



**Secondary Student Guidebook**

**2020-2021**

**Rob Picou, Ph.D.  
Superintendent**

## **Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form**

This Secondary Student Guidebook is provided as a convenience to the students of the Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). While it contains policies current at the time of printing, TPSD is constantly reviewing and updating policies. Therefore, the Guidebook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Guidebook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the TPSD.

Our signatures verify that we have received a copy of the 2020-21 Secondary Student Guidebook. We understand that the Guidebook is a work in progress document and that changes may be made throughout the school year in response to unanticipated events.

The most current TPSD Board of Trustees policies are available at [www.tupeloschools.com](http://www.tupeloschools.com) as well as in the TPSD Central Office.

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

After reviewing this publication, please sign and return this document to your student's school.



Dear Students and Parents,

The Tupelo Public School District Administrative Team welcomes you to the 2020-21 school year. TPSD is committed to promoting educational excellence for all students. An important part of this commitment is to continue to provide a safe and orderly educational environment for all. This Secondary Student Guidebook is designed to be an integral point of reference in maintaining those conditions. Inside you will find important information regarding TPSD policies, procedures, and general day-to-day operations of our district.

We understand that you have multiple choices concerning your student's education, and we are pleased you've chosen to be a part of Tupelo Schools. We look forward to your continued cooperation, and want you to know we are here to serve our community. You may contact the TPSD Central Office by calling 662.841.8850 or if you have suggestions you would like to share, click on the "Parent" tab at [www.tupeloschools.com](http://www.tupeloschools.com) for the Suggestion Box.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding TPSD discipline policies, please contact your student's principal; school contact information is included within this guidebook. In addition, the district provides a 24-hour hotline to receive parent concerns and comments. Please dial 662.841.7771 to reach the hotline.

Students can also share concerns 24 hours a day by sending a text to 598-4445 or emailing [tpsdtipline.com](mailto:tpsdtipline.com). All forms of communication will be kept confidential.

Please explore our website for additional information regarding TPSD at [www.tupeloschools.com](http://www.tupeloschools.com).

TPSD is poised for Educational Excellence in 2020-2021, and we're excited to have you on board!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brock English  
Assistant Superintendent

**Tupelo Public School District  
Board of Trustee**

*Mr. Kenneth Wheeler- President*

*Mr. Eddie Prather*

*Mr. Joe Babb*

*Ms. Sherry Davis*

*Mr. Paul Mize*

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The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or any other classification protected by law in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources  
TPSD Administrative Office Post  
Office Box 557  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
662-841-8850

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## Tupelo Public School District School Listings

### **Carver Elementary**

Christy Carroll, Principal  
910 North Green Street  
841-8870/841-8877 (fax)

### **Early Childhood Education Center**

Haley Stewart, Principal  
1402 North Green Street  
840-5237/842-2609 (fax)

### **Joyner Elementary**

Kimberly Foster, Principal  
1201 Joyner Avenue  
841-8900/841-8903 (fax)

### **Lawhon Elementary**

Ian Shumpert, Principal 140  
Lake Street  
841-8910/840-1856 (fax)

### **Lawndale Elementary**

Talina Knight, Principal  
1563 Mitchell Road  
841-8890/840-1837 (fax)

### **Milam Elementary**

Paul Moton, Principal 720 West  
Jefferson Street  
841-8920/841-8929 (fax)

### **Parkway Elementary**

Carmen Gary, Principal  
628 Rutherford Drive  
844-6303/841-2957 (fax)

### **Pierce Street Elementary**

Amy Tate, Principal 1008  
Pierce Street  
841-8940/841-8959 (fax)

### **Rankin Elementary**

Heather Cartwright,  
Principal 1908 Forrest  
Street  
841-8950/840-1826 (fax)

### **Thomas Street Elementary**

Candi Moore-Robinson, Principal 901  
South Thomas Street  
841-8960/841-8965 (fax)

### **Tupelo High School**

Art Dobbs, Principal  
4125 Cliff Gookin Boulevard  
841-8970/841-8987 (fax)

### **Tupelo Middle School**

Mark Enis, , Principal 1009  
Varsity Drive  
840-8780/840-1831 (fax)

### **Tupelo Structured Day Program**

Tanisha Smith PhD., Director 903  
Fillmore Drive  
841-8956/840-1836 (fax)

### **District Discipline Supervisors**

Kim Britton, K-5  
[kbritton@tupeloschools.com](mailto:kbritton@tupeloschools.com)  
Dr. Brock English, 6-12  
[bwenglish@tupeloschools.com](mailto:bwenglish@tupeloschools.com)

**72 South Green Street**

**Tupelo, MS 38804**

**662-841-8850**

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### **Administrative Office**

