
6. The teacher serves as a facilitator to the student when needed for assistance. Teachers with experience will be recruited to work in the program. Multiple teachers may be used to staff the program.
7. Upon completion of alternative education period or with recommendation from the oversight committee, the student is allowed to enter the Adult Education program (must be 16 years of age or older) to pursue GED or return to high school campus for possible entry into the regular curriculum. For students returning prior to end of alternative placement period, a recommendation will be made to the Principal, Superintendent, and/or School Board for further action regarding their enrollment.
8. The administration may deny enrollment based on a previous discipline history. The principal and/or his designee will review the reasons for return given by the student and family. If the student is allowed to enroll, the principal will make the final recommendation based on the following requirements: 1) the student is on track to graduate on time, 2) an agreement between the school and student concerning attendance, behavior and academic and school performance is agreed upon. If the principal does not agree to the conditions or the student does not meet the criteria, the school has the option to enroll the student in the Alternative School.

## **Student Transfer - Felony Charges**

Florida Statutes provides for the transfer to an alternative program of a student enrolled at school who:

- \* has been formally charged with a felony or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult by a prosecuting attorney, and
- \* the incident for which he has been formally charged occurred on other than school property, and
- \* under circumstances in which the student would not already be subject to the rules and regulations of the Hamilton County Schools, and
- \* the incident would have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline or welfare of the school in which the student is enrolled.

The following procedures shall be followed if the principal proposes a felony transfer pending determination of the student's guilt or innocence, or the dismissal of the charge, by a court of competent jurisdiction:

1. Upon receiving proper notice that a student has been formally charged with a felony or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, the principal shall notify the parent/guardian of the student, in writing, of the specific charges against the student and of the right to a hearing.
2. Such notice shall set a date for the hearing which shall be not less than two (2) school days nor more than five (5) school days from date of postmark or delivery. It shall also advise the parent/guardian of the conditions under which a waiver of discipline may be granted. A hearing can be held without the attendance of the parent/guardian after proper notification. The student may not attend any school function and is not allowed on any school property until the hearing has been conducted and a decision has been determined.
3. The hearing shall be conducted by the principal and may be attended by the student, the parent/guardian, the student's representative or counsel, the principal's designee and any witnesses requested by the student or the principal
4. The student may speak in his or her own defense, may present any evidence indicating his or her eligibility for waiver of disciplinary action and may be questioned on his or her testimony. However, the student shall not be threatened with punishment or later punished for refusal to testify.
5. In conducting the hearing, the principal or designee shall not be bound by rules of evidence or any other courtroom procedure and no transcript of testimony shall be required.
6. Following the hearing, the principal shall provide the student and the parent/guardian with a decision, in writing, as to whether or not student transfer for felony charges will be made and, if so, the effective date of such transfer. In arriving at this decision, the principal shall consider the conditions under which a waiver of discipline may be granted and may grant such a waiver when she or he determines such action to be in the best interests of the school and the student.

7. If the court determines that the student did commit the felony or delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the principal may recommend that the student be expelled. [F.S. 1006.09, Rule 6A-1.0956, FAC]

## SECTION FIVE

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

#### **Student Right:**

\*Students have a right to present a complaint regarding unfair treatment.

#### **Student Responsibility:**

\*Students have a responsibility to learn and follow procedures for filing complaints.

Grievance procedures are used to handle serious problems when students believe there has been a violation of the code of Student Conduct, including due process. Except in instances where there is a clearly defined procedure other than the one described here, a student grievance may be pursued in order through three levels.

**Level I - Informal Discussion:** The student or parent/guardian should discuss the grievance with the person responsible for what the student or parent/guardian believes to be unfair treatment under the Code of Student Conduct. The discussion should occur within five (5) school days of the time of the alleged unfair treatment. No grievance will be processed until after such informal discussion. **For allegations of discrimination or harassment, the school principal is the first point of contact and the administrative assistant is the second point of contact. If further assistance is needed, the equity coordinator should be contacted. For discrimination or harassment complaints, there is a sixty (60) day time limit for the initial reporting of the incident. Once reported, the district will conduct an investigation and complete the case within twenty (20) days.**

**Level II - School Principal:** If the grievance has not been resolved at the informal level, the parent/guardian and/or student may submit a written Student Grievance to the principal within five (5) school days of the Level I discussion. The principal will have five (5) school days after receipt of the grievance in which to hold a conference and give a written decision.

**Level III - Superintendent's Office:** If the grievance has not been resolved at Level II, the parent/guardian and/or student may, within five (5) school days after receipt of the principal's decision, submit a written Student Grievance Form to the Superintendent's Office and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee who will review the grievance, and will respond in writing within ten (10) school days after receipt of the grievance form.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall coordinate all student grievances under this code.

