



Tuscumbia City Schools
Student Code of Conduct/Handbook

Student Code of Conduct/Handbook

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Regulation 1.01: Board Members

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

Board Members

Mr. Steve Finch
Mr. Grant Gunn
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mr. Buddy Whitlock
Mr. Ben Wilson

Regulation 1.02: Board of Education Staff

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

Staff

Mr. Russ Tate, Superintendent
Mrs. Sarah Miles, Chief School Financial Officer
Mrs. Veronica Bayles, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Robert Bissell, Federal Programs Director
Mrs. Lori Blackburn, System-Wide Nurse
Mr. Jason Fuller, Director of Maintenance & Facilities
Mrs. Tommy Milstead, Technology Coordinator
Dr. Kim Motton, Special Education Director
Mr. Bryan Murner, Student Services Director
Mrs. Paige Soeder, Child Nutrition Program Director

Regulation 1.03: School Contact Information

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

CENTRAL OFFICE

303 North Commons Street, East
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Phone: 256-389-2900
www.tuscumbia.k12.al.us

SCHOOLS

DESHLER HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Jessica Byrd, Principal 256-389-2910
Mr. Patrick Smith, Asst. Principal

DESHLER CAREER TECH CENTER

Mrs. Heather Mize, Career Tech Director 256-389-2910

DESHLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Scott King, Principal 256-389-2920
Mrs. Autumn Dickerson, Asst. Principal

R.E. THOMPSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mrs. Mallory Kincaid, Principal 256-389-2930
Mrs. Felicia Summerhill, Asst. Principal

G.W. TRENHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Jessica Norwood, Principal 256-389-2940
Mrs. Anna Beth Thigpen, Asst. Principal

If you have questions about the information included in this handbook or any other aspect of the program at Tuscumbia City Schools, please call the appropriate school office or Board of Education. Please remember that we want to provide the best possible educational program for our students. With your help and assistance, we can achieve that goal.

Regulation 2.01: Preface

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

PREFACE

The Code of Student Conduct was prepared through the hard work and cooperation of the Tuscumbia City Schools' Administrative staff and adopted by the Tuscumbia City Board of Education. The Code of Student Conduct is provided at the beginning of the school year or at the time of enrollment. The Code of Student Conduct was developed in accordance with the requirements as defined in Legislative Act 94- 782 which amends Act 93-672 as codified in § 16-28-12, Code of Alabama, 1975. It establishes school behaviors that all students enrolled and attending the public schools in Tuscumbia City are expected to obey. Finally, it requires that both the student and the student's parent/legal custodian complete and sign the written document acknowledging the receipt of the Code of Student Conduct.

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

Regulation 3.01: Jurisdiction of the Board of Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Each student attending the Tusculmbia City Schools is subject to all the rules and regulations adopted by the Tusculmbia City Board of Education. These rules and regulations shall apply and be enforced while a student is present on the school campus, participates or attends any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity, or rides in a vehicle owned by the school system. In addition, these rules and regulations may also be enforced in other settings where a student's behavior or conduct may be perceived to jeopardize the health, safety, discipline, or general welfare of the school community. The principal or his/her designee shall have the responsibility and authority of enforcing the disciplinary rules and actions defined in the Code of Student Conduct. When disciplinary action is necessary, it shall be imposed with the best intent and interest of the student in mind.

Regulation 4.01: Vision

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

VISION

In collaboration with our community and stakeholders, Tusculumbia City Schools provides every student with a safe learning environment that promotes academic, technological and social growth. By setting high standards and high expectations, we commit to empower students to become responsible and productive citizens with the skills necessary to succeed in a global society.

Regulation 4.02: Mission

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

MISSION

Educating every student today...Preparing every student for the opportunities of tomorrow

Regulation 5.01: Core Beliefs

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

CORE BELIEFS

- We believe that the skills necessary for students to succeed in a global society include academic, technical, and social.
 - We believe collaboration among stakeholders and Tusculumbia City Schools is vital to the setting of high standards and high expectations.
 - We believe it is our responsibility to provide a solid foundation for every student to pursue his/her dreams.
 - We believe all students can learn, succeed, and reach their full potential by setting high expectations for both students and staff.
 - We believe the education of a child is the responsibility of the efforts of the student, family, school, and community.
 - We believe that a student must be a lifelong learner. To achieve this, all students must have a growth mindset.
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Regulation 6.01: Introduction

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

INTRODUCTION

The Tuscumbia Board of Education believes that all students should conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt the educational process, does not endanger the health and general welfare of any student, and does not interfere with the equality educational opportunities for other students. Therefore, the expectations of students' conduct identified in this handbook will apply to all grades. To compensate for differences in students' age and maturity, disciplinary actions may be deemed as age appropriate by school principals.

The intent of this handbook and the enforcement of its rules are to ensure the presence of a safe, friendly, and business-like atmosphere in which students and school personnel work cooperatively toward mutually recognized and accepted goals and in maintaining an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Finally, the Tuscumbia Board of Education requires the Board of Education employees, students, and parents/custodians to adhere to the adopted Code of Student Conduct.

Regulation 7.01: Important Dates

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

TUSCUMBIA CITY SCHOOL'S IMPORTANT DATES

July 4 - Independence Day Holiday
August 7 - First Day of School for Students
September 4 - Labor Day Holiday
October 14-15 - Fall Break
October 18 - Homecoming (early dismissal)
November 11 - Veteran's Day Holiday
November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Holidays
December 20 - End of 1st Semester (early dismissal)
December 23-January 2 - Christmas Holidays
January 6 - Students Return to School
January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 17 - Professional Development - No School for Students
March 24-28 - Spring Break
April 18 - No School for Students (Weather Day)
May 22 - End of 2nd Semester (early dismissal)
May 23 - Graduation
May 26 - Memorial Day Holiday
June 19 - Juneteenth Holiday

Regulation 8.01: Due Process

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/18/2024

DUE PROCESS

The policy of the Tusculumbia City Board of Education is to provide each student due process before carrying out the disciplinary actions contained in the Code of Student Conduct handbook. Furthermore, the Board of Education will comply with the essential elements of due process. A responsibility of the principals will be to familiarize their staff with the due process procedures and provide each staff member with a copy of this handbook.

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

1. School rules must be clearly stated and related to the educational purposes of the school.
2. School rules must be fair and specific enough for students to know what they may or may not do.
3. Students, parents, and custodians must be informed of the rules affecting behavior and discipline.
4. When serious disciplinary action is involved, school personnel and students must comply with the required procedures set forth in the Code of Student Conduct.
5. Students must be given the opportunity to share his/her account of the incident with school personnel.
6. School personnel are permitted to speak to students regarding school-related issues without obtaining prior parent permission.

Student Procedural Due Process Act of 2024

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop committees to serve as the Board's designee to hold hearings to determine whether an alleged disciplinary violation has occurred when a principal recommends expulsion, long-term alternative school, or long-term suspension as defined by the Procedural Due Process Act of 2024. Nothing in this authorization infringes on services to students pursuant to IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA, nor does it inhibit approved appeals processes.

Regulation 8.02: Roles of the Parents, Students, Schools, and School Personnel

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

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

In order for effective teaching and learning to take place in our schools, there must be a cooperative relationship among students, parents, custodians, and educators. To foster this relationship:

Parents and Custodial Adults should:

- Keep in regular communication with the school authorities concerning their child's progress and conduct.
- Attend scheduled parent-teacher conferences.
- Bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects their child or other children.
- Ensure that their child is in daily attendance and promptly report and explain an absence or tardiness to school officials.
- Maintain up-to-date home, work, and emergency telephone numbers at the school, including doctor and hospital preferences.
- Provide their child with the resources needed to complete class work.
- Discuss report cards and work assignments with their child.
- Assist their child in being healthy, neat, and clean, and appropriately dressed.
- Promptly report any changes of address.
- Report directly to the principal's office when visiting a school.
- Monitor the child's cell phone and social media activity.

Students should:

- Attend all classes daily and be punctual in attendance.
- Come to class with appropriate working materials.
- Be respectful to all individuals and of all property.
- Refrain from profane or inflammatory statements.
- Conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner.
- Be clean, neat, and appropriately dressed.
- Be responsible for their own work.
- Respect the classroom and school.
- Show a positive, cooperative attitude toward school.
- Promptly report any change of address.
- Use social media in a responsible and respectful manner.

Schools should:

- Encourage the use of good guidance procedures.
- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to good behavior.
- Exhibit an attitude of respect for students.
- Plan a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all students.
- Promote effective discipline based upon fair and impartial treatment of all students.
- Welcome and encourage participation by parents and custodians in the school affairs.
- Encourage the school staff, parents, custodians and students to use services of community agencies.
- Encourage parents and custodians to keep in regular communication with the school.
- Seek to involve students in the development of policies.
- Endeavor to involve the entire community in order to improve the quality of life within the community.

School Personnel should:

- Be regular in attendance and punctual.
 - Be prepared to perform their duties with appropriate materials and lesson plans.
 - Be respectful to all individuals and of all property.
 - Refrain from profane or inflammatory statements.
 - Conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner.
 - Be clean, neat and appropriately dressed and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school and Board of Education.
 - Seek changes in an orderly and recognized manner.
 - Strive to use a variety of informal disciplinary and guidance methods, prior to, during, and after formal disciplinary action, including:
 - Student's program adjustment.
 - Referral to guidance personnel for group or individual counseling with counselors, peer counseling, psychological evaluations and other services deemed appropriate.
 - Conferences and/or contacts between administrators, parents, custodians, teachers, and students.
 - Referral to special education or appropriate agencies for special problems.
 - Continuous improvement of professional knowledge and skills.
 - Positive, cooperative attitudes toward parents and custodians, students, co-workers, and the total school program.
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Regulation 8.03: School Day/Bell Schedule

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

SCHOOL DAY

For GW Trenholm Students:

- School will be in session from 7:50 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day.
- The doors to the school will open at 7:15 am.
- Breakfast is served when doors open.

Arrival Schedule:

- 7:15 a.m. The front and back door will be opened for K-2nd grade students. All students should report to the cafeteria upon entering the building.
- Pre-K students report directly to the outside Pre-K classroom door at 7:50 a.m. Breakfast will be served separately.
- 7:15 a.m. - 7:40 a.m. Breakfast is served for K-2nd.
- 7:40 a.m. Students report to classes
- 7:50 a.m. All doors to the school will be locked for the day. Please use the front door (office) to enter the school.

Dismissal Schedule:

- 1:50 p.m. Pre-K students will be dismissed. Parents must park and walk to pick up student.
- 2:35 p.m. (First Bell) Back door: Kindergarten students will be dismissed. Students riding with a kindergarten student will be dismissed.
- 2:50 p.m. (Second Bell) Front Door: All first and Second Grade students will be dismissed.
- All students must be picked up by 3:05 p.m.

For RE Thompson Students:

- School will be in session from 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day.
- The doors to the school will open at 7:25 a.m.
- Breakfast is served when doors open.

In the morning, students should enter through the front door by the office or the back door by the cafeteria. Parents dropping students off in the morning should let them out curbside. Morning traffic in the front of the building is one way entering from Lamar on the south end of the building (5th grade playground) and exiting by the gym on to Lamar. Parents dropping students off at the cafeteria doors should enter the parking lot by the gym, circle through the parking lot, and exit by the picnic pavilion. **The doors to the school will open at 7:25 a.m. Students who arrive before 7:25 a.m. will not have supervision.**

After school supervision is provided in the three pick-up areas shown on our website. Please visit <https://www.tusculumbia.k12.al.us/RET>. Students should report to one of these areas after school. Those who have not been picked up by 3:05 p.m. come to the front entrance.

For Deshler Middle School Students:

- School will be in session from 7:50 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day.
- The gym entrance doors to the school will open at 7:15 a.m. Students will be dropped off at the DMS gym each morning.
- Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m.

Bell Schedule:

Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

First Bell 7:45 a.m.

Tardy Bell 7:50 a.m.

1st Period 7:50 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

2nd Period 8:58 a.m. - 10:03 a.m.

3rd Period 10:06 a.m. - 11:11 a.m.

4th Period 11:14 a.m. - 12:44 p.m.

- A Lunch - 11:14 a.m. - 11:44 a.m.
- B Lunch - 11:44 a.m. - 12:14 p.m.
- C Lunch 12:14 p.m. - 12:44 p.m.

5th Period 12:47 p.m. - 1:53 p.m.

6th Period 1:56 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Students are picked up at one of three designated areas after 3:00 p.m.
- Sixth grade students should be picked up in the front of the building.
- Seventh grade students should be picked up in the front of the building.
- Eighth grade students should be picked up at the cafeteria doors in the back parking lot.

For Deshler High School Students:

- School will be in session from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day.
- The cafeteria entrance doors to the school will open at 7:30.
- Breakfast is served when doors open.

Bell Schedule:

First Bell 7:50 a.m.

Warning Bell 7:55 a.m.

1st Period 8:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

2nd Period 9:30 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.

3rd Period 10:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- A Lunch 10:40 a.m. - 11:04 a.m.
- B Lunch 11:08 a.m. - 11:32 a.m.
- C Lunch 11:36 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4th Period 12:05 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

5th Period 1:35 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Regulation 8.04: Grading System

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

GRADING SYSTEM

Numerical grades are obtained as follows per semester:

- Tests/Assessments (projects, essays): 60%
- Homework/Classwork: 40%

Report cards are available to students every nine (9) weeks. Midterm progress reports are available every 4 ½ weeks. Parents may access a student’s grades at any time during the grading period by logging into PowerSchool Parent Portal. The Parent Portal can be found on each school’s website. Numerical grades are assigned to each subject. Yearly grades are obtained as follows:

DHS & DMS Kindergarten GWT & RET

DHS & DMS	Kindergarten	GWT & RET
A: 90-100	E: Exceeding	A: Excellent 90-100
B: 80-90	S: Satisfactory	B: Good 80-89
C: 70-79	N: Needs Improvement	C: Average 70-79
D: 60-69	U: Unsatisfactory	D: Poor 60-69
F: 0-59		F: Failure 0-59
I: Incomplete*		

*Incomplete grades must be completed by the end of the following quarter, or the incomplete becomes an F. If the Incomplete is given for the fourth (4th) quarter, it must be removed within two weeks after the last day of school, or with special permission of the principal, prior to the first day of school in the fall.

Regulation 8.05: Midterm and Final Exam Exemption

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION

Deshler High School:

All students must take all final examinations, except in a class for which an exemption is earned. Examinations should not be given early to students. Absences on examination day will only be considered excused with a physician's excuse, legal excuse, death in the family, or principal's prior approval.

In order to be exempt from a **final** exam at the end of a semester, a student must:

- Possess an 85 or higher average, 3 or fewer absences, have no unexcused absences, AND have no in-school-suspension or out-of-school suspension during the semester.
- Possess a 70-84 average, with ZERO absences and have no ISS/OSS.
- Students in grade 8 who benchmark on any subtest of the ACAP will be exempt from the corresponding exam their Freshman year. (ELA –English, Math – Math, Science – Science, Reading – Social Studies)
- Students in grade 11 who benchmark on any subtest of the ACT will be exempt from the corresponding exam their Senior year. (ELA –English, Math – Math, Science – Science)
- Students may exempt one exam of their choice for zero office referrals per semester.
- Students may exempt one exam of their choice for perfect attendance (zero absences of any class and zero tardies) per semester.
- All absences regardless of reason will be counted in the exemption policy, with the exception of school-related absences.
- Standardized tests (AP, ACT, Pre-ACT, etc.) cannot be exempted.
- Students may choose to take the final exam even if they are exempt, and it cannot lower his/her grade.
- No exams will be given early. An exam make-up day will be provided for exams missed due to an excused absence.
- Any student with an average below 70 must take the final exam in that course. No exemption passes will be allowed.