Dr. Rob Picou Superintendent  
72 South Green Street – Post Office Box 557  
841-8850/841-8887 (fax)

### **Hancock Leadership Center**

1920 Briar Ridge Road  
840-1847/840-1581 (fax)

### **SRO E-mail address**

[thscrim@tupeloschools.com](mailto:thscrim@tupeloschools.com)

### **TPSD Hotline**

841-7771

### **T.I.P.S. Line**

841-7772

## **Asbestos Notification**

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations established by the EPA, all school districts are required to provide an annual notification to all parents, teachers, and employees regarding our asbestos management program. This annual notification informs all persons of their option to review the Asbestos Management Plan for our school district.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an accredited asbestos inspector. Any changes to these materials are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

Additionally, an accredited Asbestos Management Planner conducts a comprehensive inspection of all ACM's every 3 years. This 3-year re-inspection has been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all Asbestos Management Plans for the district are maintained in the Superintendent's office located at 72 South Green Street. If you are interested in reviewing this information, please contact the Central Office at 662-841-8853 to schedule an appointment.

## **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act**

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. This directory information includes the student name, address, telephone number, class assignments and teachers, picture, height and weight of athletes, extracurricular activities, awards, honor rolls, electronic listings, Internet webpage, and other information which is typically found in school yearbooks, programs, bulletins, and student newspapers. In addition, the District discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. Parents and eligible students shall have from **July 15 until September 1** to review this notice and request in writing to the school principal that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

## **Parents-Right-To-Know**

The qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals employed in schools will be provided upon parent request. For further information, please contact the principal of the school where your student attends.

In addition, a parent may request information on the level of achievement of the parent's child on each state academic assessment, and/or a timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

## **Promoting and Reinforcing Personal Responsibility for Learning, Positive Behavior, and Good Citizenship**

In the Tupelo Public School District, students are expected to exhibit responsible behavior and to maintain positive attitudes that will contribute to their own well-being as well as the well-being of others. One goal is to promote an atmosphere within the schools conducive to learning, and another is to help children become responsible for good personal conduct at school.

Each school has a certified guidance counselor who provides one-on-one and group counseling. As part of the curriculum, the guidance counselor also conducts classes and workshops for the students in their classroom. Topics include goal setting, time management, responsibility training, and citizenship.

Integrity Time and Skills Streaming are unique programs designed to help decrease discipline referrals and increase positive and appropriate behaviors. The programs build self-esteem and provide students with many opportunities to be responsible. Students also become aware of socially acceptable behaviors and positive character traits. When we provide direction and security, students often respond quickly with better behavior and improved academic performance. We want our students to have lives filled with satisfying work, meaningful achievements, and good relationships. We want them to make good decisions, and we want them to be active participants in their democracy.

Character must be consciously taught, developed, and practiced. This teaching has always been a parent's job, but there are also critical supporting roles to be played by everyone in a community. After all, character really counts in school, in the workplace, and in life.

Acknowledging student demonstrations of good character is important. We expect the student to do the right thing even when there's no one around and there will be no immediate reward. Therefore *recognition* is emphasized more than *reward* when it comes to reinforcing positive character traits for long-lasting effects. Examples of recognition strategies abound. Staff and students alike send notes to anyone living out a character trait; assemblies, parties, and picnics are great opportunities for school communities to celebrate progress and publicly acknowledge TPSD's commitment to character education.

Drug abuse prevention instruction is incorporated into the regular classroom through the use of a curriculum that is taught by the teachers. In addition, Red Ribbon week is celebrated at each school annually. During this week, special activities are planned that emphasize drug and alcohol prevention. These might include special assemblies, games, special guests, videos, and wearing red ribbons by staff and students. Many schools sponsor a Red Ribbon parade and an I Can Do Better Things Than Drugs Fair.

Throughout the school year, activities district-wide, school-wide, and in the classrooms teach and reinforce the importance of respect and treatment of others. Students are taught the importance of treating others with kindness and respect.

The Tupelo Public School District and Tupelo Police Department school resource officers (SRO) work with students K-12 to develop positive habits and behaviors. This enables our students to deal with character issues directly and at an age that is developmentally appropriate. Our students work with a good role model in a positive environment.

Through many learning opportunities, TPSD emphasizes teaching and recognizing positive behaviors and good citizenship.

# TPSD Board Policies

**Note:** To access TPSD Board Policies listed below, use the following steps:

Go to: <http://www.tupeloschools.com>

Click About Our District

Click Board of Trustees

Click Board Policies

To view policy, type Policy Code next to the Descriptor.