Appendix A  
Discipline Chart -- Grades PreK – Grade 5

Discipline Chart -- Grades PreK – Grade 5

	Level IV						Level III						Level II				Level I						
	Verbal Counseling and Warning	Time Out	Withdraw Privileges Parent Notified	Counseling	Teacher/Student Conference	Teacher/Student/Parent Conference Restitution and Restorative Practices	Behavior Contract	Corporal Punishment	Administrator/Student/Parent Conference	Behavior Contract	Loss of Privileges	Work Detail/ Restitution	Corporal Punishment	Non-Attendance of School Functions	In-School Intervention	Out-of-School Suspension (1-4 Days)	Recommend Alternate Placement Bus Suspension (1-10 Days)	Out-of- School Suspension (1-4 Days)	Out-of- School Suspension (5-9 Days)	Out-of- School Suspension (10 Days)	Recommend Long-Term Bus Suspension	Recommend Alternate Placement	Recommend Expulsion
False Accusations																							
Dress Code Violation																							
Skippping																							
Abusive Language																							
Disorderly Conduct																							
Harassment/Bullying																							
Unsafe Act																							
Defiant																							
Computer Misuse																							
Cheating																							
Bus Misconduct																							
Unauthorized Equipment/Items (Including Electronics) *																							
Fighting (SESIR or Non SESIR)																		■					
Theft/Larceny																		■					
Vandalism																		■					
Sexual Harassment																							
Trespassing																							
Smoking/Tobacco/Non-controlled Substances																							
Assault																		■					
Burglary/Breaking and Entering																		■					
Other Major - Forgery/Extortion, etc.																							
Sexual Offenses																		■					
Alcohol																		■					
Battery on Student																		■					
Battery on Personnel																		■					
Aggravated Battery																				■			
Motor Vehicle Theft																			■				
Kidnapping																			■				
Robbery																			■				
Arson																			■				
Sexual Battery																			■				
Drugs - First Possession/Transfer/Use																		■●					
Second Possession/Transfer/Use																				■●			●
Selling																				■●			●
Weapons - (not guns)																		●					
Weapons - Firearms/Explosives																				■●			●
Weapons – Use																				■●			●
Homicide																				■●			●

The principal is authorized to take appropriate action in response to other behaviors not included in this chart.

■ Report to Law Enforcement

● Mandatory Penalty

\*Cell phones: if taken by a staff member the student's parent must come to the school to get the phone. Cell phones will not be returned to students if taken for inappropriate display and use.



Appendix B

**Discipline Chart -- Grades 6 – 12**

<b>Discipline Chart Terms – Consequences Listed in Ascending Order of Severity</b>	
<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
CP	Corporal Punishment (CP) subject to the rules of the District School Board, the Principal or designee may administer CP in the presence of an adult witness with parental consent. Corporal punishment will not be administered more than 3 times in a school year.
ISS	In School Suspension (ISS) In School Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from the student's regular schedule and placed in an alternative program. Students must successfully complete assigned work in ISS prior to returning to regular classes. There will be a limit of 10 days per year in ISS. After that limit, OSS will be assigned.
OSS	Out of School Suspension (OSS) is the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and denied participation in all school related activities for a period not to exceed 10 days per incident.
AP	Alternative Placement (AP) is offered for students in grades 6-12. Placement in the program can only occur as result of approval by the school board.
SRO	School Resource Officer (SRO) will be utilized to help counsel and modify behavior of students committing major acts of misconduct.

NOTE: All recommendations for school board review must first be reviewed by the Superintendent.

	<b>Incident Type and SESIR Definition</b>	<b>1st Referral</b>	<b>2nd Referral</b>	<b>3rd Referral</b>	<b>Repeated</b>
1	<p><b>Alcohol:</b> (Level IV) Possession, sale, purchase, distribution, or use of alcoholic beverages. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. Alcohol incidents cannot be Drug-related.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.</p>	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
2	<p><b>Arson:</b> (Level 1) To intentionally damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents. Fires that are not intentional, that are caused by accident, or do not cause damage, are not required to be reported in SESIR.</p> <p>*If intentional, must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	Restitution; 10 days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
3	<p><b>Aggravated Battery:</b> (Level I) A battery where the attacker intentionally or knowingly causes more serious injury as defined in Rule 6A-1.0017(8)(g), such as: great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; uses a deadly weapon; or, where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant.</p> <p>*To distinguish from fighting, report an incident as Battery only when the force or action is carried out against a person who is not fighting back. Must be reported in SESIR and must be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident that must be reported as injury related.</p>	10 Days OSS and recommendation for Superintendent Review			

	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	Repeated
4	<p><b>Burglary:</b> (Level II) Unlawful entry into or remaining in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime therein.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
5	<p><b>Disruption on Campus – Major:</b> (Level III) Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Examples of major disruptions include bomb threats, inciting a riot, or initiating a false fire alarm.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	5 – 10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
6	<p><b>Drug Use/Possession Excluding Alcohol:</b> (Level III) The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.</p>	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
7	<p><b>Fighting:</b> (Level III): When two or more persons mutually participate in use of force or physical violence that requires either physical intervention or results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention. Lower-level fights, including pushing, shoving, or altercations that stop on verbal command are not required to be reported in SESIR. <i>(Note: If a student is unable to leave the area of a pending attack, a student may use self-defense. Self-defense is an action taken that is necessary to protect oneself or others from serious bodily harm. Self-defense may include asking an adult for help, restraining or blocking the attacker, shielding oneself or others from being hit, or pushing to get away from the attacker. However, retaliating by striking or hitting (i.e. punching, slapping, kicking) a person back, or choosing not to leave after you are able to get away, may be considered as fighting.)</i></p> <p>**Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	<p>5 Days OSS</p> <p>Note: one physical attack plus one fight would receive the same discipline as 2 fights</p>	<p>10 Days OSS</p> <p>Administrative Placement in HOPE Academy for a minimum of 45 Days</p>	10 Days OSS Recommendation for Superintendent Review	
8	<p><b>Homicide:</b> (Level I) The unjustified killing of one human being by another.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and must be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident that must be reported under injury-related.</p>	Immediate arrest by SRO; Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
9	<p><b>Kidnapping:</b> (Level I) Forcibly, secretly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his or her will and without lawful authority.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and must be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident and must be reported under injury-related.</p>	Immediate arrest by SRO; Recommendation for Superintendent Review			