Deshler Middle School:

All students must take all midterm and final examinations, except in a class for which an exemption is earned. Examinations should not be given early to students. Absences on examination day will only be considered excused with a physician's excuse, legal excuse, death in the family, or principal's prior approval.

In order to be exempt from a midterm exam or final exam, a student must:

- Possess an 85 or higher average, 3 or fewer absences, have no unexcused absences, AND have no in-school-suspension or out-of-school suspension during the semester.
- Possess a 70-84 average, with ZERO absences and have no ISS/OSS.
- In addition to grades, attendance, and discipline, students must score a 3 or 4 on the ACAP or have a growth score of a 4 from the spring of 2024 ACAP to exempt the corresponding midterm exam. (ELA –English, Math – Math, Science – Science, Reading – Social Studies)
- In addition to grades, attendance, and discipline students must score proficient or show growth on each progress monitoring test throughout the school year to exempt the corresponding final exam.
- Students may exempt one exam of their choice for zero office referrals per semester.
- Students may exempt one exam of their choice for perfect attendance (zero absences of any class and zero tardies) per semester.
- Absences total results from excused and unexcused. All absences regardless of reason will be counted in the exemption policy, with the exception of school-related absences.
- Students may choose to take the final exam even if they are exempt, and it cannot lower his/her grade.
- No exams will be given early. An exam make-up day will be provided for exams missed due to an excused absence.

- Any student with an average below 70 must take the final exam in that course. No exemption passes will be allowed.
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Regulation 8.06: Classification of Students by Grade

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS BY GRADE

Deshler High School

- To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned a minimum of six (6) units of credit prior to the beginning of the school year.
 - To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned thirteen (13) units of credit prior to the beginning of the school year.
 - To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned nineteen (19) units of credit prior to the beginning of the school year and be eligible to graduate by the end of the school year.
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Regulation 8.07: Ranking Students

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

RANKING STUDENTS

Beginning with the ninth grade of high school, all students will be ranked based on numeric grade point average scale (GPA). The GPA calculation will be carried out four decimal places and rounded off. The valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor students will be determined after the first nine weeks grades of the second term of the senior year. The nine weeks grades of that time will reflect the weight of one-half (1/2) credit.

Regulation 8.08: Diploma Choices

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

DIPLOMA CHOICES

Please see the Deshler High School Course of Study (Red Book).

Regulation 8.09: Honor Student

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

HONOR STUDENT (determined for graduation)

To be designated as an honor student at graduation for Deshler High School, a student must earn

1. Top 10 student ranking
 2. An advanced track academic diploma
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Regulation 8.10: Dual Enrollment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students in 10th- 12th grade with a B average may pursue high school credits through college courses, pending approval from DHS and eligibility procedures of the college. Fees for dual enrollment courses are subject to the college or university financial guidelines and are solely the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.

Regulation 8.11: Graduation Exercises

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Participation in graduation exercises is a privilege, not a right. All candidates are encouraged to participate; however, the following rules will be followed:

- All financial obligations to the school must be cleared.
- Dress code given to senior candidates must be followed.
- Students must attend the graduation practice unless excused by the principal.

Students may also be prohibited from participation in graduation ceremonies for violation of code of student conduct. Any student under suspension (OSS) on graduation day may not participate in graduation exercises. Paying all required fees is also necessary for obtaining the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies at Deshler.

Regulation 8.12: Valedictorian/Salutatorian

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

The student must be eligible to receive an advanced endorsement diploma. The honor student with the highest-grade average is the valedictorian. The honor student with the second-highest grade average is the salutatorian. The valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor students will be determined after the first nine weeks grades of the second term of the senior year. The nine weeks grades of that time will reflect the weight of one-half (1/2) credit.

Residency requirement: To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must have been a student at Deshler High School for a total of at least two complete academic years.

Regulation 8.13: Statewide Testing

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/18/2024

STATEWIDE TESTING

Each year students participate in the statewide testing program. Here are the tests slated for 2024-2025:

Grades Tests

Kindergarten ALAKIDS

K - 3rd Early Years Assessment

2nd – 8th ACAP Summative

10th Pre-ACT

11th ACT Plus Writing

2nd – 8th, 10th – 11th ACAP Alternate Assessment

K – 12th ACCESS

K – 12th Alternate ACCESS

12th ACT WorkKeys

Use of Digital Devices by Students During the Administration of Standardized Assessments

The possession of a digital device (including but not limited to cell phones, iPhones, iPads, iPods, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing or relaying information) is strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test. If a student is observed in possession of a digital device during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated and subjected to search, the student will be dismissed from the testing area, and the student's test will be invalidated.

Regulation 8.14: Gifted Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted students are those who perform or have the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. In addition, some students with disabilities may be gifted. The TCBOE prohibits discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to his/her participation in the gifted program. A student may be referred by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. Additionally, all second-grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.

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

Aptitude - Assessed through an individual or group test of intelligence or creativity.

Characteristics - A behavior rating scale designed to assess gifted behaviors is completed by system/school personnel.

Performance - At least three indicators of performance at a gifted level such as achievement test scores, grades, products, work samples, and/or portfolios. The scores from the assessments/items used are entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

Contact the student's teacher or the school counselor to refer a student for consideration for gifted services.

Regulation 8.15: Dress Code

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

DRESS CODE

The faculty and staff of Tusculumbia City Schools believe that good grooming and personal appearance are essential elements in the teaching and learning processes. Therefore, it is expected that students dress in such a manner that will ensure the health and safety of the school. Furthermore, the dress and personal appearance will not be a disturbance to the learning process or interfere with the legitimate interest and welfare of the students.

The principal or his/her designee shall have the authority to take appropriate disciplinary action when the dress of any student is disruptive to the extent that it interferes with proper learning processes; detracts from proper decorum of the school; or constitutes a challenge to established parameters. Students are required to change their clothing if it is found to be inappropriate. Violations must be corrected before students return to class.

- Wearing apparel, jewelry, make-up, or any mannerisms related to style which are determined by the principal or his/her designee to be a distraction to the educational process of the school or harmful to the safety of any student shall be prohibited.
- Students are not to wear tank tops, midriff tops, or halter-tops.
- Shorts, dresses, and pants or other garment with exposed skin are to be no shorter 5 inches above the middle of the patella.
- Pants and other garments must fit at the natural waist (above the hips) Sagging is not permitted. The stomach, back, and underwear of all students (male and female) must be completely covered while sitting, standing, or bending.
- Pajama pants are not allowed, unless specified by a school sponsored activity (i.e. spirit days during homecoming).
- Blankets and pillows are a safety concern and are not allowed for grades 1-12.
- Shirts, blouses and tops may not show cleavage or expose skin at the midriff.
- Dress and blouse shoulder straps must be at least two (2) inches in width.
- No off-the-shoulder/strapless garments are permitted.
- Excessively long and/or bulky oversized shirts and outer garments (pants, shirts, or coats/jackets) will not be permitted.
- Each teacher will be the judge if any additional decisions must be made of what is permitted in his/her class and must be obeyed concerning student wear.
- Students are expected to wear shoes or sandals at all times.
- Hats, caps, or any other head coverings are not to be worn inside buildings.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in the buildings unless medically approved.
- Clothing, paraphernalia, or devices, which are judged to be related to or associated with gang affiliation or gang activity, are prohibited.
- Clothing and other apparel with sharp points and/or objects will not be allowed.
- Clothing with pictures, writing, and/or symbols promoting the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or sexual activity shall be considered a distraction to the educational process and is therefore prohibited.

Repeat offenders of the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action. This may involve the office notifying the parents for a change of clothing, detention, or sending the student to ISS for the remainder of the day.

***Activity sponsors may establish different rules for dress and grooming as a prerequisite for membership and participation in the activity

***A suggested rule of thumb to follow: If there is a question as to the appropriateness, get approval first.

Regulation 8.16: Communication Devices

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may have a communication device provided the device is NOT USED in classrooms or other areas where cell phone use is restricted. Students may be allowed to use cell phones under special circumstances with teacher or administrative approval. **Students may not have earbuds or other cell phone peripheral devices in their ears or exposed in any way in classrooms or other areas where cell phone use is restricted during the normal school day.** The school is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen communication devices. School personnel are not responsible or held liable for student use or content of devices that are not issued by the school.

Discipline for cell phone and/or related peripheral devices will be as follows:

- 1st Offense- Warning, phone taken up and returned to the student at the end of the day.
- 2nd Offense- Detention, phone taken up and returned to the parent.
- 3rd Offense- Saturday School, phone taken up and returned to the parent.
- 4th Offense- 2 days ISS, phone taken up, returned to the parent, and cell phone privileges revoked.
- 5th Offense- 5 days ISS, phone taken up and returned to the parent.
- Subsequent Offenses- 1 day suspension for every offense.

Deshler High School will start over at the start of each semester.

All other schools will be a yearlong accumulation of cell phone offenses.

Communication devices may be carried on field trips, sports/music trips with permission from the event sponsor. School officials assume no responsibility for these devices.

Regulation 8.17: Mental Health Services

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING SCHOOL PROVIDED OR SPONSORED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The school system provides or sponsors the following mental health services:

- Large group guidance - includes school counselor or professional visiting the classroom to discuss topics such as bullying, class scheduling, stress management, test anxiety or guest speakers to discuss good choices, substance abuse prevention, etc.
- Small group guidance - includes a small group of students with school counselor or professional to discuss topics such as test anxiety, grief, healthy coping skills, etc.
- Assessments or Surveys - includes questionnaires provided to students related to social behaviors, feelings, etc.
- Crisis intervention - short-term, immediate assistance by school counselor or professional for a specific situation.

School-Based Mental Health - On-going counseling services by private practitioners in the school setting. Parent or legal guardian's permission will be obtained during an intake meeting before services are provided.

Regulation 8.18: Emergency Operating Procedures

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 01/25/2024

EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES

Each teacher/classroom should have the Emergency Operating Procedures notice posted in a highly visible area by the exit door.

<p>Heightened Awareness (Get Your Attention)</p> <p>This means a potential may exist for an unusual situation and all parties should have heightened awareness to react as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow school communication plan to learn and share information Limit movement to and from class Be accountable for all students Watch and report unusual behavior Check exterior doors to make sure they are locked Continue instruction 	<p>Secure Perimeter (On Alert)</p> <p>A potential threat or danger does exist within the community/neighborhood and all parties should be aware to react as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure all people within the school Lock all doors Cover windows Stay in secure area within the building until further notice from administration or law enforcement Monitor/use communication plan Leave unsecure areas such as fields, gym, or playground and move to a secure area Continue instruction Procedure stays in effect until intercom or other personal communication from administration or crisis response team 	<p>Lockdown (Immediate Threat)</p> <p>Recognition of Danger. Take immediate action using the safest and best option for survival.</p> <p>Secure yourself and others by assessing and using available information to decide if you should, HIDE (Secure and/or Barricade), RUN (Intelligent Escape) or FIGHT (Defend and Protect).</p> <p>HIDE: (Secure and/or Barricade)</p> <p>Clear hallway by your doorway if possible, lock doors, cover window in door, lights off, barricade entry, turn off cell phones, quiet, stay in place.</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>RUN: (Informed Escape)</p> <p>Evacuate to safer location, remain with your group, call 911 when safe. Follow HIDE protocol.</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>FIGHT: (Defend and Protect)</p> <p>As a matter of survival engage the intruder with any means necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor/use communication plan Release only by administration or law enforcement 	<p>Fire (One Long Bell)</p> <p>One continuous bell, fire alarm, intercom or compressed air horn blasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuate building to safe zone while paying attention to evacuation route and surroundings, be ready to reroute or reverse Close class doors and leave unlocked Wear teacher safety vest Take teacher evacuation kit Call roll and use Color Coded Cards green card - all students present red card - missing students orange card - extra students Return to building or early dismissal at the direction of administration.
<p>Secure Your Area of Responsibility (Classroom, hallway, etc.)</p> <p>Specific incident within your area of responsibility. (Medical, threat to self or others, drug dog search)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear hallway and secure all people within your area Lock door Cover windows Use communication plan Continue instruction Procedure stays in effect until intercom or other personal communication from administration or crisis response team 			<p>Tornado/Severe Weather (Three Short Bells)</p> <p>Series of short bells, intercom or compressed air horn blasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escort students to designated safe zones Close classroom doors Wear teacher safety vest Take teacher evacuation kit Call roll and use Color Coded Cards green card - all students present red card - missing students orange card - extra students Return to class or early dismissal at the direction of administration

Fire Drill Procedures:

- The signal for a fire drill will be a continuous ring of the bells.
- Students will walk out of the building in an orderly fashion through the nearest exit. They will leave all belongings.
- Each teacher will appoint a leader for his/her group. The leader should lead the group out the assigned exit.
- There will be no running, pushing, or talking in line.
- Students should follow the instructions on the safety map located in the classroom and given by the teacher. Classes will exit the building through the nearest exit. If students are not in a classroom, students should exit the building through the nearest exit and report to the nearest adult who will get the student to the proper location.
- Each teacher should inspect his/her room and the work area and follow his/her students outside immediately. Teachers should take his/her emergency folders and check roll to see that all students are accounted for. Teachers should see that doors and windows are closed.
- Teachers will lead students to their assigned area for roll call.
- Return in order when ALL CLEAR sounds.
- Teachers should instruct students that if they get separated from their group, they should leave by the nearest exit, find a teacher and let them know that they are displaced. The teacher will notify an administrator about that student.
- No student should re-enter the building under any circumstances until the ALL CLEAR sounds.

Emergency Campus Evacuation:

In the event of an emergency that prevents students from re-entering the building, the student pick-up location will be sent out to parents via phone call, text message, email and social media. Parents can check out their children there. The student's homeroom or 1st period teacher will have an emergency checkout form to allow direct student checkout.

Bomb Threat:

Recommended actions for BOMB THREAT will be to have the students and faculty relocate to a predetermined location until authorities clear the campus.

Inclement Weather:

In case of inclement weather, please listen to local radio, television channel, or check social media sites and email for school information. You should also receive a telephone call/e-mail from the rapid alert system notification. The superintendent will issue notices through the rapid alert system. Please contact your school office if assistance is needed with the rapid alert system notification.

Severe Weather Procedures:

Weather warning definitions and recommended actions are as follows:

- Severe Weather Watch: Weather conditions are such that a severe thunderstorm may develop. Review severe weather plan.
- Tornado Watch: Weather conditions are such that a tornado may develop. Be alert to impending weather conditions. Teachers will review with students procedures required when a warning is given.
- Severe Weather Warning: Thunderstorm has developed and will probably affect those areas stated in the weather bulletin. SIGNAL WILL BE SHORT BURST OF BELLS.
- Tornado Warning: Tornado has been formed and sighted and may affect those areas stated in the bulletin. SIGNAL WILL BE SHORT BURST OF BELLS.