## Secondary Student Guidebook Topical Reference to Board Policies

### A. Student Services and Programs

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Parental Involvement Policies under Title I	IDCAD Compensatory Education / Remediation LAA Title I Parental Involvement
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX
Birth certificate requirements for enrollment	JBC School Admission
Free and reduced meal program	EEA Free/Reduced Lunch
Any changes in the eligibility criteria for free and reduced lunch	EEA Free/Reduced Lunch
School wellness policy (Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010)	JG School Wellness Policy
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	JQN Education for Homeless Children and Youth
Abstinence education	ICG Sex-Related Education
Instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse	ICG Sex-Related Education
Provision of free appropriate public education to students with disabilities	IDDF Special Education Programs
Enrollment Requirements	JBC School Admission
Proof of Residency for enrollment	JBC School Admission
District ownership of student lockers; right to search	JCDA School Searches



Administration of medications to students	JGCDC Administering Medications to Students JGCDA Asthma Medications
Dismissal procedures	JGFC Dismissals
Responsible and acceptable use of TPSD computers and network and Internet safety program	IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use Computer Policy
Transportation policies	EDA Student Transportation
Cell phones	IJBA Personal Electronic Devices – Laptops, Tablet & Mobile Devices

Student residency and tuition	JBCC Student Tuition for Out-of-District Students
Communicable and infectious disease and management of students with the disease	JGCC Communicable Diseases
Challenge Program	IDE Gifted Education Program
Early Literacy Program	ICHI Literacy Based Promotion
Bring Your Own Device	IJBA Personal Electronic Devices – Laptops, Tablets & Mobile Devices
Weighted grades	IHA Grading System
Parental objections to sex education, family life instruction and sexually transmitted diseases	ICG Sex-Related Education
English as a Second Language education availability	IK Limited English Proficiency Instruction
Eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities	IDFA Intramural / Interscholastic Athletics
Parental right to review instructional materials	IJJ Instructional Resources
High school graduation requirements (high school only)	IHF Graduation Requirements
Right of students with IEP to participate in graduation ceremony (high school only)	IHF Graduation Requirements
Physical education requirement, including waiver of required classes	IHF Graduation Requirements
Dual Enrollment	IDAG Dual Enrollment
GED Program	JCD GED Program

### **B. Student Rights and Responsibilities**

<b>Topic s</b>	<b>Reference; TPSD Policy Code</b>
Bullying	JDDA Bullying
Controlled substances	JCDAC Drugs and Alcohol (Possession or Reasonable Suspicion)
Firearms and other weapons	JCDAE Possession of Weapons on School Property

Gangs and gang-related activity	JCBB Gang Activity
Sexting and other prohibited uses of technology	IJB CIPA Policy – Acceptable Use IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use Computer Policy JB Student Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	JRAB Compliance with FERPA
Directory information disclosure and FERPA right to opt out	JRAB Compliance with FERPA
FERPA right to review education records	JR Student Records

Title I: Parent Right to Know	LAA Title I Parental Involvement
Non-discrimination – Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA	BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy
Notice of non-discrimination coordinator(s) and procedures for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment	BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy
Sex equity policy and grievance procedures	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX
School bus safety procedures	JCDAD Bus Conduct
Dress code	JCDB Dress Code for Students
Outstanding fees and fines	JS Fee Policy
Athletic code of conduct	TPSD Athletic Handbook
School discipline code	JCB Code of Conduct JD Student Discipline Code
Parking	JGFF Automobile Use
Health and guidance counselor and social work access	Student Support Services
Drug testing	JCDAB Student Drug Testing Program
Suspension and expulsion procedures, with due process requirements	JDD Suspension JDE Expulsion JCAA Due Process
Notice of disability accommodation	IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act - Nondiscrimination

### C. General Information

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reference; TPSD Policy Code</b>
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Notification	EM Hazardous Materials
Attendance, absenteeism, truancy	JBD Attendance, Tardiness and Excuses JBAC Truancy
Parent Council	LEB Relations with Parent Organizations

TPSD Goals	BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives Mission Statement
TPSD Mission	BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives Mission Statement
School visitation procedures	KM Visitors to the Schools
Waiver of school fees	JS Fee Policy
Abstinence education	ICG Sex-Related Education
Field trips	IFCB Field Trips and Excursions
Parking decals	JGFF Automobile Use
Recognition for Accomplishments	AGA Recognition for Accomplishments
Emergency School Closing Procedures	EBBD Emergency Closings

#### D. Special Circumstances Notifications

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reference; TPSD Policy Code</b>
IDEA procedural safeguards	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA request for evaluation	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA request for due process	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA change of placement	IDDF Special Education Programs
Notification of eligibility for supplemental education services	IDDF Special Education Programs IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act – Nondiscrimination (and Exhibit)