	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	Repeated
10	<p><b>Grand Theft: (\$750 threshold)</b> (Level III) The unauthorized taking of the property of another person or organization, including motor vehicles, valued at \$750 or more, without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Incidents that fall below the \$750 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies. Thefts of property of any value that involve a use of force, violence, assault, or putting the victim in fear must be reported as Robbery. Must be reported to Law Enforcement.</p>	<p>Restitution;  3 Days OSS</p>	<p>10 Days OSS  and Recommendation for Superintendent Review;  Restitution</p>		
11	<p><b>Harassment</b> : (Level IV) (one-time, insulting behaviors) Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school, including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose. Instances of Harassment that are chronic or repeated in nature should be evaluated for Bullying or Bullying-related.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and may not need to be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	<p>3 Days OSS  Referral for professional counseling</p>	<p>5 Days OSS  Referral to SRO  Referral for professional counseling</p>	<p>10 Days OSS  Referral to SRO  Referral to Social Worker  Administrative Placement in HOPE Academy for a minimum of 45 Days</p>	<p>10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review</p>
12	<p><b>Robbery</b>: (Level II): The taking or attempted taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another, with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the person or owner of the money or other property under the confrontational circumstances of force, or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. A key difference in Grand Theft and Robbery is that Robbery involves violence, a threat of violence or assault, and putting the victim in fear.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.</p>	<p>10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review;  Restitution</p>			
13	<p><b>Sexual Battery</b>: (Rape) (Level I): Forced or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or foreign object. Both males and females can be victims of sexual battery.</p> <p>*Must be reported in SESIR and must be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident and must be reported as injury-related.</p>	<p>10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review; Referral to SRO; Arrest</p>			

	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	Repeated
14	<b>Sexual Harassment/Cyberharrassment:</b> (Level III): Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing conduct can include verbal or nonverbal actions, including graphic and written statements, and may include statements made through computers, cellphones, and other devices connected to the Internet. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties. **Must be reported in SESIR and may not need to be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.	5 Days OSS and Referral for professional counseling	10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
15	<b>Sexual Offenses (Other):</b> (Level III): Other sexual contact, including intercourse, without force or threat of force. Includes subjecting an individual to lewd sexual gestures, sexual activity, or exposing private body parts in a lewd manner.  *Law enforcement must be notified to investigate; Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	10 Days OSS  and Referral to Guidance/Social Worker	10 Days OSS  and Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
16	<b>Threat / Intimidation:</b> (Level III): An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or nonverbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats (e.g., brandishing a weapon) and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically or through any other means. *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	5 Days OSS  Referral to SRO Referral to Social Worker	10 Days OSS  Referral to SRO Referral to Social Worker	10 Days OSS  Referral to SRO Referral to Social Worker  Administrative Placement in HOPE Academy for a minimum of 45 Days	10 Days OSS  and Recommendation for Superintendent Review
17	<b>Tobacco:</b> (Level IV): The possession, sale, purchase, distribution, or use of tobacco or nicotine products, including vapes, on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation by any person under the age of 21. Tobacco incidents cannot be Drug-related. **Must be reported in SESIR and may not need to be reported to Law Enforcement. *If fines are not paid at time of incident, that fee would be added to the student's debt that would have to be paid prior to transfer or clearance.	3 Days ISS  Confiscation of Items plus Tobacco Cessation Counseling; \$25 fine.  Fine will be waived if class is finished.  Interview with a SWAT sponsor	5 Days ISS  Confiscation of Items plus Tobacco Cessation Counseling; \$25 fine  Interview with a SWAT sponsor	5 Days OSS  Confiscation of Items plus Tobacco Cessation Counseling; \$50 fine  Interview with a SWAT sponsor	10 Days OSS Confiscation of Items plus Tobacco Cessation Counseling; \$50 fine Recommendation for Superintendent Review Interview with a SWAT sponsor
18	<b>Trespassing:</b> (Level III): To enter or remain on school grounds, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event, without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Only incidents involving a student currently under suspension or expulsion, or incidents where any offender (student or non-student) was previously issued an official trespass warning by school officials, or where any offender was arrested for trespass are required to be reported in SESIR. Trespass incidents that did not have a prior official warning, did not result in arrest, or did not involve students under suspension or expulsion should be reported as locally defined incidents according to district policies. *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	5 Days OSS       The Superintendent, Principal, or their designee have the right to trespass any individuals viewed as a threat to the security of the campus at any time.	10 Days OSS  and Recommendation for Superintendent Review    The Superintendent, Principal, or their designee have the right to trespass any individuals viewed as a threat to the security of the campus at any time.	10 Days OSS  and Recommendation for Superintendent Review   The Superintendent, Principal, or their designee have the right to trespass any individuals viewed as a threat to the security of the campus at any time.	