Teachers are to relocate students to their assigned area, which offers the greatest tornado resistance. During the drill, students should be seated on the floor with their backs to corridor walls. Coats and jackets should be used to cover heads, arms, and legs to reduce the number of injuries caused by flying objects. Teachers should go over these instructions with students until all instructions become routine. ALL CLEAR IS ONE LONG RING.

Regulation 8.19: School Alert/Notification System

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

SCHOOL ALERT/NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

TCS contracts with a third party vendor to deliver notifications to families and staff members via various delivery methods. The information for this notification system is pulled from the student's information system at your student's school. Users have the ability to specify certain delivery methods and numbers, but the district reserves the right to send emergency calls to all users. Updates to the contact numbers should be addressed with the student's school.

Regulation 8.20: School Visitors

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

SCHOOL VISITORS

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

Regulation 8.21: Attendance

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance is very important. Students learn and increase their knowledge by being in class each day. Students deserve every opportunity for academic success. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and courts are partners in developing good attendance. Every child living in the area served by the Tuscumbia City School System shall be required to attend school between the ages of 6 and 17. Attendance records for each pupil shall be maintained by a designated person in each school in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education Resolutions and Regulations. Pupils may be excluded from attending school while suffering from a communicable disease, infection, or infestation as determined by health authorities and health personnel. Principals may require a doctor's certification of health before a student may return to classes. The Tuscumbia Board of Education believes that good attendance is a cornerstone of an excellent education. So believing, it is the intent of the Board to encourage good attendance through this policy.

Chronic Absenteeism:

The Alabama State Department of Education defines a chronic absentee as a student who misses 18 or more school days, both excused and unexcused.

Responsibilities of the Student:

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

Responsibilities of the Parent:

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

Responsibilities of the Teacher:

- Developing class incentives related to improved attendance.
- Working with the guidance counselor in scheduling students in programs that meet their individual needs.
- Recognizing the importance of each class period and scheduling teacher request for students accordingly.
- Demonstrating to the student that planned learning experiences will take place each day.
- Develop and foster good relationships with parents to encourage and maintain good attendance.

Responsibilities of the Administration:

- Designing local school plans for improving attendance.
- Enforcing a check-out system consistent with administrative policy.
- Providing a Perfect Attendance Award to students who have been present every complete day of the school year with no tardies, checkouts, or early dismissals.
- Providing an Exemplary Attendance Certificate for those students who attend school each day of the school

year. Excessive tardies, checkouts, and/or early dismissals resulting in a detention may prevent a student from earning this award.

- Developing a procedure whereby high school and middle school students may be exempted from all final exams the second semester.
- Considering many alternatives in an effort to reduce the number of suspensions and, thereby, absent days.

Responsibilities of the Courts:

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

State Definition of Truancy & Laws Governing of School Attendance:

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

Upon the seventh (7) unexcused absence during the school year, a truancy referral will be made to the Early Warning Program, with mandatory parent participation. Seven (7) unexcused absences within a school year constitutes a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court.

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

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

The law also gives the responsibility for attendance and control of the child to the parent. (§16-28-12, Code of Alabama, 1975) If the child is truant, there are several actions that can be filed against the parent and/or the child.

Actions Against Adults:

- A criminal action can be brought against any "parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child . . . who fails to have such child enrolled in school or who fails to compel such child to properly conduct himself as a pupil" and they "shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$100 and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days . . ." (§16-28-12, Code of Alabama, 1975)
- It shall be unlawful for any parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person to do any of the following:
 - To willfully aid, encourage, or cause any child to become or remain delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision.
 - To permit or encourage the employment of any child in violation of any of the provisions of the child labor law.
 - To cause a child to fail to attend school as required by the compulsory school attendance law.

- Whenever, in the course of any proceedings pursuant to this chapter, or when, by affidavit as provided in this subsection, it shall appear to the juvenile court that a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody, control, or supervision of a child or any other person not standing in any relation to the child has aided, encouraged, or caused the child to become delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision, the juvenile court, for the protection of the child from these influences, shall have jurisdiction in these matters, as provided in this section. The juvenile court shall cause the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person to be brought before the juvenile court upon either summons or a warrant, affidavit of probable cause having first been made.
 - Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and shall be punished accordingly.
 - Upon conviction, the juvenile court may suspend any sentence, remit any fine, or place the person on probation pursuant to such orders, directives, or conditions for his or her discipline and supervision as the juvenile court deems fit. (2009 Alabama Code §12-15-111)
- Educational neglect: "Dependent child: A child whose parent(s), guardian, or custodian fails, refuses, or neglects to send such child to school in accordance with the terms of the compulsory school attendance laws of this state . . ." (§12-15-102 (8)(a)(4), Code of Alabama 1975, Revised)

Action Against the Alleged Truant Child:

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

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

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

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

Rules and Regulations:

Enrollment and Attendance:

Compulsory enrollment and attendance is mandated by Alabama Law for any child between the ages of six and 17 years. Compulsory enrollment and attendance are required each year for these ages unless the pupil is legally excused from enrollment by the Superintendent, Board of Education, or the courts. Only these officials have authority to excuse a child from enrollment and attendance.

All school personnel shall report known cases of non-enrollment and irregular attendance to the principal. The principal shall report cases of non-enrollment or irregular attendance to the System's attendance officer.

Absenteeism:

Parents or guardians shall send a note of explanation, i.e., court notes, doctor's notes, or parent excuses to the school the day the child returns to school or within three (3) days of the absence explaining the cause of the absence. Failure to provide a documented cause will result in the absence being counted as unexcused. Check-outs and check-ins shall be considered as an absence for the classes missed.

Notes of explanation for the absence will be required as in section B above. Only an excused absence permits work to be made up. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the teacher within three days of returning to arrange for make-up work. Students will not be allowed to participate or attend a school function such as an athletic contest, prom, school dance, band trip, job training program, etc., if they are not in school for at least one half of the instructional day of the event, except for emergency situations approved by the principal. Makeup work may be permitted for students suspended from school.

Excused Absences:

- Students in grades K-8 are permitted 10 parental excused absences during a school year. Absences beyond 10 (excluding Doctor's excuse, court excuse, death, and principal approval) must be documented with a doctor's or court excuse or permission of the principal.
- Students in grades 9-12 are permitted 5 parental excused absences per semester. Absences beyond 5 per a semester (excluding Doctor's excuse, court excuse, death, and principal approval) must be documented with a doctor's or court excuse or permission of the principal.
- Any absence that exceeds five (5) consecutive days will require a doctor's or principal's excuse.
- For parents/students who submit a physician's letter to explain chronic issues that impact school attendance, a signed release of medical information form must be on file to verify specific attendance expectations with the medical provider. Excuses must still be turned in for record.
- Parental excuses are counted for each day of absence NOT periods of absence.
- School sponsored or sanctioned activities are exempt and do not count toward the total absences allowed; however, arrangements must be made for making up work as required.
- A student who is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons for any number of days will have that number of days charged against the total number of absences allowed.
- According to the Alabama State Department of Education, excused absences are as follows:
 - Illness
 - Prior permission of the principal and consent of the custodial parent or legal guardian (a parent's prior notification to the school does not automatically excuse the absence).
 - Emergency conditions as determined by the principal.
 - Legal quarantine.
 - Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the child as determined by the principal.
 - Death in the immediate family.
- The following information is provided to you concerning the codes for absences which will be on your child's attendance record:
 - Parent note for student illness,
 - Doctor's excuse which indicates that the student visited the doctor,
 - Court excuse,
 - Death in the Immediate Family,
 - Suspensin,
 - Parent Note - unexcused,
 - No note or explanation,
 - Principal approved.

Make-Up Work:

- Excused Absences - If a student is absent for any excused reason as defined above, the student shall have three (3) days to make arrangements for assignments and other work missed during said absence or absences at a time agreeable to the teacher(s). Students shall be given a reasonable opportunity to learn the lessons missed due to excused absences. Given the number of days missed due to excused absences, students shall be given an appropriate time period in which to complete the assignment(s). For assignments that were due on the day in which the student was absent, provided that the due date was previously communicated prior to the student's absence, the student should be prepared to turn-in the assignment upon returning to school.
 - The student, parent or guardian shall be responsible for arranging necessary make-up work.
 - Time limit: Arrangements for make-up work must be made within three (3) days after returning to school from an excused absence.
- Unexcused Absences – Principals and/or designee may permit limited credit make up work with an unexcused absence.

Check-In/Out Procedure:

- Students may check-in to school with a valid approved excuse for the absence, otherwise it will be considered either a tardy unexcused. Students may also be checked in with a parent excuse.
- Students checking out of school must be signed out by the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or designated responsible adult who can be verified by a pictured ID. Notes, faxes, email, and telephone calls will not be accepted. The principal has the responsibility of making a decision in the best interest of the student when emergency situations and unusual circumstances arise.

Tardies:

Tardies are defined as entering the school or classroom after the official start of the school day or class period. Tardies are not to be confused with check-in, which are a valid excused and approved entry into the school or class after the official start has begun.

When a student arrives late to school or to class, it disrupts the classroom, teachers, and other students from their rights as a teacher to teach and a student to learn without interruptions. While TCS recognizes that on occasion, unforeseeable events may occur that prevent a student from arriving to school or class on time, excessive tardiness will not be tolerated in the interest of all.

- Excessive tardies or unexcused check ins/outs from school in grades K-12 will be treated as truancy. Every fourth (4th) event will be counted as a discipline referral.
- Students in grades 6-12 that exceed three (3) tardies after the start of class (excluding homeroom or first period for DMS and DHS respectively) in a 9 week grading period will be subject to the consequences as described in the Level I Discipline Actions.

Notification of Parent or Guardian:

- Attendance letters will be mailed to parents/legal guardians of students after the 2nd and 4th unexcused absence.
- Tardies will be closely monitored and excessive reported to legal guardian.
- In keeping with the procedures of the Early Warning Program, maximum flexibility is allowed for principals and teachers to determine if absences are truancy cases before mailing the first notification to parent or guardian. All excuses must be documented in writing by the parent or guardian. The attendance officer or principal reserves the right, despite submission of such written excuse, to evaluate each case on its individual merits to determine if referral to the Early Warning Program is appropriate. Reasons for non-referral after the requisite number of absences shall be documented by the principal or his designee. Only those names listed on the Request for Early Warning Referral will be sent a letter from Juvenile Court Services to report to Early Warning session.
- The following protocol shall be followed by schools when absences occur:
 - Attempted phone contact upon the occurrence of any school absence.
 - Written notification upon the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) unexcused absence.
 - Conduct a pre-Early Warning Program conference upon the fifth (5th) unexcused absence. The parent, guardian, or person having control of the child shall attend the conference with the attendance officer and the principal. Failure to appear at the school conference will result in the filing of a complaint/petition against the parent under the Code of Alabama 1975 § 16-28-12(c).
 - Report the student and/or custodial adult to the Colbert County District Attorney's office as a Habitual Truant and/ or contributing to the delinquency of a minor as prescribed by Code of Alabama 1975 § 16-28-12(c). upon the seventh (7th) unexcused absence.

Early Warning Program:

- Purpose: The Early Warning Program is a school/community-based program to assist public school personnel, parents, and law enforcement personnel in providing for early intervention for children and youth who are truant or in danger of becoming truant. A child is truant if no explanation is provided for absences or the child

is absent for reasons other than those recognized as excusable.

- Description: The Early Warning Program is a cooperative effort involving the TCBOE, Colbert County Juvenile Court and, Colbert County Juvenile Probation Office.
- Procedure: Parents will be notified when truanancies have occurred. Per State Department guidelines, participation in the Early Warning Program is required. Should truanancies occur, the parent(s) and child may be summoned to a juvenile court session? Further truanancies could result in the filing of a petition.

Loss of Credit/Retention for Excessive Absences:

- When a student in grades K-12 has accumulated ten (10) or more unexcused absences per year, the principal shall evaluate the attendance record and may recommend retention. If such is the case, the parent/guardian and the System Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing in the event of retention.
- The attendance committee of each school shall be comprised of the school principal, counselor, and an administrator from the District Central Office
- A student who has been retained or lost credit because of noncompliance with attendance policies shall receive a Noncompliance Attendance (NCA) on the report card and all other records for that semester for that year.
- NCA loss of grades will be made up in the same manner other failures and retentions are made up.

Due Process Procedures:

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

Withdrawal for Non-Attendance:

Students under age six — Students under age six (6), who accumulate more than ten (10) consecutive days or 15 days total unexcused absences during a single semester may be withdrawn from TCS by the school administrator.

- The parent or guardian will be notified of pending withdrawal via certified mail by the School Principal.
- The parent/guardian will have five (5) school days to appear before the principal to show cause as to why the student should not be withdrawn.

Students age 18 or older — Students 18 years of age or older, who accumulate more than ten (10) consecutive days or 15 days total unexcused absences during a single semester may be withdrawn from TCS by the school administrator.

- The parent/guardian will be notified via certified mail of the Student Exit Interview Referral form by the School Principal along with a scheduled time to appear at the school
- The parent/guardian will have one week to appear before the principal to show cause as to why the student should not be withdrawn
- If the student has not returned to school after all measures are documented above, they will be withdrawn. The Guidance Counselor's office will provide this data to the State Department of Education.

Regulation 8.22: Guideline for Non-Resident Students

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

GUIDELINES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF NON-RESIDENT EMPLOYEES TO MAINTAIN ENROLLMENT IN TUSCUMBIA CITY SCHOOLS

The following guidelines shall be followed by the local school administrators when accepting and removing non-resident students and students of non-resident employees for Tuscumbia City Schools.

Definitions:

- **Non-Resident Students:** Those students whose parents or legal custodians live outside the city limits of Tuscumbia, Alabama.
- **Students of Non-Resident Employees:** Those students whose parents or legal custodians are employees of Tuscumbia City Board of Education and live outside the city limits of Tuscumbia, Alabama.
- **Legal Custodian:** That person or persons appointed or approved as legal custodians by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- **Residence:** The principle domicile of the parent/guardian and the student.

Proof of Residency:

As part of the enrollment process, the student's parent/legal guardian must provide **at least TWO (one of the items must be a lease agreement or mortgage statement)** of the items listed below to establish residency in the school zone.

- 1. Apartment or Home Lease/Mortgage Statement (required for enrollment)**
 - Lease agreement/receipt
 - Mortgage statement/receipt
- 2. Utility Bills or Deposit Receipts (no more than 45 days old)**
 - Electric bill or deposit receipt
 - Gas bill or deposit receipt
 - Telephone bill or deposit receipt
 - Water bill or deposit receipt
- 3. Property Tax Records or Deeds**
 - Deed
 - Tax receipt record
- 4. Income Tax Records**
 - Copy of W2 form
 - Copy of check from the IRS or Correspondence from the IRS
- 5. Employment Records**
 - Payroll check/stub with fixed name and address.
- 6. Registration Records**
 - Voter or Auto registration
- 7. Other Official Proof of Residence Documents**
 - Social Security records (check from the Social Security Office) or correspondence from other US Government Agencies

Employees:

Academic Standards:

In order for non-resident and students of non-resident employees to maintain enrollment in Tuscumbia City Schools they must meet the following academic standards:

1. Significant academic progress.
2. Fail no course/subject per quarter/semester/academic year.
3. Non-resident students and students of non-resident employees that fail to meet these academic standards may not be allowed to attend Tuscumbia City Schools beginning the quarter/semester after which the academic violation occurred.

Attendance Standards:

In order for non-resident students and students of non-resident employees to maintain enrollment in Tuscumbia City Schools they must meet the following attendance standard:

1. A non-resident student may not exceed 15 excused/unexcused absences at any time during the school year.
2. A non-resident may not exceed 10 tardies after the start of the school day during a semester (not to include tardies between classes).
3. In both cases, non-resident students that violate the attendance requirements may not be allowed to attend Tuscumbia City Schools beginning the quarter/semester after which the violation occurred.

Discipline Standards:

In order for a non-resident student and students of non-resident employees to maintain enrollment in Tuscumbia City Schools they must meet the following discipline standard:

- A non-resident student or a student of a non-resident employee may not exceed one out-of-school suspensions during the calendar school year.
- A non-resident student or a student of a non-resident employee may not exceed or one alternative school assignments during the calendar school year.
- A non-resident student that exceed one out of school suspensions or one alternative school assignments will not be allowed to attend Tuscumbia City Schools beginning the quarter/semester after which the discipline violations occurred or at the determination of the school principal.

Procedures For Resident Students That Move Out Of The City Limits Of Tuscumbia, Alabama:

- The principal of the school where the student is attending must be notified immediately of the change in residence status. Students that move out of the city must apply as a non-resident student the start of the next school year following their move. Failure to notify the school principal and attempts to circumvent this procedure will result in dismissal from Tuscumbia City Schools.
- Students who are enrolled at the time of the change in resident status and will immediately fall under the requirements for non-resident students. They must follow the "Procedures for Enrollment of New and Continuing Non-Resident Students" to be admitted the next school year.

Procedures For Enrollment Of New And Continuing Non-Resident Students:

Students who do not reside within the city limits of the City of Tuscumbia may apply for enrollment in the Tuscumbia City Schools.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all non-resident students who enroll with Tuscumbia City Schools will be assessed an out of district fee. All students who were enrolled with Tuscumbia City Schools at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and were in good standing, will be Grandfathered into the district. If there are gaps in enrollment, the Out of District fee must be paid prior to enrolling with Tuscumbia City Schools.

1. All students who were enrolled with Tuscumbia City Schools and in good standing at the end of the 2023-2024 school year are Grandfathered into the district. (No fee applied)
2. All students of current employees who are out of district will have their fee waived as long as they are employed with Tuscumbia City Schools regardless of when they enroll. (No fee applied)
3. All students who have gaps in enrollment (were enrolled with Tuscumbia City Schools and withdrew to another school system) must pay the out of district fee prior to enrolling with Tuscumbia City Schools.
4. All out of district fees must be paid in entirety prior to attendance.

Out of district student fees will be as follows:

1. 1st Student - \$300.00 per year
2. 2nd or more Students - \$150.00 per student/per year

All out-of-district applicants who are permitted to attend Tuscumbia City Schools shall complete school registration forms. Applications for out-of-district enrollment shall be considered on a "first-come, first-served" basis. In situations in which space is limited, priority will be given to a student who:

1. Was enrolled in a school in Tuscumbia City Schools the previous year;
2. Has a sibling enrolled at the requested school;
3. Has a parent or legal guardian employed by Tuscumbia City Schools.

Factors which may cause an out-of-district enrollment to be denied include:

1. A school, grade or program(s) has a lack of available space, staff or support services, taking in-district enrollment projections into consideration;
2. The school requested does not offer appropriate programs, is not structured or equipped with the necessary facilities to meet the needs of the student, or does not offer a particular program requested;
3. The student does not meet the established eligibility criteria for participation in a particular program including age requirements, course prerequisites, and required levels of academic performance;
4. The student has been suspended or expelled from school, or is in the process of being expelled;
5. The student has withdrawn from a school to avoid possible suspension or expulsion;
6. The student has a history of documented disciplinary infractions within the past three (3) years;
7. The student has been adjudicated or convicted of a crime;
8. The student has a record of excessive absences or truancy from school; or
9. Information on the enrollment application was misrepresented or incomplete.

The out-of-district approval process is as follows:

1. The parent or guardian must submit a completed application and provide any and all supplemental information requested by the District.
2. The receiving school principal and/or Special Education Director makes a recommendation to approve or not approve the enrollment application.
3. The recommendation is sent to the Superintendent.
4. The Superintendent approves or denies the request.
5. Out of district fee must be paid prior to attendance.

An approved application shall be valid for one year only. All non-residents must apply each year.

The Tuscumbia City School District reserves the right to revoke the enrollment status of an out-of-district student at any time because of unacceptable behavior or because of false, misleading or incomplete information on the enrollment application. In the event of a revocation, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of the circumstances which resulted in the revocation decision. There is no appeal process; the decision of the Superintendent is final. No refunds of out of district fees will be given.

Procedures To Revoke Admission Due To Overcrowding:

- Enrollment numbers will be monitored by grade and program. When overcrowding occurs the following process will be followed to reduce enrollment.
- Enrollment of non-resident student will be revoked in reverse order of item four of "Procedures for Enrollment of New Non-Resident Students". The last in first out method will be applied to priority three first*, priority two next** and priority one last***. Students that have their enrollment revoked due to overcrowding may complete the current semester that they are enrolled.

* First come, first selected for each grade based on date of enrollment application.

** Siblings of current non-resident students.

*** Students of non-resident employees.

Regulation 8.23: Definitions and Rules Relating to Formal Disciplinary Action

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

DEFINITIONS AND RULES RELATING TO FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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

Detention Hall:

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

In-School Suspension (ISS):

ISS is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated or removed from regular classroom activities for violations of the student Code of Conduct. The principal or his/her designated person(s) has the authority to assign students to ISS for a reasonable and specified period of time. Students referred to ISS will be required to complete all teacher assigned objectives during their scheduled ISS.

Saturday School Detention:

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

- The Saturday School administrator will have pupils sign in at 8:00 a.m. and out at 12 noon.
- Students will be allowed one mid-morning restroom break.
- Regular school dress code will be in effect.
- No food or drink will be allowed.
- No transportation will be provided by the school system.
- Each student will be required to bring his/her own school materials. School administrators may assign extra work assignments. Students who fail to bring their school materials will be assigned one additional day of Saturday School.
- Only the base school administrator may excuse a student from Saturday School detention in a documented emergency.
- Students who are assigned to Saturday School and fail to appear on the assigned Saturday will receive a 2 day ISS assignment.
- Students failing to arrive on time at 8:00 a.m. will be assigned one additional Saturday School.
- Disruptive behavior at Saturday School will result in immediate further disciplinary action.

Out of School Suspension (OSS):

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

- At the discretion of the principal, credit for major tests, nine-week tests, midterm exams, and final exams may be given to students who have been suspended during exam periods.
- Any single suspension shall not exceed ten school days without an administrative hearing by the superintendent or his designee. Any suspension of 10 or more days is considered "long term suspension".
- After an administrative hearing, the Superintendent or his designee may suspend the student until action is taken by the Board.
- A student being suspended will be informed of the reason for suspension, the number of suspension days, and appeal rights. A disciplinary action notice form will be provided to the custodial parent or legal guardian.

- The custodial parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to confer with the principal before the student is readmitted to school.
- Students suspended for any portion of the school day are not allowed to participate in or attend any school-related activities until reinstated by the school administrator.
- The Superintendent or designee will be notified of all suspensions.
- On the third (3) OSS referral, the student and legal guardian must meet with the Superintendent or his designee before readmission to TCS.
- The fourth (4) OSS referral will be referred to the Colbert County District Attorney's office for prosecution.
- A fifth (5) OSS assignment or if the offense is deemed severe enough to warrant; a recommendation will be made to the Tuscumbia City Board of Education for expulsion. The suspension will remain in effect until a board hearing has convened and decision has been determined.

Alternative School Placement:

The TCBOE operates the Tuscumbia City Alternative Program (TCAP) and the Behavior Intervention Center (BIC) to which students may be referred depending on the deficiency in the core credits for graduation or the severity and circumstances of conduct involved instead of receiving long-term suspension or expulsion. TCAP is not a form of punishment.

Students that require intensive interventions to recover lost credit or that commit a Class II or Class III violation, as defined by the Code of Conduct, or who repeatedly commit Class I or II violations such that they frequently disrupt the education of others may be referred by the school administrators. TCAP/BIC placement referrals may include a placement hearing.

TCAP/BIC is located on a separate part of DHS campus for all Tuscumbia students. Students who are assigned to BIC by their school administration may not attend any school related function during their referral. This includes, but is not limited to, all extracurricular activities including sport games and competitions, school dances, field trips, group class activities, graduation ceremonies, and other school activities. Students are expected to follow all guidelines and procedures established at the school. Upon a student's completion of his/her alternative school assignment and return back to the home school, the local school administrator will conduct a transition conference to support a successful new start.

Community Service:

TCBOE feels that punishment should also serve as an opportunity to improve, therefore, students may be given the choice in lieu of, or as combination with the above listed punishments, an opportunity to serve the community to improve themselves and the community they live in.

Expulsion:

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

Early Warning:

The Early Warning Program is a school/community-based program to assist public school personnel, parents, and law enforcement personnel in providing for early intervention for children and youth who are truant or in danger of becoming truant or for conduct. Students referred to Early Warning will be required to be accompanied by a parent or custodial adult to the scheduled early warning or make prior arrangements with the students' school principal or designee.

Juvenile Court Referral:

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

- Child In Need of Supervision (CHINS), for status offenders;

- Delinquent, for juveniles committing misdemeanors or felonies;
- Dependent, for abused or neglected juveniles. Students who are 18 years of age cannot be classified as juveniles, and, therefore, any court action will be through adult court.

Disciplinary Point System - Age of Student Eligibility:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each student over the age of 12 years who is enrolled in a public or private secondary school shall be subject to a disciplinary point system for an infraction committed on school property to determine the age at which the student shall be allowed to apply for a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, driver's license, or any license required by the State of Alabama for the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel. Alabama Code §32-6-7.4

Corporal Punishment:

Tuscumbia City Schools practices Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), a tiered approach to discipline management. However, the principal of a school is vested by the Code of Alabama 16-28A-3 with the authority to administer corporal punishment in conformance with Tuscumbia City School Board Policy 6.15 if it is determined that lower leveled interventions have been unsuccessful in behavior modification. Corporal punishment will only be used as an alternative to Out of School Suspensions and Parents/Guardians have signed a statement of Consent to Corporal Punishment available in the main office of each school.

Regulation 8.24: Classification of Violations

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/18/2024

CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS:

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

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

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into three classes: Class I, Class II, and Class III. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary action that is to be implemented by principals or their designee.

Parental contact (verbal and/or written) will be made as disciplinary consequences are assigned to a student for misconduct.

Class I Violations:

1.00 DISRUPTION OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT OR UNCOOPERATIVE BEHAVIOR - Any conduct and/or behavior which is disruptive to the orderly educational process in the classroom, or any similar grouping for instruction, which cannot be corrected by appropriate classroom management or refusal to comply with direction from an HCS employee or request to correct a misbehavior.

1.01 UNEXCUSED TARDIES - See the section on Tardies Tusculumbia City Schools -

1.02 BEHAVIOR INVOLVING VERBAL DISRESPECT OR INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE - Minor insults, name-calling, jeering, embarrassing statements, teasing, etc. (see bullying policy for definition of incidents rising to bullying and procedures for handling bullying)

1.03 BEHAVIOR INVOLVING PHYSICAL DISRESPECT OR CONTACT - Minor, not harmful physical poking, prodding, tripping, pulling, drawing on, horseplay, shoving, or other unwanted non-sexual physical contact

1.04 INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION - Single, minor incidents of consensual hugging, kissing, etc.

1.05 FAILURE TO BRING MATERIALS TO CLASS - Repeated incidents of not having required materials, not related to caregiver resources (e.g., parents not having funds available to purchase material).

1.06 UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO DEVICES OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY DEVICES/MATERIALS - see Technology Use Policy

1.07 NONCOMPLIANCE TO DRESS CODE - See the section on Dress Code

Disposition Options for Class I Infractions:

AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE TEACHER (must be matched to seriousness of problem behavior, presented in order of intensity):

- Redirection and verbal warning
- Ask students to take a break to calm down
- De-escalation techniques
- Teacher/student conferences
- Teacher/parent/guardian conferences

- Teacher/student/parent/guardian conferences
- Counseling services
- Instructional support will be used as is appropriate in an attempt to redirect student behavior.
- Loss of privileges
- Tier 2 interventions with Problem Solving Team involvement

Class II Violations:

2.00 DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY – Confrontational or derogatory response or non-compliant response to the directive given by an adult. Refusing to follow a reasonable request of a TCS employee.

2.01 POSSESSION OF LIGHTERS, MATCHES, AND OTHER SIMILAR/RELATED PRODUCTS – This includes anytime of device that could cause a fire hazard.

2.02 VERBAL ALTERCATION – An argument between individuals which disrupts the learning environment or has the potential to create a violent situation.

2.03 VANDALISM - Intentional and deliberate action resulting in or having the potential to result in damages less than \$200.00 to public property or the real estate or personal property of another. Restitution for TCS property will be required.

2.04 THEFT (amounts equal to or less than retail value of \$250) - The intentional taking and/or carrying away of property belonging to someone else without that person's express permission. Restitution will be required for theft of TCS property.

2.05 POSSESSION OF STOLEN OR LOST PROPERTY (amounts equal to or less than retail value of \$250) – Possession of any property that does not belong to the person in possession.

2.06 TRESPASSING - Willfully entering or remaining in any Tuscumbia City Board of Education structure, school bus, or school property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or having been authorized, licensed, or invited, is warned by an authorized person to depart and refuses to do so or who remains in a TCS structure, school bus or on Tuscumbia City School property without express permission of school authorities.

2.07 POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED ITEMS - Including but not limited to items that are distractions to the educational process and/or certain types of foods, drinks, or items which can be harmful (i.e. a single dose of medication based upon product directions, counterfeit money).

2.08 FAILURE TO SERVE SCHOOL-BASED DISCIPLINE ASSIGNMENT SUCH AS DETENTION, SATURDAY SCHOOL, ETC.

2.09 USE OF PROFANE, OBSCENE, DEROGATORY, OR INFLAMMATORY LANGUAGE OR GESTURES TOWARD ANOTHER STUDENT OR AS A GENERAL CONVERSATION, OUTBURST, OR STATEMENT/GESTURE

2.10 FALSE INFORMATION - Intentionally providing false information to a School Board employee including giving false student information or concealment of information directly relating to school business. Intentionally providing false or misleading information or withholding information regarding a school investigation. Submitting false/forged documents, including but not limited to absence excuses, tardy slips, excuse slips, report cards, hall passes, field trip forms, notes from parents or guardians, or any other material required by the school.

2.11 IDENTIFICATION WITH OR PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL OR AT SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES IN AN UNAUTHORIZED ORGANIZATION OR GROUP – Including but not limited to groups, gangs, or clubs which exhibit or promote drug use, violence, criminal or disruptive behavior. Prohibited activity shall also include, but not be limited to, wearing clothing or other attire which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol of an unauthorized organization or group, the possession of writings or drawings that indicate affiliation with unauthorized organizations or groups, and the use of gestures or signals which indicate affiliation with unauthorized organizations or groups.

2.12 BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, VIOLENCE, AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE OF A STUDENT OR ADULT - Verbal or nonverbal behavior that causes physical and/or emotional harm to another or disrupts the learning environment.