	<b>Incident Type and SESIR Definition</b>	<b>1st Referral</b>	<b>2nd Referral</b>	<b>3rd Referral</b>	<b>Repeated</b>
19	<b>Criminal Mischief (\$1,000 threshold)</b> (Level III): Willfully and maliciously injuring or damaging by any means any real or personal property belonging to another, including, but not limited to, the placement of graffiti thereon or other acts of vandalism thereto. Incidents that fall below the \$1,000 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies.  *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	5 Days ISS  Restitution	5 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review	
19b	<b>Destruction of School Property:</b> includes doors, door handles, access card readers, gates, door hinges.  (Incidents that fall below the \$1,000 threshold and are not reportable in SESIR)	5 Days ISS  Restitution	5 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review	
20	<b>Weapons Possession:</b> (Level II): Possession of a firearm or any instrument or object as defined by Section 790, F.S., that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm.  *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
20a	<b>Weapons Possession:</b> (Level III): A student possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or transferring a weapon of any type, other than a firearm/explosive/destructive device. Violations include possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or transferring knives of any type, boxcutters, razorblades, firecrackers, pepper spray, fireworks and M80s.	5 -10 Days OSS  Principal may Recommend for Superintendent Review	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
21	<b>Other Major Incidents:</b> (Level III): Any serious, harmful incident resulting in the need for law enforcement consultation not previously classified.  Examples include student producing or knowingly using counterfeit money, participating in gambling activities, or possession of child pornography, or possessing drug paraphernalia, improper computer use, unauthorized entry into computer system, altering or deleting download files, inappropriate internet sites, downloading inappropriate materials, defacing of computer equipment and student victimization. This includes any drug or weapon found unattended and not linked to any individual; such incidents must be coded with the appropriate Related element (such as Drug-related or Weapon-related) and incident involvement must be reported as unknown.  *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.	10 Days OSS; Recommendation for Superintendent Review;  For computer system related offenses, 7 Days ISS and loss of computer privileges for remainder of school year	For computer related offenses, 10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review;  Loss of computer privileges for remainder of school year	For computer related offenses, 10 Days OSS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review	



	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	Repeated
27	<b>Simple Battery Directed towards staff member:</b> (Level II) An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.  *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement. This is a violent incident if bodily injury occurs.	10 Days OSS  Administrative Placement in HOPE Academy for a minimum of 45 Days	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review		
28	<b>Bullying:</b> (Level IV) Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. Bullying includes instances of cyberbullying, as defined in Section 1006.147(3)(b), F.S. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, repetitive instances of teasing, social exclusion, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, harassment, public or private humiliation, or destruction of property. If the physical harm or psychological distress is not the result of systematic or chronic behavior, evaluate for Harassment.	3 Days OSS  Referral for professional counseling	5 Days OSS  Referral to SRO Referral for professional counseling	10 Days OSS  Referral to SRO Referral to Social Worker  Administrative Placement in HOPE Academy for a minimum of 45 Days	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review
29	<b>Sexual Assault:</b> (Level II): An incident that includes threatened rape, fondling, indecent liberties, or child molestation. Both males and females can be victims of sexual assault.  *Must be reported in SESIR and will be reported to Law Enforcement.	10 Days OSS  Recommendation for Superintendent Review			
51	<b>Bus – Incident (Other than Fighting)</b>  <b>*3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students</b>	3 Day Bus Suspension Per Semester	5 Day Bus Suspension Per Semester	10 Day Bus Suspension Per Semester	10 Day Bus Suspension; Recommendation for Superintendent Review
55	<b>Disobedience / Insubordination:</b> To include failure to follow directions of school staff member, failure to follow school rules and procedures, and defiance of authority, failure to leave an area when requested to do so by an adult	3 Days of ISS  Mandatory Teacher/Parent Conference	5 days of ISS  Mandatory Teacher/Parent Conference	3 days OSS after completion, mandatory professional counseling.	Recommendation for Superintendent Review
56	<b>Disrespectful/Disruptive:</b> Inappropriate comments or actions toward a school staff member, actions showing disrespect toward others (students and school staff), and use of profanity without intent for others to hear  *The first 2 offenses, the teacher would have the option to assign after school detention as available on tutoring days in lieu of ISS	1 Day ISS and mandatory parent/teacher conference.	3 Days ISS	5 Days ISS	3 Days OSS
58	<b>Dress Code:</b> Violation of dress code found in Student Code of Conduct  <b>**</b> For a third or subsequent offense, the student shall receive an in-school suspension for a period not to exceed 3 days, is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 30 days and the principal shall call the student's parent/guardian and send a written letter regarding the ISS and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.	Warning and phone parents for appropriate clothing or student corrects violation and/or isolation in ISS until student is in compliance	Isolation in ISS until student is in compliance.  The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 5 days and principal shall meet with the student's parent/guardian	Isolation in ISS until student is in compliance  3 Days ISS max  Counselor Intervention  **	3 Days ISS  plus Recommendation for Superintendent Review  **