Such behavior may include, but is not limited to, teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, stealing or destroying personal property. (Refer to Board Policy 6.22 Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying)

2.13 VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT NETWORK ACCESS AND ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT OR VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Students must not access or intentionally attempt to circumvent the school's computer filtering or security system; the unauthorized use, misuse, and/or abuse of the school computer equipment or network.
- Students must not install or download a computer program from any source outside the school without authorization from the principal/instructor.
- Sending inappropriate messages and/or images via electronic communication devices or any other form of technology, whether personally owned or owned by the school district, at any time may result in serious school, personal, and/or civil or criminal legal consequences. There is an expectation of privacy in restrooms, locker rooms, and performance areas; therefore, cell phones or other recording devices are banned from use in these areas.
- Any other offense in the use of technology the principal may deem falls in Class II.

2.14 POSSESSION OR ACCESSING VIA THE USE OF SCHOOL RESOURCES TO INCLUDE EQUIPMENT AND/OR DISTRICT WI-FI OF OBSCENE, PORNOGRAPHIC, OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL

2.15 THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (such as cell phones, cell phone accessories including earbuds and headphones, computers, or wearable). Students are not permitted to use wireless/electronic devices at school without express permission from the school principal or designee.

2.16 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY - Copying, sharing, and/or using another's work without the teacher's permission; using materials on quizzes/tests without the teacher's permission; and sharing of material through the use of electronic devices without the teacher's permission are examples of academic dishonesty.

2.17 GAMBLING - Any participation in unauthorized games of chance or unauthorized possession of items used in games of chance.

2.18 CLASS II BUS SAFETY INFRACTION All bus infractions are listed as Class II violations based on the seriousness of safety issues that may arise.

2.19 INTENTIONAL PHYSICAL AGGRESSION - Incident of physical aggression including hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing that causes physical harm.

2.20 BEING TRUANT FROM CLASS OR SCHOOL - Not being in the scheduled location at the scheduled time for the scheduled duration, i.e. "Skipping".

2.21 MULTIPLE OR CONTINUOUS CLASS I OFFENSES Multiple or Continuous Class 1 Offenses - Documented, repeated Class I violations. Class I Violations are reset and the student starts with a zero balance when he/she successfully completes a 9 week grading period without receiving a Class I violation:

- a. Multiple or Continuous Tardies
- b. Multiple or Continuous Dress Code Violations

2.22 INCITING, PROMOTING, PUBLICIZING, OR PARTICIPATING IN A STUDENT DISORDER - Leading, encouraging, or assisting in disruptions to the environment that do not result in damage of private or public property or personal injury to participants or others.

2.24 CONSENSUAL EXCESSIVE OR REPEATED INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION OR INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT - Excessive or repeated hugging, touching, or kissing.

2.25 PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION OR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION THAT SERIOUSLY COMPROMISES A SCHOOL INVESTIGATION AND/OR HAS THE POTENTIAL TO COMPROMISE THE SAFETY OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL

2.26 UNJUSTIFIED ACTIVATION OF A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

2.27 PARKING VIOLATIONS – Not following parking guidelines and regulations.

2.28 ANY OTHER VIOLATION WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM FALLS IN THIS CLASS

Disposition Options for Class II Infractions:

AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE ADMINISTRATION WITH REQUIRED PARENT NOTIFICATION. (should be matched to seriousness of infraction and are presented in order of intensity):

- ADMINISTRATIVE INTERVENTION
- PARENT CONFERENCE
- SUPERVISED PLAN FOR CORRECTION OF MISBEHAVIOR
- COUNSELING
- CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
- TIER 2, PROBLEM-SOLVING INTERVENTIONS
- DETENTION
- INTENSIVE SCHOOL SUPERVISION (ISS)
- EXTENDED OR PERMANENT BUS SUSPENSION
- SATURDAY SCHOOL
- LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES
- OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)
- RESTITUTION FOR TCS PROPERTY
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES
- SUPERVISED SCHOOL ASSIGNED COMMUNITY SERVICE
- LIMITED ACCESS TO OR REVOKE TECHNOLOGY
- BIC PLACEMENT

Class III Violations:

Misconduct that violates local, state, and/or federal laws and which occurs at school, on a school bus, at a school-sponsored activity or such misconduct occurring off-campus that threatens or results in substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities may result in notification of the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Board reserves the right to file charges and to prosecute students engaged in conduct which violates local, state, or federal laws. If a student is arrested and charged with a felony or with a drug, alcohol, or weapons related misdemeanor, the school's disciplinary procedures, up to and including expulsion, may be implemented. Unless otherwise modified in connection with Alabama Code 16-1-24.3, the Superintendent will recommend expulsion of students, for a period of one year, who are determined to have brought to school or have in their possession a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on school buses, or at other school-sponsored functions. Firearms, as defined by the Alabama State Department of Education Prevention and Support Services, is as follows: A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapons, any firearm muffler, or firearm silencer, any destructive device; or any machine gun. A destructive device is any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe bomb, or similar device containing some type of explosive that is designed to explode and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage. Includes firearms of any kind (loaded or unloaded). Includes, but is not limited to, handgun, zip gun, pistol, rifle, shotgun, starter gun, and a flare gun.

3.00 ALCOHOL – Unauthorized possession, transfer, use or sale of alcoholic beverages; intent to use, buy, or sell alcoholic beverages; being under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

3.01 DRUGS/DRUG PARAPHERNALIA – Unauthorized possession, transfer, use or sale of drugs or drug paraphernalia; intent to use, buy, or sell drugs/drug paraphernalia; being under the influence of drugs. “Drugs” also includes all illegal controlled substances, synthetic drugs, prescription drugs, more than a single dose based on product directions of over-the-counter medications, and over-the-counter medications that must be released for purchase by a pharmacist or the sale of which is restricted based on the purchaser’s age. Possession of any other substance which might create a hazard to the user’s health or safety or the health or safety of another is prohibited.

3.02 ARSON – The burning of any part of a building or its contents and/or other school property or the property of a person on school grounds or school buses.

3.03 ASSAULT UPON A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE– Physical aggression towards or the intentional touching or striking of a school board employee against his/her will or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a school board employee.

3.04 ROBBERY – Taking money or other property from a person by force and/or intimidation.

3.05 THEFT/LARCENY (amounts EXCEEDING retail value of \$250) – The intentional taking and/or carrying away of property belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another. Restitution will be required for theft/larceny of TCS property.

3.06 AGGRAVATED MISCHIEF – Willful and malicious injury or serious damage to public property, or to real or personal property belonging to another. Restitution will be required for TCS property.

3.07 ILLEGAL SCHOOL ENTRY – Breaking, entering or remaining in a Tuscumbia School structure or school vehicles without permission or justification during the hours the premises are closed to the public.

3.08 POSSESSION OF FIREARMS – Discharge, possession, transfer, or sale of any gun or any firearm or any device which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile; any similar destructive device. Using a firearms facsimile in a manner which is perceived as threatening or capable of inflicting physical harm. A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapons, any firearm muffler, or firearm silencer, any destructive device; or machine gun. A destructive device is any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe bomb, or similar device containing some type of explosive that is designed to explode and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage. Includes firearms of any kind (loaded or unloaded). Includes, but is not limited to, handgun, zip gun, pistol, rifle, shotgun, starter gun, or flare gun. AL Code 16-1-24.3 – All City and County Boards of Education shall develop and implement local policies and procedures requiring the expulsion of students, for a period of one year, who are determined to have brought to school or have in their possession a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on school buses, or at other school-sponsored functions.

3.09 POSSESSION OR USE OF A KNIFE - Possession of a knife including but not limited to: pocket knives, switchblades, hunting knives, razor blades, or box cutters. Reported or discovered possession of any knife or object which can be used in a threatening manner and is capable of inflicting physical harm.

3.10 POSSESSION OR USE OF PROHIBITED OBJECTS - Possession or use of a gun, other than a firearm (including, but not limited to, "BB" gun, pellet gun, paintball gun/marker, or airsoft gun), metal knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon, mace or any type tactical spray/weapon, or device, martial arts weapon, projectile device including, but not limited to, slingshot, crossbow, taser, or any other similar object; possession or use of any other object that can be used as a weapon or dangerous instrument. Possession of an unidentified or unidentifiable substance.

3.11 BOMB THREATS – Any such communication(s) which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment.

3.12 EXPLOSIVES – Preparing, possessing, or igniting on School Board property, explosives (including live projectiles) which have the potential to cause bodily injury or property damage.

3.13 POSSESSION OF FIREARMS FACSIMILES - Discharge, possession, transfer, or sale of any facsimile or toy-type replica of a firearm or any other item resembling a firearm.

3.14 SEXUAL OR LEWD ACTS – Acts of a sexual or lewd nature including, but not limited to, battery, intercourse, attempted rape, rape, or indecent exposure.

3.15 ASSAULT UPON STUDENT OR OTHER PERSON – Intentionally striking another student or other person against that person's will.

3.16 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT – Intentionally causing bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a weapon or other instrument causing physical harm.

3.17 ANY OTHER OFFENSE WHICH IS REASONABLY LIKELY TO CAUSE HARM TO PERSON OR PROPERTY OR SERIOUSLY DISRUPT THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

3.18 AGGRAVATED BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, VIOLENCE, AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE OF A STUDENT OR ADULT- A threat to do bodily harm or violence to another student by word or act; a threat to kill, maim or inflict bodily harm; a threat to inflict harm involving the use of any weapon, explosive, firearm, knife, prohibited object, or other object which is capable of inflicting bodily harm; Refer to Policy 6.22 Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act Policy.

Threat, Harassment, Bullying, or Intimidation that occur off campus but not at school activities/events but which disrupts the school learning environment in any way are subject to investigation and discipline by school administrators.

3.19 THREATS TO EXTORT - Any communication maliciously threatens an injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or any monetary advantage whatsoever; or with the intent to compel the person so threatened, or any other person, to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will.

3.20 EXTORTION – Compelling someone by threat or physical injury to pay money or otherwise do an act or refrain from doing an act against his/her will.

3.21 INCITING, PROMOTING, PUBLICIZING, OR PARTICIPATING IN A MAJOR STUDENT DISORDER – Leading, encouraging, or assisting in disruptions which result in destruction or damage of private or public property or personal injury to participants or others.

3.22 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A COMPUTER OR COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH RESULTS IN, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING: Students must not use or possess, on or off school property, a computer program capable of modifying or destroying other school programs or school data. Prohibited programs include but are not limited to "Virus," "Trojan Horse," and the like. Students must not use or possess, on or off school property, a computer program designed to access, read, or modify the security system installed on the information networks of Tuscumbia City Schools. Students must not modify or attempt to modify any program or data belonging to Tuscumbia City Schools. Students must not delete or attempt to delete any program or data other than their own. Students must not attempt to disrupt the networks through vandalism. Vandalism includes the destruction and/or theft of hardware, software, data, or files of another user. Malicious attempts to harm, modify, or destroy technology resources could result in suspension, expulsion, legal action, restitution, and prosecution by authorities.

Students must not use the school network or personal technology to break laws involving theft, identity theft, and distribution of stolen and/or illegal items. Other electronic device and/or network violations the principal may deem falls in Class III. Technology Acceptable Use Agreement can be found on the Tuscumbia City Schools PowerSchool site.

3.23 POSSESSION/USE/LIGHTING OR OTHERWISE DISCHARGING OF FIREWORKS, FIRECRACKERS, STINK BOMBS, BULLETS, OR OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES - Possession or use of any device/object that can cause injury or creates a situation of panic, fear, threat, or other potentially unsafe environment

3.24 DIRECTING OBSCENE OR PROFANE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES TOWARD A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE OR ANY OTHER ADULT AT THE SCHOOL

3.25 HAZING AT SCHOOL OR AT SCHOOL SANCTIONED EVENTS, WHICH IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- Any willful action taken or situation created which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any student.
- Any willful act by any person alone or acting with others in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming; or threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise or maim or to do or threaten or attempt to do physical violence to any student of any educational institution or any assault upon any such student made for the purpose of committing any of the acts or producing any of the results to such student as defined herein.

3.26 DISPLAY OR DISTRIBUTION OF OBSCENE, PORNOGRAPHIC, OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL – Including having this material visible where others can intentionally or unintentionally see it.

3.27 IMITATION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – Unauthorized possession, transfer, use or sale of a substance other than a drug, which, by dosage unit, appearance (including color, size, shape, and markings), and/or by representations made, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is a controlled substance.

3.28 CLASS 3 BUS SAFETY INFRACTION – Any act on a school bus that has the potential to cause harm to the passengers, driver, or property surrounding the bus, as well as, any Class III infraction occurring on a bus or at a bus stop.

3.29 SEXUAL HARASSMENT INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: OFFENSIVE TOUCHING WITH SEXUAL CONNOTATIONS, WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROPOSITIONS, ENGAGEMENT IN SEXUAL ACTS, USE OF OBSCENE MANIFESTATIONS (VERBAL, WRITTEN, GESTURE) TOWARD ANOTHER PERSON - Unwanted verbal, non-verbal, and/or physical contact of a sexual nature that occurs on multiple occasions or multiple times on one occasion or is of such a serious nature that it creates an environment of sexual harassment for another person or group of people.

3.30 CONTINUED ACTIVITIES THAT INDICATE GANG INVOLVEMENT AND WHICH CAUSE DISRUPTION ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS, THE SCHOOL BUS, AND/OR SCHOOL- SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

3.31 FIGHTING - 2 or more students in physical conflict; potential/actual injury; potential/actual escalation involving other students; potential/actual major disruption

3.32 THREAT OF OR ACT OF TERRORISM – the act or threat to commit a crime of violence or the act or threat to cause bodily injury to another person and terrorization as the result of the proscribed conduct. Notification of law enforcement is required.

3.33 ANY OTHER VIOLATION WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY REASONABLY DEEM FALLS IN THIS CLASS

3.34 ANY SUBSTANCE WITH ALCOHOL CONTENT – Unauthorized possession, transfer, use, or sale of a substance with alcohol content; intent to use, buy, or sell any substance with alcohol content.

3.35 POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF TOBACCO OR CBD PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES, VAPES, AND OTHER SIMILAR/RELATED PRODUCTS – Unidentified substances intended to be used with electronic cigarettes and/or vapes may be classified as a drug and coded as a Class III.

Disposition Options for Class III Infractions:

AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE ADMINISTRATION (not ranked in order and can be more than one) REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASS III DISPOSITIONS – Parent/Guardian notification and face-to-face parent/guardian conference in addition to one or more of the following dispositions:

- Long-Term OSS
- Behavior Intervention Center Placement - Days must be earned according to behavior system
 - 1ST OFFENSE: 10 days
 - 2ND OFFENSE: 15 days
 - 3RD OFFENSE: number of days based on offense and student disciplinary record
 - MAY EXTEND IF STUDENT IS NONCOMPLIANT reset of future BIC placements will occur if a student goes 2 years from the date of the last Class III infraction without committing another Class III Offense.
 - Behavioral Intervention Center placement may be determined by the Administration based on the severity of the infraction.
- RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION
- NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AS APPROPRIATE AND AS THE LAW REQUIRES (see it's the Law)
- PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM SCHOOL BUS
- RESTITUTION FOR TCS PROPERTY - in addition to other consequences(s)
- REVOKE TECHNOLOGY
- PROHIBITION OF ATTENDING SCHOOL ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES (I.E. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES,

GRADUATION)

Regulation 8.25: Fighting

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/18/2024

FIGHTING:

- Students in grades 6-12 involved in a fight during the school day or at school-related functions are subject to these consequences:
 - First fight – 10 days Behavior Intervention Center Placement
 - Second fight – 15 days Behavior Intervention Center Placement
 - Third fight – based on offense and student disciplinary record

 - If a student fights while in Behavior Intervention Center Placement, his/her placement there shall be extended.

 - Consequences for fighting listed above are cumulative for students in grades 6-12. For example, if a student in grade seven is involved in his/her first fight, the second fight – even if it occurs in grade eight or above – may require additional days in the Behavior Intervention Center.

 - Depending upon the severity of the fight, the principal retains discretion to file charges.
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Regulation 8.26: Threat Assessment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

THREAT ASSESSMENT:

Protocol:

The purpose of this protocol is to establish a procedure for members of the Tusculumbia School System and community to work together to recognize and assess threats of violence in a school setting and, if possible, to prevent acts of violence from occurring. The protocol is intended to help school administrators and law enforcement officials identify credible threats of violence, establish procedures for addressing them, and develop guidelines for follow-up once a threat has occurred. Threatened Act of Violence: Any threat or action that suggests the possibility that serious physical injury or death may be caused to another. Procedure: The following procedure is separated into several sections to highlight the responsibilities of different members of the school community.

- Any student, parent or guardian, or school staff member, upon receiving information that a person is threatening to commit an act of violence, shall:
 - Assume the threat is serious;
 - Immediately report the threat to a school administrator or law enforcement officer;
 - Take measures to preserve the evidence;
 - Be available and cooperative in providing a statement of information, with the understanding that the information source will remain anonymous to the greatest extent possible.

- Any school administrator, upon receiving information that a person is threatening to commit an act of violence, shall:
 - Assume the threat is serious
 - Arrange for threat assessment interviews to be conducted

- The SRO/police officer, upon receiving information that a person is threatening to commit an act of violence or upon notification from a school administrator that a threat to commit an act of violence has occurred, shall:
 - Assume the threat is serious;
 - Immediately notify a school administrator and provide complete information;
 - Work with the school administrator to make arrangements for the threat assessment interviews to be completed.

Interviews:

The primary purpose of the interviews are to engage in an assessment of the available information in an attempt to determine the veracity of the threat in order to decide what level of follow-up action is needed and appropriate.

- The school administrator will make arrangements for the threat assessment interview to be conducted at the time of the threat or as closely to the time of the threat as possible.
- Administrators will work with law enforcement personnel to determine an appropriate time to conduct the assessment if law enforcement determines there is need/cause for immediate removal of the student from the school campus.

Once the assessment is complete, the SRO/police officer and school administrator shall convene privately to discuss the threat and consider options for further assessment and follow-up action. If the result of the threat assessment indicates that the threat is credible, school administrators will follow standard procedures regarding disciplinary actions for the student, notification of the parent, etc. Tusculumbia City Schools will cooperate with law enforcement and diligently seek criminal prosecution for any incident involving threats of violence. If the result of the threat

assessment indicates that the threat is not credible, the school administrator will determine if any further action is necessary and contact the parents/guardians of the students involved in the incident.

Regulation 8.27: Student Services and Empowerments

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

STUDENT SERVICES AND EMPOWERMENTS:

To ensure Tusculumbia City School students are provided a complete and diverse educational experience, these services, empowerments and expectations are provided:

Guidance Services:

Personal concerns of students can seriously limit or enhance educational development. Schools have the responsibility to provide a guidance program and to make relevant and objective information available in such a manner that it will enhance educational development. Students have the right to know of the guidance services available to them at their schools and the responsibility to use the guidance services available for them to benefit the educational and personal improvement.

Special Education:

Children ages 3-21 who reside within the school district and are suspected of having a disability should be referred to Tusculumbia City Schools' special education department for evaluation. Students identified as having a disability will be provided a free appropriate public education and any required related services.

Problem Solving Teams (PSTs) and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS):

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

(PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture and needs for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Expected student behaviors in all school setting are taught and reinforced through a continuum of instruction, modeling, reinforcements, supports, and interventions all focused on a positive and productive learning environment and experience for all TCS stakeholders.

- PST and PBIS Team members could include the following:
- Teachers
- Instructional Coaches (Reading, Literacy, Math, Graduation, etc.)
- School Counselor

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

Curriculum:

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

Student Responsibilities are:

- To request participation in academic programs and extracurricular activities that are compatible with ability.
- To seek assistance in course selection from informed professionals in the school.
- To contribute to an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- To cooperate fully and exert every effort to achieve mastery of the basic skills.

Student Rights are:

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

Free Speech/Expression:

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

Student Responsibilities are:

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

Student Rights are:

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

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Integrity means to integrate one's values and beliefs into every activity that is undertaken. The Tuscumbia City School District believes that honesty is right and that stealing and cheating are wrong. Academic integrity means doing one's own work to the best of one's ability, without the unauthorized help or assistance of someone else.

Therefore, in an effort to foster academic integrity in all Tuscumbia City students, this honor code has been created to help students recognize, understand, and practice ethical conduct with regard to their academic assignments.

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

- Cheating: copying another student's work, and is inclusive of both giving and receiving information on an academic assignment.
- Plagiarism: defined as either the intentional or unintentional use of another person's words, ideas, or data without providing the proper acknowledgement of the source through quotations, references, or footnotes.
- Fabrication/Falsification: scenario in which one either invents or distorts the origin or content of information used as authority. This is inclusive of citing a source that does not exist, citing information from a source that does not actually contain the information that was cited, as well as listing a bibliography source when the

source was neither referenced nor cited in the assignment. Generally, when academic assignments are made, the expectation is that each student will do their own work without the help or assistance of others. Exceptions to this expectation might include group projects in which the teacher authorized certain students to work together on a particular assignment. When instances of academic dishonesty have been discovered, typically, either reduced credit or possibly no credit (i.e., a “zero”) will be awarded. Further, instances of academic dishonesty will be documented in the student’s individual conduct file, and additional consequences may also be assigned as applicable to the particular incident.

Grades:

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

Student Responsibilities are:

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

Student Rights are:

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

Privacy and Property Rights:

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

Student Responsibilities are:

To attend school-related activities without bringing materials or objects prohibited by law or Board policy or which detract from the educational process.

To respect the property rights of their fellow students, as well as those of others, on school grounds or at school activities, and to refrain from destruction of, or damage to, such property.

Student Rights are:

To maintain privacy of personal possessions unless appropriate school personnel have reasonable cause to believe a student possesses any object or material which is prohibited by law or Board policy.

To attend school in an educational environment in which personal property is respected.

Student Records:

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

Student and Parent/Guardian Responsibilities are:

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

Student and Parent/Guardian Rights are:

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

Student Publications:

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

Student Responsibilities are:

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

Student Rights are:

- To participate, as part of the educational process, in the development and distribution of publications.
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Regulation 8.28: Grading Procedures

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/18/2024

GRADING PROCEDURES:

General Grading Scale:

Grades for academic coursework will be awarded according to the following scale:

Grading Scale		Quality Points	
Letter Grade	Course Average	Regular	Advanced Placement/Honors/Dual Enrollment
A	>100	Cannot Exceed 100	5
	90-100	4	5
B	80-89	3	4
C	70-79	2	3
D	60-69	1	2
F	0-59	0	0

*Note: The maximum number of points allowed for grading purposes is one hundred (100). "I" (Incomplete) is not to be inserted in lieu of a grade without principal's approval and proper documentation.

Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and Honors (Must be Board Approved):

Numerical grades in Advanced Placement (AP) courses (approved by the College Board) and Dual Enrollment courses (approved by the Board) will be weighted by adding ten (10) points to the final grade. (The addition of points for AP courses is contingent upon students taking the AP Exam.) Honors courses (approved by the Board) will be weighted by adding five (5) points to the final grade.

Failing Grade:

Any grade lower than 59.4 will be considered a failing grade. In grades K-8 multiple failing grades in core subject areas will result in the student failing the grade. In grades 9-12, failing grades in core subject areas will result in the student repeating the course in a board approved summer school setting or traditional course offering.

- Rounding: Any fractional part .5 (1/2) or over will be rounded up to the next whole number (examples: 90.5 = 91, 89.5 = 90, etc.).

Grading:

Excessive Absences:

Excessive unexcused absences may result in a loss of academic credit and/or referral of the student and parent to the Colbert County Juvenile Court for habitual truancy as per the Alabama Code §16-28-14. Tuscumbia City Schools Board Policy Code of Conduct, Regulations Governing Attendance 9.J. Extenuating circumstances will be considered if the parent petitions the building principal and Director of Student Services for Tuscumbia City Schools.

Grade Categories and Weighting Grades 6-12:

There shall be two different categories for each course, Test and Daily. The Test category shall be weighted at 60% of the nine week, semester, or yearly grade. The Daily category shall be weighted at 40% of the nine week, semester, or yearly grade.

Grade Categories and Weighting Grades K-5:

There shall be two different categories for each course, Test and Daily. The Test category shall be weighted at 60% of the nine week, semester, or yearly grade. The Daily category shall be weighted at 40% of the nine week, semester, or yearly grade.

Grade Justification Grades 6-12:

Each teacher must always be able to provide evidence (graded materials) to justify a grade given on an assignment for each nine weeks, semester, or year. Students must be assigned a minimum of 18 grades per subject area, of which there should be a minimum of 4 tests per grading period. (Tests may be used in the form of chapter tests, unit tests, essays, projects, and any other content comprehensive assignment as determined by the teacher.) **Exceptions: Physical Education, Choral, and Band*

Grade Justification Grades K-5:

Each teacher must always be able to provide evidence (graded materials) to justify a grade given on an assignment for each nine weeks, semester, or year. Students must be assigned a minimum of 10 grades per subject area, of which, there should be a minimum of 3 tests per grading period. (Tests may be used in the form of chapter tests, unit tests, essays, projects, and any other content comprehensive assignment as determined by the teacher.) **Exceptions: Elementary Physical Education, Music, and Conduct*

Course Standards:

All grades used for determination of a student's grade must be on grade level standards and IEPs followed if the student has a current IEP.

Progress Monitoring:

Teachers must continuously monitor the progress of students in their classroom. Any student that is in danger of failing a subject must be referred to the school's Problem Solving Team in order to determine the best possible methods to ensure standards for the course are mastered. Research has determined that one of the best methods for ensuring standards are met is through re-teaching of the content. Teachers must ensure that standards met and not met are re-taught throughout the year through new or comprehensive assessments administered to all students.

Digital Gradebook:

Every cell that is identified as a gradable assignment for a student must have a grade listed. If the assignment is not submitted on time or the student was absent on the day of the assignment, a grade of "0" (zero) must be entered. Any student with a valid excuse may make up the work according to the guidelines specifically stated in the Tuscumbia City Schools Code of Conduct.

****All digital gradebooks must be updated weekly by the teacher of record.***

Assignments:

Each graded assignment must be recorded in the digital gradebook. The importance of an activity or test should be reflected in the value assigned to it in the overall evaluation design and communicated to the class.

Excused Absences: Students who have missed assignments based on excused absences will have three (3) days, upon return to school, to communicate with the teacher of record and develop a plan in which to make up the work missed. It is the responsibility of the student, parent, or guardian to arrange with the teacher to make-up work.

Unexcused Absences:

Students who miss school due to unexcused absences will receive a grade of zero for any graded assignment missed. For further clarification, please see the Tuscumbia City Schools Code of Conduct.

Promotion/Retention:

Retention in Grades K-5: Promotion-Standards for promotion are designed to ensure that students have successfully acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to be promoted to the next grade. The standards shall ensure uniformity and consistency within the Tuscumbia City School System. Students in kindergarten must meet the identified Alabama State Course of Study Standards and be proficient at a level determined by the teacher, school interventionist, and building principal. Unless otherwise specified by the State of Alabama, Students in the 1st through 5th grades are required to have a 60% average in four of the five following areas with Reading, Language, and Math being three of the four areas.

Promotion in Grades K-5:

Standards for promotion are designed to ensure that students have successfully acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to be promoted to the next grade. The Standards shall ensure uniformity and consistency within the Tuscumbia City School System. Students in kindergarten must meet the identified Alabama State Course of Study Standards and be proficient at a level determined by the teacher, school interventionist, and building principal. Students in the 1st through 5th grades are required to have a 60% average in four of the five following areas with Reading, Language, and Math being three of the four areas to be considered for promotion to the next grade.

**Reading, Language, Mathematics + Science and /or Social Studies*

Retention in Grades 6-12:

Students in grades 6-8 who do not successfully complete each subject area with a minimum grade of 60% may be retained. Promotion of students in grades 6-8 shall be determined by successful completion of English, Math, and at least one other core subject. Students in grades 9-12 who do not successfully complete each core subject area with a minimum grade of 60% will be required to retake the course either in a Board approved summer school (highest grade to be awarded may not exceed 70%) or through the traditional school setting.

Placement:

Students may be placed to the next grade level at the discretion of the building principal. Understanding that not all students excel at the same level, Tuscumbia City Schools wishes to ensure that all students have the opportunity to grow academically. Students who are placed to the next grade will start the year under the supervision of the local schools Problem Solving Team until the student has demonstrated sufficient academic progress.

Calculation of Final Grade in Grades 6-12:

The final grade for a one credit class will be determined based on 40% for each nine weeks grade and 20% for the final exam (40% + 40% + 20%) for semester long courses. The final grade for a one credit yearlong class will be determined based on 40% for each semester grade and 20% for the final exam (40% + 40% + 20%). The final grade for half credit classes will be determined based on 80% for the nine weeks grade and 20% for the final exam (80% + 20%). If a student has earned an exemption the final grade will be calculated based on 50% of each semester for a yearlong course (50%+50%) and 50% of each nine week course for a semester long course (50%+50%).

Calculation of Final Grade in Grades K-5:

Nine weeks grades are determined by calculating averages based on 60% tests and 40% daily work. The final grade for each subject area will be determined based on the average of the quarterly grades.

Progress Reports/Report Cards:

Students, parents, and guardians will utilize the digital gradebook system provided by the Alabama State Department of Education in the Parent Portal to monitor their student's progress. Students, parents, and guardians without the use of proper technology will be afforded an opportunity for a paper copy of each progress report and report card. Report cards will be printed and sent home with students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Report cards will not be printed for students in sixth through twelfth grades. If you need a report card/progress report printed please call your student's school and request a copy. The Parent Portal can be found on our district and school website.

Regulation 8.29: Additional Policies and Procedures

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/18/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/18/2024

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Participation in Graduation Ceremonies and Class Recognition Programs:

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

Extra-Curricular Activities Participation:

Participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities is a privilege offered to all students enrolled in Tuscumbia City Schools. Students that participate in TCS offered activities represent their school and their community and must be held to the highest standards. Students, therefore, must meet and maintain the established AHSAA academic standards and attendance and behavior standards established by the school administration, head coach or sponsor of each recognized extra-curricular activity. Students may be ruled ineligible to participate for continued failure to meet the expected standards.