	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral	Repeated
59	<b>Falsification of Records:</b> Giving false information verbally or in writing, or forging documents. All parties involved are subject to disciplinary actions.	3 periods ISS	5 periods ISS	7 periods ISS	10 Days ISS and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
59a	<b>Academic Integrity:</b> Cheating on any assignment, test/quiz, or online classwork. All parties involved are subject to disciplinary actions.  <b>**See Academic Integrity Policy in Appendix D on page 37</b>	1 Day ISS	3 Days ISS	5 Days ISS	Repeat an assignment or assessment at teacher's discretion plus 10 Days ISS for the class where incident occurred and recommend for possible Superintendent Review
60	<b>Inappropriate Behavior:</b> To include public displays of affection, name calling, possession or distribution of candy or food items when not authorized, running in hallway or on sidewalk, littering, loitering on campus after school day, misuse of school property, or other related acts.	1 Period of ISS	3 periods ISS  Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	5 periods ISS  Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 periods ISS with possible recommendation for Superintendent Review
61	<b>Left Campus Without Permission:</b> Failure of student to follow proper procedures to leave school campus	3 Days of ISS and/or Parking Privileges revoked for 10 days	5 Days of ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference and Behavior Contract and Parking Privileges Revoked for 10 days to 30 days	7 Days ISS and Parking Privileges revoked for rest of year	5 Days OSS; and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
62	<b>Left Class Without Permission</b>	Dean counsels with student  Assignment to next severe level of discipline according to matrix may be used by discipline officer	3 Days of ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	5 Days of ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 Days ISS with possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
63a	<b>Non-Compliance with Assigned Discipline: (Student not in ISS)</b> Failure to report to assigned discipline area, failure to comply with discipline area rules	Assignment to next severe level of discipline according to matrix	3 Days ISS	5 Days ISS	7 Days ISS plus possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
63b	<b>Non-Compliance with Assigned Discipline: (While student is in ISS)</b> Failure to report to assigned discipline area, failure to comply with discipline area rules	Parent pick up for rest of school day; contact Counselor	OSS for remainder of days assigned	3 Days OSS plus Superintendent Review	
64	<b>Non-Controlled Substance:</b> Possession and/or distribution of any non-controlled substance to include matches, lighter, stink bombs, nonprescription medicines, or other substance not covered in any other area of discipline chart	3 Days ISS	5 Days ISS Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 Days of ISS Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	10 Days ISS and Recommendation for Superintendent Review
65	<b>Parking Violations:</b> To include parking in unauthorized areas, driving or parking without proper sticker, improper driving on campus, or unauthorized driver on campus *If fines are not paid at time of incident, fees would be added to the student's debt that would have to be paid prior to transfer or clearance.	Referral to administration	\$10 Fine and Suspension of Driving Privileges until fine is paid	\$15 Fine and Suspension of Driving Privileges for 45 Days	\$20 Fine and Suspension of Driving Privileges for 45 Days to rest of year. Vehicle subject to be towed at the owner's expense
66	<b>Petty Theft:</b> The unauthorized taking, carrying, riding away, or concealing the property of another person which is less than \$300 in value, without threat or bodily harm.	5 Days ISS plus Parent Conference; Restitution; Referral to SRO	7 Days ISS plus Parent Conference; Restitution; Referral to SRO	Alternative placement and Recommendation for Superintendent Review; Restitution; Referral to SRO	



	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1 <sup>st</sup> Referral	2 <sup>nd</sup> Referral	3 <sup>rd</sup> Referral	Repeated
67	<b>Profanity:</b> The deliberate use of inappropriate language (profanity) with the intent for others to hear, racial/derogatory slurs and the use of obscene gestures.	3 Days of ISS	5 Days of ISS Counselor Referral for Parent Conference and Behavior Contract	7 Days ISS	Alternative placement and Recommendation for Superintendent Review
67a	<b>Profanity (directed at a staff member):</b> The deliberate use of inappropriate language (profanity) and/or the use of obscenity or obscene gestures toward a school staff member.	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	10 Days OSS	Alternative placement and Recommendation for Superintendent Review
68	<b>Skippping Class:</b> To include not reporting to assigned class within 5 minutes from end of tardy bell, being in hallway without pass or permission, not being in assigned area	1 Day of ISS or 2 days of after school detention (if applicable on tutoring days)  Mandatory parent/teacher contact.	3 Days of ISS or 4 days of after school detention (if applicable on tutoring days)  plus mandatory parent/admin conference.	5 Days of ISS plus mandatory parent/admin conference.	3 Days OSS plus mandatory parent/admin conference.
69	<b>Tardiness to School (HCHS):</b> Any student arriving late must go to the Attendance/Front Office to sign in before attending class. Three (3) unexcused tardy occurrences to school will be considered one (1) absence toward the number of unexcused absences considered for truancy and driver's license attendance requirements. The recording process will begin anew with each semester.  <b>Excused Absences (All Schools):</b> In order for a tardy to school to be considered excused, the list found on page 3 will be followed. Excessive tardiness to school or repeated checkouts of students from school may result in a referral to Truancy as this is considered a pattern of non-attendance.	Warning and Automated Phone call from School	Conference with Dean/Guidance  * Parent will receive phone notification from the school for each tardy	Referral to Truancy Officer  (Three (3) Unexcused tardy occurrences to school will be considered one (1) absence toward the number of unexcused absences considered for truancy and Driver's License requirements  * Parent will receive phone notification from the school for each tardy	3 Days ISS  Driver loses parking permit for 4 weeks for repeated offenses and recommendation for Superintendent review  Parent will receive phone notification from the school for each tardy
69a	<b>Tardiness to Class (HCHS):</b> Students are expected to be in class on time to allow for the maximum amount of instructional minutes each period. A student will be considered tardy to class when he/she is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings or has not met the expectation for being on time that has been shared with the students by the teacher and approved by the school Principal.  Students with excessive tardies may be referred to truancy. Tardies will reset at each semester.	For tardies 1-5, teachers document the tardy in Skyward.  *For tardy 4 and 5, parent contact must be made.	For tardies 6-8, students will serve 1 period of ISS or lunch detention for each tardy.	For tardies 9-12, students will be assigned 1 day of ISS for each tardy.	For any tardy beyond 12, students will be assigned 3 days of ISS for each tardy.
70	<b>Truancy (Late to School or All Day)</b> Students deemed truant are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities (prom, sports, clubs, etc.) until the next semester.	Follow Guidelines provided by District for excessive truancy as defined by state statute and district procedures			
71	<b>Other Minor Incidents:</b> To include any incident not previously listed in discipline chart	1 period ISS	3 periods ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	5 periods ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 periods ISS and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review

	Incident Type and SESIR Definition	1 <sup>st</sup> Referral	2 <sup>nd</sup> Referral	3 <sup>rd</sup> Referral	Repeated
72	<b>Not in Designated Area</b>	1 Day ISS, Dean Counsels with Student	3 Days ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	5 Days ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 Days ISS and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
73	<b>Failure to Provide Information:</b> Failure of a student to disclose information to school staff member upon request	1 Day ISS, Dean Counsels with Student	3 Days of ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	5 Days of ISS; Counselor Referral for Parent Conference	7 Days ISS and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review
74	<b>Fighting (Non-SESIR):</b> Incidents that involve personal contact to include pushing, shoving, aggressive act toward another student or attempting to fight which could include the following: Instigating, inciting/enticing fights verbally or through social media.	3 Days ISS Counselor Referral for Parent Conference and Behavior Contract	3 Days OSS	Alternative Placement until Superintendent Review	
75	<b>Electronic Devices:</b> Misuse of technology on campus or in campus related activities: to include, ear buds, cellphones, smart phones, tablets, electronic watches or any other communication device which are allowed only for those designated for instructional use. Hover boards are not allowed either.	Confiscation of item and item will be returned at end of the day. It is the student's responsibility to pick up the item. A student's Refusal to comply will result in Incident number 63, noncompliance	Confiscation of item and item goes to the front office to get picked up by a parent at end of the school day 3 Days ISS Conference with parent	Confiscation of item and item goes to the front office to get picked up by a parent at end of school day 5 days ISS	Confiscation of item and item goes to the front office to get picked up by a parent 7 Days ISS possible Recommendation for Superintendent review
76	<b>Unsolicited and/or distribution of photography or video recordings of staff or students:</b> The capturing of images to include photos, videos, screenshots, or audio of a staff member or student without their consent. This also includes the distribution of above mentioned actions, including airdropping and posting to social media outlets.	3 Days ISS and Referral to SRO.	3 Days OSS Referral to SRO.	5 Days OSS Referral to SRO and possible Recommendation for Superintendent Review	
77	<b>False Accusations Towards Staff:</b> It is a Level IV violation for a student to intentionally make false accusations that jeopardize the professional reputation, employment or professional certification of a teacher or other member of the school staff. [F.S. 1006.09]	5 days OSS, removal from that particular class (if a teacher), referral for professional counseling.	10 days OSS, admin placement in alternative, referral for professional counseling.		
80	<b>Continuous Disruptive Behavior:</b> To be used when a referral for student misbehavior will lead to AP or a recommendation for expulsion	Alternative placement until Superintendent Review			

\* Offense must be reported to law enforcement

\*\* Offense may be reported to law enforcement

<b>Related Element Definitions:</b>	
<b>Alcohol-related:</b>	An incident is alcohol related if there is evidence that those involved in the incident were caught drinking at the incident or had been drinking, based on testing or investigation of a Law Enforcement Officer at the scene, or if they admit to drinking, or if the incident is somehow related to possession, use or sale of alcohol. Schools are not required to test for the presence of alcohol.
<b>Bullying-related:</b>	An incident is bullying related if the incident includes systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees.
<b>Drug-related:</b>	An incident is drug related if there is evidence that those involved in the incident were under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident; if they admit to using or being under the influence of drugs; if drugs were in the possession of individuals involved in the incident, based on testing or investigation done by a law enforcement officer as a result of the incident; or if the incident is somehow related to possession, use or sale of drugs. Schools are not required to test for drug use.
<b>Gang-related:</b>	An incident is gang-related if gang affiliation/association caused the incident or was a contributing factor to action that happened during the incident. If it can proven that a student is affiliated with a gang, they will be recommended for Superintendent Review.
<b>Hate Crime-related:</b>	All SESIR incidents motivated all or in part by hostility to the victim's real or perceived race, religion, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference or mental/physical disability are required to be reported as Hate Crime-related.
<b>Hazing-related:</b>	An incident is hazing-related if the incident includes any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any grades from 6-12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization.
<b>Injury-related:</b>	All SESIR incidents that result in serious bodily injury are required to be reported as Injury related. Less serious bodily injury means incidents which require immediate first aid or subsequent medical attention. More serious injuries include death or injuries with substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, and protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty. Incidents where injury occurred, but first aid or medical attention is not needed, are not required to be reported in SESIR as injury-related.
<b>Vaping-related:</b>	All SESIR incidents that involve the use of non-combustible vaping products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes and vape pens, or any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) are required to be reported as Vaping-related, if the liquid used contains nicotine or a controlled substance. Schools are not required to test for nicotine or drugs in vaping devices. Incidents involving use or possession of vaping products that do not contain nicotine or controlled substances are not required to be reported in SESIR.
<b>Weapon-related:</b>	All SESIR incidents are required to be reported as Weapon-related where anyone involved possessed or used a firearm or weapon or if the incident was related to possession, use or sale of firearms or weapons, as defined in Section 790.001(6) and (13), F.S.