Extra-Curricular Activities Eligibility:

Extra-curricular programs are defined as athletic activities (i.e., sports, cheerleading and other activities governed by the Rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association) and those activities sanctioned by Tuscumbia City Schools for which a sponsor/director/coach/advisor has been assigned (i.e., clubs, teams, organizations, events, performances and/or competitions related to band, choral music, mathematics, science, foreign languages, social studies, and other courses as well as club conventions, parades, amusement park trips, trips by touring groups, etc.).

Students participating in extra-curricular activities are subject to random drug screening as required by Tuscumbia City Board of Education policy. All first-time seventh graders are eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities. Grades earned in grades 8-12 during the school year and in summer school, if applicable, determine the eligibility of a student in those grades. Students entering grades 8 and 9 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school, if applicable, have a passing grade in any five (5) subjects with a composite numerical average of 70. Students entering grades 10-12 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school, if applicable, have a passing grade in six (6) subjects, including the four (4) core subjects, with a composite numerical average of 70. Summer schoolwork passed may substitute for regular schoolwork repeated in computing the 70 average.

Search and Seizure Policies:

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. This can include specially trained dogs and metal detectors. As used in this policy, the term "unauthorized" means any item dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to the students. A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Personal Searches:

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

search of the student's person may be conducted. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only upon the prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

Locker Searches:

Student lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Periodic general inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. Students shall not be issued lockers until such time that the "Acknowledgment Concerning Use of Student Lockers" form has been properly completed and returned to the school. Such forms shall be maintained on file at the school.

Vehicle Searches:

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of student vehicles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized, and/or contraband materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. Students shall not be allowed to park vehicles on campus until such time that the "Acknowledgment Concerning Use of Student Parking Lots" form has been properly completed and returned to the school. Such forms shall be maintained on file at the school. Searches Involving Outside Personnel, Dogs, and/or Detection Devices. Searches of students which involve outside (non-school) personnel, dogs, and/or detection devices are permitted and will be conducted when appropriate.

Seizure of Illegal Materials:

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

Documentation:

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

Grievance Procedures:

The Tuscumbia City Board of Education recognizes that harmonious relations with students, parents, and employees can be maintained and improved through open, honest and effective communication. The interest of all parties can best be served by sincere efforts of all concerned to promote understanding and cooperation. Therefore, the Tuscumbia City Board of Education has adopted the following grievance procedures for students, parents and employees to follow as a means of examining and, hopefully, resolving problems that may occur between or among the parties from time-to-time.

1. Informal Attempt at Resolution:

Many problems can be solved by an informal meeting with the parties and the principal, coordinator, immediate supervisor or any other person(s) that help resolve the complaint. An individual with a complaint is encouraged to first discuss it with the teacher, counselor, building administrator or other person(s) involved with the objective of resolving the matter promptly and informally. Employees with a complaint are encouraged to first discuss it with their principal or immediate supervisor with the same objective. An exception is that complaints of sexual harassment should be discussed with the first-line supervisor or administrator who is not involved in the alleged harassment.

If resolution of the complaint is not found though the informal attempt, the complainant has ten (10) days to initiate Step I of the formal process. Grievance Procedure forms may be provided by the Tuscumbia City Board of

Education.

II. Formal Steps Toward Resolution:

STEP I: Any complainant who has a grievance that was not resolved at the informal meeting shall be presented to the school principal or supervisor in writing on the forms provided by the Tuscumbia City Board of Education. Such notice shall be presented not later than ten (10) school days following the date on which the act or omission giving rise to the grievance occurred or following the informal attempt at resolution. The principal or immediate supervisor will take steps necessary to ensure that a proper disposition of the grievance is made and shall reply to the complainant within five (5) school days following the date of submission. Unless the grievance shall be so appealed, it shall be deemed to have been settled and the complainant shall have no further right with respect to such grievance.

STEP II: In the event the complainant wishes to appeal the decision at Step I, the appeal must be presented in writing on the forms provided by the Board of Education to the Superintendent's designee, who shall schedule a meeting with the complainant within ten (10) school days following the submission of the written grievance. Notice of the conference shall also be given to the immediate supervisor (the principal) who rendered the decision at Step I. The immediate supervisor may be present at the conference if directed by the Superintendent's designee. The Superintendent's designee shall issue a written decision to the complainant within five (5) school days after the conference with the complainant. Unless the grievance shall be so appealed, it shall be deemed to have been settled and the complainant shall have no further right with respect to such grievance.

STEP III: In the event the complainant wishes to appeal the decision at Step II, the appeal must be presented to the Superintendent in writing on forms provided by the Board of Education within five (5) school days of the receipt of the Step II decision. A copy of the Step III appeal together with the Step I and Step II decisions and the name of the complainant's representative, if any, shall be given to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall schedule a meeting with the complainant within ten (10) school days following the submission of the grievance to attempt to resolve the grievance. Notice of the Step III conference shall be given to the complainant and his/her representative, if any, as well as to the individuals who rendered the Step I and Step II decisions. The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within ten (10) school days after the conference with the complainant. Unless the grievance shall be so appealed, it shall be deemed to have been settled and the complainant shall have no further right with respect to such grievance.

STEP IV: In the event the complainant wishes to appeal the decision at Step III, the appeal must be presented to the Superintendent serving as Secretary for the Board of Education within five (5) school days of the receipt of the Step III decision and the name of the representative, if any, must be given to the Superintendent. The complainant's appearance to present his/her appeal before the Board of Education will be scheduled in accordance with regular procedures adopted by the Board. The Board shall issue a written decision within thirty (30) school days after the conference with the complainant. The decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

Field Trips:

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

Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities:

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

Public Complaints:

The proper channeling of complaints involving individual students or a local school matter is as follows:
the teacher;
the principal;

the Superintendent's designee;
the Superintendent of Schools;
5) The Board of Education.

Student Pregnancy:

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

Transportation on Tuscumbia City School Buses:

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

- Students must obey instructions given by the driver.
- Students must be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver. (Do not annoy other students.)
- Horseplay, threats, and fighting are not permitted on or around the bus or at bus stops.
- Students should remain silent when approaching and crossing railroads.
- Students should talk only in a normal voice and not use profane or obscene language.
- Students should remain properly seated, not change seats, and keep head and hands inside the bus.
- Students are not allowed to eat, chew gum, drink, smoke, or strike matches on the school bus.
- Weapons of any kind are not permitted on the bus.
- Students are not allowed to tamper with any of the equipment on the bus, especially the emergency door.
- Students are not allowed to litter the bus, or throw objects within or outside the bus.
- No objects should be transported on a school bus that may compromise the safety of the students or the driver. This includes, but is not limited to; animals, fireworks, sharp objects, glass, balloons, and any other objects that could obstruct a driver's vision, distract a driver's attention, or otherwise endanger the lives of anyone who rides a school bus.
- Books, packages, coats, band instruments, and other items should not be in the aisles or in the driver compartment and should not be left on the bus. These items must be held in the child's lap and must not occupy the seat of another child.
- Students are not allowed to transport Prescription or Non-Prescription medications on the bus except emergency medications and approved medications prescribed for self-administration.

Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. (Act 2013-347):

Section 1:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr., Act.

Section 2:

- A person commits the crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree if he or she is found guilty of doing any of the following.
 - Intentionally demolishing, destroying, defacing, injuring burning or damaging any public school bus.
 - Entering a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
 - As an occupant of a public school bus, refusing to leave the bus on demand of the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
 - Intentionally stopping, impeding, delaying, or detaining any public school bus being operated for public school purposes with the intent to commit a crime therein.
- The crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

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

Class Pranks or Disruptions:

Class pranks will not be condoned. Such pranks cause disruption of the educational process and reflect a negative image on the class and that school in general. In addition to appropriate disciplinary action taken, graduating seniors may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies.

Notification of Rights Under Public Law 93-380:

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

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

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

- School personnel involved in the educational process.
- Officials of other schools in which the student enrolls or intends to enroll.
- Authorized representative of:
 - Comptroller General of the United States
 - The Secretary of the Office of Education
 - An administrative head of an education agency
- Any state education agency Transcripts of permanent records will be sent to other schools in which a student enrolls, or intends to enroll when requested by school officials or when requested by the parent, guardian, or eligible-age student.

Accessibility of Records to Military Recruiters:

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

Tuscumbia City Schools Student Drug Testing Policy:

The TCBOE is committed to providing a school environment that is safe, free from substance use or abuse, and conducive to learning. Parents and school personnel must work together in order to attain a safe, orderly, and drug free school environment. The drug testing and education policy is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed. Although students risk the loss of continued participation in extracurricular activities, no student shall be suspended or expelled from schools as a result of any certified "positive" test conducted by his/her school under this program. No student will be penalized academically for testing positive for banned substances. The results of drug test will not be documented in any student's academic record.

Any student in grades 9 – 12 and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian MUST first sign a drug testing registration/consent form in order to participate in the following activities:

- Athletics(including cheerleading)
- Band
- Other extra-curricular activities

Copies of the Random Drug Testing and Education Policy are available in the principal's office for students and parents.

Harassment, Violence, Threats of Violence, and Intimidation:

Passed by the state of Alabama Legislature, House Bill 216 became effective July 1, 2010. As a result, public school districts in Alabama are now required to establish school board policy to address and prevent harassment, violence, threats to do violence, and intimidation in the school environment. Subsequently, the TCBOE recently adopted its own anti-harassment policy which strictly prohibits this behavior. Harassment is defined as a continuous pattern of intentional behavior, and includes (but is not limited to) written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived to be threatening by the student-victim.

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

Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bully Prevention Act:

Tuscumbia City Schools (TCS) will not tolerate any form of bullying, cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts between TCS students that are reasonably perceived to be motivated by a student's characteristics, or by association of an individual based on a personal characteristic, if the characteristics fall within the categories contained in TCBOE Policy 6.22 either on or off TCS properties.

In an effort to minimize this type of behavior in the school environment, the TCBOE has created a process whereby a student, or the student's parent or legal guardian, may report instances of harassment to the school administrator for further review and investigation. The reporting form is available through the school district's website, the student handbook, or may be obtained from the school's main office. When incidents of bullying are investigated and confirmed, the school administrator will apply appropriate disciplinary consequences in accordance with TCS Code of Conduct.

Parents Right-to-Know (Teacher Qualifications) ESSA Section 1112 (c)(6):

- **QUALIFICATIONS** – At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
 - Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
 - The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
 - Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** – In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph (A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent-
 - Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments as required under this part; and
 - Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or had been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- **FORMAT** – The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Beliefs:

- We believe that the skills necessary for students to succeed in a global society include academic, technical, and social.

- We believe collaboration among stakeholders and Tuscumbia City Schools is vital to the setting of high standards and high expectations.
- We believe it is our responsibility to provide a solid foundation for every student to pursue his/her dreams.
- We believe all students can learn, succeed, and reach their full potential by setting high expectations for both students and staff.
- We believe the education of a child is the responsibility of the efforts of the student, family, school, and community.
- We believe that a student must be a lifelong learner. To achieve this, all students must have a growth mindset.

Public School Prayer:

The Tuscumbia City School System has no policy or procedures that prevent, or that otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in school.

Unsafe School Choice Option:

- **Definitions:** A transfer option school (TOS) in the state of Alabama is one in which for three (3) consecutive school years the school has expelled one percent (1%) of the student population or five (5) students (whichever is greater) for violent criminal offenses committed on school property during school hours or committed at school-sponsored activities. The words "transfer options school," "TOS" or "TOS School" shall mean a "persistently dangerous school" as those words are used in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, Title IX, §9532(a) and (b). For the purpose of this definition, a "violent criminal offense" shall mean homicide, robbery; assault in the first and/or second degree; sexual battery (including rape) as these offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of Alabama (see §13A-6-1, et. seq., Ala. Code 1975); and use of handgun, firearm component, explosive, knife, and other "unknown weapons" as defined by the Student Incident Report (SIR).
- A student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense committed on school property during school hours or at school-sponsored activities shall be given an opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the LEA. The LEA shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the right to transfer as soon as practicable, not to exceed ten (10) calendar days from the date of a final determination by the school board or its designee that a violent criminal offense has occurred. All LEA transfer procedures will be observed. It shall be the policy of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to notify the LEA annually when one or more of its schools have been identified as a transfer option school. Each Superintendent or their designee shall orally notify the Presentation and Support Services Section of the state Department of Education within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision that a violent criminal offense has occurred, followed by written confirmation. The State Department of Education will assist the LEA in resolving all safety issues. At a minimum, an LEA that has one or more schools identified as persistently dangerous must:
 - Step 1. Notify parents/guardians of each student attending the school within ten (10) working days that it has been identified as transfer option school and offer students the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the LEA if another school is available.
 - Step 2. Complete the transfer for those students who opt to do so within 20 working day.
 - Step 3. Develop a corrective action plan to be submitted to the ALSDE for approval within 20 working days of the LEA's receipt of status.
 - Step 4. Implement the corrective action plan.
- Once a school has been identified as a transfer option school, it can return to safe status by (1) completing Steps One through Four and (2) completing two consecutive years with less than one percent (1%) of the student population or five (5) students (whichever is greater) expelled for violent criminal offenses as defined in its policy.

Regulation 8.30: Acts and Laws Required to be Published

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION ARE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING ACTS AND LAWS:

Summary of Civil Liabilities and Criminal Penalties:

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

Equal Opportunity Statement:

The Tuscumbia City School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Mr. Russ Tate, Superintendent (rtate@tuscumbia.k12.al.us)
Mr. Robert Bissell, Title IX (rbissell@tuscumbia.k12.al.us)
303 North Commons Street East, Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256)389-2900

Attendance and Conduct (§16-28-12):

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

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

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

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

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

Drug Dealing (§6-5-72):

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

Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons, Physical Harm, or Threatened Physical Harm (§16-1-24.1):

The school principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when a person violates local board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a

person. If any criminal charge is warranted, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. If that person is a student, the local school system shall immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing within 5 school days.

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

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

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

Sexual Harassment (§26-14-3):

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

Teacher Assault (§13A-6-21):

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

Tobacco Possession (§28-11-13):

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

Vandalism (§6-5-380):

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

Weapons in Schools (§13A-11-72):

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

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

- Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or have him or her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, denominational school, or parochial school, or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section and

documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days.

- The absence of a child without the consent of the principal teacher of the public school he or she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section.”
- Each local public board of education shall adopt a written policy for its standards on school behavior. Each local public school superintendent shall provide at the commencement of each academic year a copy of the written policy on school behavior to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or control of a child who is enrolled. Included in the written policy shall be a copy of this section. The signature of the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall document receipt of the policy.”
- Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be reported by the principal to the superintendent of education of the school system in which the suspected violation occurred.
- The Superintendent or his or her designee shall report suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days.
- Any principal or superintendent or his or her designee intentionally failing to report a suspected violation shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.
- The district attorney shall vigorously enforce this section to ensure proper conduct and required attendance by any child enrolled in public school.”

Seclusion and Restraint of Students:

The TCBOE requires that all schools and programs within the school district comply with State Board of Education Rule 290-3-1-.02(1)(f) regarding the use of “seclusion” or “restraint,” as those terms are defined within the rule.