<p><b>Reporting Law Enforcement Involvement:</b></p>	<p>A school district must report to the Department any SESIR incident: (a) That is reported or referred to law enforcement by school district personnel, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1006.13, F.S.; or (b) That results in consultation with law enforcement by school district personnel, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1006.13, F.S.</p>
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**NOTES:**

An incident should be coded as reported to Law Enforcement if an official action was taken by a School Resource Officer (SRO) or local Law Enforcement Officer, such as a case number was assigned, a report filed, an affidavit was filed, an investigation was conducted and found to be an incident reportable to SESIR, or an arrest was made. The presence of, notification of, or consultation with a Law Enforcement Officer or SRO is not sufficient for an incident to be coded as "Reported to Law Enforcement."

CP (corporal punishment) may be substituted for listed consequence upon parent conference and administration approval. See noted in corporal punishment box at beginning of this chart.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students who have been identified as educationally disabled and are receiving ESE services are subject to additional disciplinary guidelines that are different than those for non-disabled students.

Students wishing to participate in any school club leadership position(s) for the next school year should have no referrals for profanity, fighting, harassment, or any other extreme case which result in out of school suspension (OSS) of any type during the school year in which elections take place.

Any student with repetitive referrals (more than 3), two or more assignments to in-school suspension (ISS), placement in Alternative Education, or expulsion, will require the following: A meeting with the school social worker, the student, and parent or guardian. The social worker will determine if additional meetings between all parties are necessary and help coordinate a behavior plan for the student, if necessary. If a behavior plan is needed, coordination must take place with school administration and appropriate teacher(s) before the student resumes class in a regular classroom setting

## Appendix C

### Section 504 General Procedures

The intent of the District's Section 504 Process is to guarantee that all qualified individuals with disabilities are free from discrimination and that a free and appropriate public education is provided, when necessary, which consists of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the individual educational needs of other students are met.

- (1) (1a)** Parents, teachers and private practitioners may submit their reports and/or referrals for review to the Child Study Team (CST).
- (2)** All referrals and private evaluations are reviewed by the CST on a case-by-case basis. The CST may elect to consider the following options:
  - a. consider whether a disability exists based solely on a private evaluation and/or other supportive data (e.g. review of records, etc.);
  - b. make other recommendations if the information does not support the existence of an impairment which substantially limits a major life activity;
  - c. collects additional data to confirm the existence of a disability and/or the need for accommodations.
- (3)** CST makes other recommendations, i.e., remediation, schedule change(s), evaluation, alternative education.
- (4)** The CST collects information utilizing a multidisciplinary team approach. This information is used to determine the presence of an impairment as well as the adverse effect the impairment has on a student's academic, social and behavioral functioning. The CST determines what screening instruments will be utilized and then shares the responsibility for collecting this information. If data do not support the existence of a disability or the need for services under Section 504, other recommendations may be forthcoming.
- (5)** The CST multidisciplinary team concurs that the student's assessment data reveal that an impairment exists that substantially limits a major life activity and determines that the student is disabled. The Team then determines whether the student needs services or accommodations under Section 504 in order that the student's educational needs are met as adequately as those of nondisabled students.

If the student is determined to be in need of a Section 504 Plan, the teacher(s), parents, and support professionals collaborate in planning educational accommodation strategies. These accommodations are documented on a Section 504 Accommodation Plan. Finally, a case manager is assigned from the school staff (e.g., Section 504 school liaison, counselor, administration, team leader, etc.) to monitor the student's progress. The Section 504 school liaison is responsible for completing the Section 504 Accommodation Record form and setting timelines for implementing and monitoring the provision of accommodations.