As a part of the policies and procedures of the school system, the use of physical restraint is prohibited in the system and its educational programs except in those situations in which the student in an immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to reasonably implemented and less intensive behavioral interventions such as verbal directives and other de-escalation techniques. Physical restraint is prohibited when used as a form of discipline or punishment. The use of other physical restraint, chemical restraint, mechanical restraint, or seclusion is prohibited in the school system and its educational programs. The use of restraint may occur along with other emergency actions such as the school seeking assistance from law enforcement and/or emergency medical personnel, which could result in a removal of the student by such personnel. Significant violations of the law including assaults on students and staff will be reported to law enforcement. As soon as possible after the restraint or removal of a student (and no longer than one school day following the occurrence), written notice will be provided to the parent or legal custodian.

Special Role of School Resource Officer:

The School Resource Officers assigned to Tuscumbia City Schools assist school officials with school safety. Their role is to build relationships with students, teach them about the law, and serve as a positive role model. The day-to-day conversations and interactions between students and the School Resource Officer are not to be construed as “interviews” and do not require prior parent approval. For any violation of the Code of Conduct that is a crime or potentially a crime, the School Resource Officer will operate in his/her capacity as a law enforcement officer.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools:

Tuscumbia City Schools is committed to providing learning environments free from alcohol, drugs, controlled substances and weapons. The Code of Conduct includes serious consequences for those who violate its provisions relating to drugs, alcohol, controlled substances and weapons. The possession, use, sale, attempted sale, attempted possession or any other involvement with tobacco, drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, or dangerous instruments/weapons will not be tolerated and will subject the violating individual to immediate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such prohibition applies not only to firearms, guns, deadly weapons or dangerous instruments carried by a person, but extends also to said prohibited items in automobiles, personal items such as

purses or backpacks, or otherwise in the actual possession of any person. Any violations regarding firearms will result in involvement by appropriate law enforcement authorities and will result in a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion. Per State law, safety drills including severe weather, fire, and active shooter are periodically completed at the required time points.

Bullying, Intimidation, Violence, and Threats of Violence of a Student or Adult:

Verbal or nonverbal behavior that causes physical and/or emotional harm to another or disrupts the learning environment. Such behavior may include, but is not limited to, teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, stealing or destroying personal property. (Refer to Board Policy 6.22 Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act)

*Threat” means a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action to cause fear of harm. The intention may be communicated through an electronic, written, verbal, or physical act to cause fear, mental distress, or interference in the school environment. The intention may be expressly stated or implied and the person communicating the threat has the ability to carry out the threat. “Threat of violence” means an unjustified expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.

“Bullying” means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior on or off of school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to: cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical actions that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics contained in this policy. To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following: Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student; Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school whether the conduct occurs on or off school property, online, or electronically; Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function; or Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. “Hostile environment” means the perception by an affected student that the conduct of another student constitutes a threat of violence or bullying and that the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, would agree that the conduct constitutes bullying, threat of assault, or assault. Intimidation” means an unjustified threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student. Threat, Harassment, Bullying, or Intimidation events that occur off campus, but are disruptive to the school learning environment, may be subject to investigation and discipline by school administrators.

Regulation 8.31: Technology

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

TECHNOLOGY:

Tusculumbia City Schools (District) provides students with access to technology in order to enhance student learning. The term "technology" refers to all forms of hardware, digital devices, software, and accounts. Students using technology must be in compliance with the Digital Device and Internet Use Agreement and any board policy related to technology or its use. If damage occurs the student could be held liable to replace the device.

Access to Technology Resources Policy:

In order to enhance educational opportunities for its students and for employees to be able to work in a professional and intellectually-stimulating environment, it shall be the policy of the Tusculumbia City Board of Education to permit access to and use of developing technology equipment and resources, including but not limited to, the Internet. Such access and use shall be restricted to faculty, students, and other persons who are engaged in bona fide educational and administrative activities which serve and are consistent with identified educational objectives and authorized support functions. To those ends, the Tusculumbia City Board of Education is authorized to establish and impose reasonable rules and regulations regarding access to and use of school-based technology equipment and resources and to require adherence to said rules and regulations through such means as the "Internet Usage and Equipment Agreement" and by the application of appropriate disciplinary policies and procedures.

Statement of Caution and Consequences for Technology Use:

Board policy restricts access to and use of technology equipment and resources, including the Internet, to instructional and related purposes with the intent to further educational goals and objectives. However, because of the nature of the technology, it is impossible to ensure that a user's intent upon doing so will not be able to gain access to unsuitable material and data through misuse of computers or the Internet. Tusculumbia City Schools (TCS) system subscribes to a filtering service to filter or block inappropriate Internet access. Thus, it is the intention of TCS that all technology resources will be used in accordance with any and all school system policies and procedures as well as local, state and federal laws. Internet activity can and will be monitored, along with other aspects of technology usage. Successful or unsuccessful attempts to bypass the Internet filter, misuse of equipment, access to prohibited sites by using proxies or other resources are a violation of this agreement and may result in denial or cancellation of access privileges and are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and other applicable policies and regulations. Users are also subject to any civil penalties or criminal sanctions that may arise from unlawful use of the Internet.

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA):

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

Consent before students are required to submit a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law;
- Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

- Protected information surveys of students;
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum. The TCBOE will develop these policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student's privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The TCBOE will notify parents and eligible students of these policies annually through the publication of the Tuscumbia City Code of Conduct & Attendance and upon enrollment of students thereafter.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

Regulation 8.32: Medical

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

MEDICAL:

Certificates of Immunization:

Student's entering Alabama's public or private schools are required by law to have on file an appropriate Alabama Certificate of Immunization or Certificate of Exemption. This documentation is necessary to ensure that our students are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. All immunization records must be kept up to date.

Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Form Inspection:

Each year, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) conducts an audit of student immunization records to ensure that children enrolled in school in Alabama are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases or have a valid exemption from vaccination. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act mandates parental consent be obtained for persons not employed by this school to view the records of its students.

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

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

Medication Rules for Students:

The medication administration procedures for the Tuscumbia City Schools have been written to comply with the State Department of Education medication curriculum and state law regarding medications in the school setting. If your student will be taking medication during school hours or school sponsored activities, you may pick up the required paperwork (School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization Form) in the school nurse's office, main office, or on the school website at www.tuscumbia.k12.al.us.

- All *Prescription* medications require a medication authorization form (School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization) to be completed and signed by your student's physician and signed by the parent/legal guardian. No prescription medication may be given without parent authorization, a healthcare provider order and a pharmacy label.
- All *Prescription* medication must be in the pharmacy-labeled container.
- Medication forms are valid up to one calendar year (refer to start/stop date on medication form). New medication forms are required when they are no longer valid.
- For students taking daily medication, the most up-to-date medication container should be brought in each month containing the medication. Parent/Guardian, or designated responsible adult, must count and sign-in / sign-out the medication with the school nurse or trained medication assistant each time the medication is brought in or checked out.
- Any *Over-The-Counter medication (OTC)* must be brought to the nurse's office or school office in a brand new sealed container with the package insert. Your student's name should be written on the container. The school medication authorization form **MUST** be completed and signed by the parent/guardian for over-the-counter medication. A reason for giving the medication must be specified on the form.
- *Over-the-counter medication (OTC):* The school nurse will determine if the over-the-counter medicine is appropriate and whether a physician signature is necessary. OTC medication must be age appropriate and follow the dosage instructions on the box, if not, a physician's authorization will be required. If your student has a condition listed under the "ask a doctor before use" section of the over-the-counter medication, a physician's signature will be required.
- All medications (prescription and non-prescription) must be brought into the nurse's office or main office by an adult. No medication should be sent in with your student. Your student may possess certain approved medications **ONLY** if certain conditions are met. You will need to talk with your student's school nurse and / or principal for instructions on this option.
- If your student's medication changes (dosage, time, etc) during the school year, it is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to let the school know. With each medication change, a new medication authorization form must be completed by your student's physician and signed by the physician and parent/legal guardian. If your

student's medication is stopped you must bring in a discontinuation order from his or her physician.

- No first dose of any medication--with exception of emergency medications--can be given at school. If your student has a change in a medication dosage the first dose of the change should be given at home.
- The school cannot stock over-the-counter medications (ex: Tylenol, Benadryl, cough drops, etc.). Refer to bullet #5.
- Medication must be picked up on or before the last day of school or it will be discarded. Anytime a medication expires during the school year, it will be discarded (this includes emergency medications, such as inhalers, Epipens, glucagon, etc.).
- All medication rules apply to students on field trips, extended day, and all other school sponsored events.
- Only the school personnel who have completed the school medication curriculum training and have been authorized will be allowed to assist with medication(s) in the school setting.
- Student self administration of medication for a documented chronic health condition will be authorized if conducted in compliance with the State Department of Education, Alabama Board of Nursing, and Tusculum City Schools guidelines. Student self-administration of medication will be determined on an individual basis. Any approved medication that is to be kept on person must contain a pharmacy label.
- This list is not all inclusive. These rules are in place for the protection and safety of your child. If you have any questions please call the school based nurse, principal, or the system-wide nurse, Lori Blackburn, RN, at 256-389-2900 ext. 9120.

General Health Guidelines:

If your child is injured or becomes seriously ill at school, we will contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information provided on the emergency information card. Please remember we cannot keep a child at school if the child has a fever, is vomiting, or has a contagious disease.

Fever -- A child with a temperature of 100 or above should remain at home until he/she is fever free for a full 24 hours and does not require medication to keep the child fever-free.

Vomiting and /or diarrhea -- students should not attend school if he/she has had vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours prior to the start of school.

Rashes -- unknown/undiagnosed rashes should be reviewed by a medical provider. Proof of non-contagious status may be required for school attendance.

Head Lice:

In a case where head lice is discovered, or there is reasonable cause to suspect a student has head lice, the student will be inspected. If during the individual inspection of students, head lice contamination is confirmed, the following procedure will be followed:

- Any infested child will be removed from class and the parent/guardian will be called to take the child home for treatment. Care will be taken not to embarrass the child.
- After the infested child has been treated, the parent/guardian should bring the child to school and wait for the completion of an examination by a school official. The school official will determine whether the student is clear to remain at school.
- Identification information such as the name of the school, children, parents and employees will be considered confidential.
- The process of removing lice does not require a lengthy absence. The school will excuse 1-2 days per principal approval.
- Printed material relative to the treatment of head lice is available from the school nurse.

Impacts of Heavy Backpacks (Act 2017-19):

Overloaded school backpacks are causing an increasing problem of back pain and spinal strain for students across the nation. Please review the following website [Backpack Safety Document](#) to provide information regarding this concern.

Important Information on Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine:

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States.

How do you catch the disease?

The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease are very common. The disease is most common in children and people with certain medical conditions that affect their immune system. College freshmen living in dormitories also have increased risk of getting the disease. The disease is spread through the exchange of respiratory droplets or saliva with an infected person including kissing, coughing, sneezing, and sharing drinking glasses and eating utensils. In a few people, the bacteria overcome the body's immune system and pass through the lining of the nose and throat into the bloodstream and cause meningitis. Meningitis is a term that describes inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

What are the symptoms of the disease?

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff Neck
- Red Rash
- Drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting

Meningococcal vaccine:

Who should get the vaccine and when? MCV4, or the meningococcal vaccine, is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age and for unvaccinated adolescents at high school entry (15 years of age). High school seniors should also consider obtaining the vaccine prior to entering college, especially if they are planning on living in a dormitory. Please consult your physician or local health department for more information.

For more information on this and other vaccine recommendations go to: www.adph.org/immunization.

Influenza Disease:

What is influenza disease?

- Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus.
- The virus infects the nose, throat, and lungs.
- It can cause mild to severe illnesses, hospitalization, and even death.

What are the symptoms?

Anyone can get the flu, and it strikes suddenly and can last several days. Symptoms of the flu disease may include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Vomiting and diarrhea

How does influenza disease spread?

Flu is spread by:

- An infected person's droplets from cough, sneeze, or talk enter the mouth eye or nose
- Touching a surface or object with flu virus on it and then touching the mouth, eyes, or nose
- An infected person can infect others one day before symptoms start and up to five to seven days after symptoms start.
- Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect

others for an even longer time.

How do I prevent the flu?

- Get a yearly flu vaccine.
- Wash your hands properly and often.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with your arm.
- Clean and sterilize surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
- Go to cdc.gov and type influenza in the search box.

Influenza Vaccine

Who should get the influenza (flu) vaccine?

The flu vaccine is recommended every year for everyone age 6 months or older.

Who should be vaccinated against influenza because they are at increased risk?

- Children 6 months of age through 5 years Adults 65 years of age or older
- Pregnant
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who have medical conditions including the following:
 - Asthma
 - Weakened immune systems due to disease or medication (such as HIV/AIDS or cancer)
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Heart disease
 - People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
 - Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
 - People with extreme obesity
 - Kidney disorders
 - Liver disorders

What are the common vaccine side effects and risks?

- Flu vaccines are safe, but some side effects can occur.
- Minor problems following the flu vaccine include soreness, redness, and/or swelling from the shot, hoarseness, sore, red or itchy eyes, cough, fever, aches, headache, itching, and fatigue.
 - More serious problems may include Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in fewer than 1 or 2 cases per one million people vaccinated, children receiving multiple vaccines slightly increase in fever with seizure.
 - People who should not get the flu vaccine include anyone with severe, life threatening allergies, had GBS before, or not feeling well the day of vaccination.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
 - Ask your school nurse.
 - Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
 - Go to cdc.gov and type influenza in the search box.
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Regulation 8.33: Child Nutrition

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/25/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/25/2024

CHILD NUTRITION:

- Students are encouraged to take advantage of the nutritious meals offered in the school cafeteria. Daily menu options are posted each month on the school website.
- The Tusculumbia City Board of Education Child Nutrition Program (CNP) will be operated as a federal program required by United States Department of Agriculture. Tusculumbia's CNP will operate in accordance with the current Alabama Food Code and the policies and procedures of the Child Nutrition Section of the State Department of Education, as well as the Alabama State Board of Education.
- Tusculumbia City Schools will participate in the National School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program.
- CNP participates in the Community Eligibility Provision and all breakfasts and lunches will be free to all students.
- Student supervision in the cafeteria will be maintained by school administration and faculty.
- The State of Alabama Policy for Competitive Foods, Alabama Healthy Snack Standards for Food and Beverages at School, and Vending Machine Policy will be enforced at all schools.
- In accordance with these policies, foods and beverages displaying product advertising from outside vendors/sources shall not be brought into the cafeteria during meal service times. Therefore, no fast food shall be delivered or allowed in its original packaging in the cafeteria.
- Also, in compliance with USDA Guidelines and Alabama State Board policy, no foods will be sold in competition to the Breakfast and/or Lunch programs.
- All students will be assigned a private meal account number. Please keep enough money in your student's meal account to cover extras. Parents can pre-pay for ala carte items by sending cash or checks to school, or by depositing payment online using our secure payment system called MySchoolBucks. There is no cost to have an account. However, there is a small fee to make an online deposit.
- With a MySchoolBucks account, parents can view online what their student has purchased in the cafeteria and receive a text or email reminder when more money is needed in the account. Students may also provide funds at the point of sale.
- Uncollected Charged Meals – The Board of Education strongly discourages the charging of foods and beverages to meal accounts. The Child Nutrition Program is designed to benefit students not board employees. Therefore, charged meals are only allowable for students. Adults cannot charge meals. If a school permits charged meals for students, a procedure must be in place to collect for these meals. If a local school elects to permit charges, then a nonpublic fund source must be established to cover any uncollected charges. Each school must maintain documentation to reflect the status of charged meals and the transfer of funds from a nonpublic fund should charges remain uncollected at the end of the school term.