Parents receive copies of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan and the Section 504 Accommodation Record forms, along with a formal Notice of the Rights afforded to them by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

- (6)** Teacher(s), parents, and/or appropriate support professionals, will participate directly in implementing the accommodations. Support professionals will remain accessible to the teacher/parent and offer additional suggestions as necessary.
- (7)** The effectiveness of the accommodations is evaluated by the assigned case manager from the school staff (e.g., Section 504 school liaison, counselor, administrator, team leader, etc.). If the accommodations need to be modified or redesigned, the case is resubmitted to the CST.
- (8) (9) (10)** If accommodations have proven ineffective, the CST will make other recommendations (i.e., remedial education, Drop Out Prevention classes, schedule changes, alternative education, psychoeducational screening/evaluation)

## Appendix D

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The Hamilton County School District values academic integrity and honesty. They are fundamental to the teaching and learning process. It is the expectation of teachers and administrators that all work be entirely the result of the student's own efforts. Plagiarism, cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Collaboration and cooperation are not the same as cheating or plagiarism. Teachers will inform students when collaboration is an acceptable option. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising individual. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary action at the classroom and/or building level.

The following actions are examples of academic dishonesty (this list is not exhaustive, but is representative of forms of cheating):

- Copying someone else's homework and/or giving your work to another to be copied.
- Working together on a take-home test or homework unless specifically allowed by the teacher.
- Looking at another student's paper during an exam.
- Looking at your notes when prohibited.
- Taking an exam out of the classroom unless specifically allowed (either in person or by using electronic means).
- Using notes or other outside information on an exam unless specifically allowed.
- Giving someone answers to exam questions during the exam.
- Passing test information from an earlier class to a later class.
- Giving or selling a paper or class work to another student.
- Quoting text or other works on a paper or homework without citing the source.
- Handing in a paper purchased from a term paper service or from the Internet.
- Handing in another's paper as your own.
- Taking a paper from an organization's files and handing it in as your own.
- Changing a test, or paper, and claiming it had been graded incorrectly.
- Presenting another student's work as your own.
- Using electronic means to copy or share test/quiz materials.
- Texting or other form of electronic communications during a test or quiz.

A major form of cheating is plagiarism, the act of stealing ideas and/or expressions of another and representing them as your own. Ensure that any ideas not your own or direct quotes from others are properly cited at all times.

If you have questions on an assignment or project, check with your teacher. Make sure you are clear on what is allowed and not allowed in all your classes.

*I have read the information provided above. I fully understand the meaning of academic dishonesty and that there are serious consequences (ranging from a zero on the assignment to an out of school suspension) for engaging in such activities.*

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**Student Signature**

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**Grade**

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**Date**

**HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTICE REGARDING THE RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Directory information is personally identifiable information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The School Board of Hamilton County, Florida designates the following as "directory information": student's name, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized school-sponsored activities and sports, height and weight of athletic team members, dates of attendance at schools in the District and degrees and honors received, and the name of the most recent previous school or program attended. Such directory information may be released by the School Board in conjunction with press releases about school activities, honor roll announcements, athletic events, and other school-related activities.

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the School Board of Hamilton County, Florida may also disclose in its discretion directory information of a student in any grade level, without prior consent to (a) colleges, universities or other educational institutions in which the student is enrolled, may seek enrollment or may be recruited, and (b) for school publications and other school communication tools (including, but not limited to, yearbooks, athletic programs, graduation programs, and theatrical programs), or (d) military recruiters. Federal law (20 U.S.C. §7908(a)(1) now requires that the School Board "shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings." This requirement is also found in 10 U.S.C. §503(c)(1)(A)(ii). The information will be used for military recruiting purposes and other legitimate purposes such as informing students of scholarship opportunities at institutions of higher learning like colleges and universities.

Parental consent is not required before providing student's directory information relating to school-related activities, school publications and other school communication tools or to officials of institutions of colleges or recruiters for the military, although parents/students may "opt out" of the release of all or any part of a student's directory information.

Parents/guardians of students in any grade level, or eligible students (those over the age of 18 or attending a post-secondary institution), may opt out of having any or all of the following types of directory information disclosed by indicating, with a check mark (✓), those items NOT TO BE DISCLOSED:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student's Name                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Address  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Number                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Birth                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Place of Birth                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Degrees Received                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Received                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dates of School Attendance                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School-Sponsored Activities and Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Height/Weight of Athletic Team Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Name of the Most Recent School or Program Attended |

**OPT-OUT NOTICE: If you DO NOT want the school or the district to disclose one or more of these categories of information relating to school-related activities, school publications and other school communication tools, or to military recruiters, officials of institutions of higher learning, or otherwise without your prior written consent, we ask that you notify the school principal in writing within 10 days of receipt of the Code of Student Conduct. Although OPT-OUT notification will be honored at any time during the school year, it is recommended that you alert the school within 10 days of receipt so that no information will be released to military recruiters, officials of institutions of higher learning, or otherwise relating to school-related activities, school publications and other school communication tools.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

**No student or school employee shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, marital status, or use of a language other than English, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity, nor be denied employment, except as provided by law and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Non-administrative employees and students are encouraged to report any violation of this equal opportunity policy and administrative personnel are required to assist in its full implementation**

**Statutory Authority: 1001.41 FS Laws Implemented: 1000.05; 1012.22 FS  
3eCFR200.43(c):PL201.44 Code of Federal Register. State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.9001.**

**If you wish to file a complaint alleging any violation of this act, notify:**

**Mr. Patrick Howell  
Equity Coordinator  
Hamilton County School Board  
5686 US Highway 129 South, Suite 1  
Jasper, Florida 32052  
Phone: 386-792-7838  
Fax: 386-223-4448**