

# Code of Student Conduct



Turner County Schools  
2020-2021

## **PARENT STATEMENT**

I have read and understand the policies and procedures in the Turner County Code of Student Conduct.

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Student's Name/Grade

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Student's Signature

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Comments:

## **Parental Opt-Out of Club and Activity Participation**

I hereby acknowledge receipt of information through the school handbook regarding student clubs and activities that are scheduled to be operational at the school during the upcoming school year. I understand that if a club or activity for which information has not been provided is started during the school year, I will be provided the club or activity information at that time and my written permission will be required prior to my student's participation.

I wish to withhold permission for my child to participate in the following student clubs (please list).

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Student's Signature

Date

**COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Turner County Schools will follow the most recent guidance as instructed by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Education for handling situations directly related to the current pandemic.**

## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

Parents or eligible students have the right to:

- (a) inspect and review education records.
- (b) request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.
- (c) consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except when requested by a government agency.

Identifiable information contains the following: student name, a parent name, address, personal identifier, list of personal characteristics or information that would make the student's identity easily traceable.

- (d) file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education.

## **DIRECTORY INFORMATION (FERPA)**

The Turner County School System has designated the following information as Directory Information:

- (1) Student's name;
- (2) Student's date and place of birth;
- (3) Student's participation in official school clubs and sports;
- (4) Weight and height of student, if he/she is a member of an athletic team;
- (5) Dates of attendance at schools within the school district;
- (6) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in the district's schools;
- (7) Photograph; and
- (8) Grade level.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as Directory Information and to be disclosed to the public upon request. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify, in writing, the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled within 10 days after the student's enrollment date.

You are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed by the news media at school, a school activity or event, or by school officials as part of school publications. If you, as a parent/ guardian, object to your child being photographed, videotaped, or interviewed, the objection must be presented, in writing, to the principal of the school where your child is enrolled within 10 days after the student enters school.

## **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parent and eligible students (18 or older or emancipated minors) certain rights regarding the 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 to 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 (ED)
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with who respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parents and eligible students will be notified at the beginning of the school year if the school district has identified the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the activities listed above are expected to be scheduled. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. The Board of Education has developed and adopted policies, in conjunction with parents, regarding these rights as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The

district will also directly notify parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey.

The school is required by federal law to give this notice to parents. However, the school does not have scheduled any such activities as are described above. If any such activities are initiated during the school year, parents will be notified accordingly and will be afforded all the rights described herein.

### **Complaints of Discrimination/Harassment**

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability or gender in employment decisions or educational programs and activities, including its athletic programs. Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the School District based upon any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the Board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor.

#### **The Title VI Coordinator is:**

Name or Title: Director of Special Education  
Office Address: 423 N. Cleveland St., Ashburn, GA 31714

Telephone Number: 229-567-3338

#### **The Title IX and the Sports Equity Coordinator is:**

Name or Title: Athletic Director  
Office Address: Turner County High School  
Telephone: 316 E. Lamar St., Ashburn, GA  
Number: 31714  
229-567-4377

#### **The Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator is:**

Name or Title: System 504 Coordinator  
Office Address: 423 N. Cleveland St., Ashburn, GA 31714

Telephone Number: 229-567-3338

Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. A copy of the discriminatory complaints procedure under Policy JAA (Equal Educational Opportunities) or under Policy IDFA (Gender Equity in Sports) is located on the district's website.

## **Right to Know**

In compliance with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act, the Turner County School District informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.
- Whether or not the teacher is "Professionally Qualified" as required by the state or LEA.

If you have any questions concerning the qualifications of your child's teacher, please contact the principal at (school number).

## **STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY OF PRINCIPAL**

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, administrators may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

# **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE TURNER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

To provide a high-quality education leading to success in college, career, and life.

## **CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT TURNER COUNTY SCHOOLS**

### **I. Philosophy of Discipline**

The process of educating our youth for citizenship in Turner County Public Schools is not confined to the classroom curriculum. Schools must teach by example the shared values of a civilized social order and develop a positive school climate. The students, parents, teachers, and community must work together toward promoting acceptable behavior. Discipline is not about punishment. It is about behavioral modification.

Educational values we hold:

- ... Respect for the worth and dignity of every individual
- ... Respect for moral and spiritual values and ethical standards of conduct ... Equality of opportunity for all children
- ... Faith in mankind's ability to make rational decisions ... Shared responsibility for the common good
- ... Self-Mastery is the ultimate goal of discipline.

The Code of Student Conduct is critical to providing and maintaining a positive school environment that allows for expression of these values. The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to:

- *Outline the role of parents, students, teachers, schools, and the community in establishing a positive learning environment.*
- *Specify offenses which disrupt the environment.*
- *Standardize disciplinary actions that schools use in responding to offenses, with sensitivity to age-appropriateness of such actions.*
- *List laws, policies, and procedures which are related to school conduct and impact on school climate.*

### **II. Role of Student, Home, School, and Community Standards of behavior are demonstrated by:**

#### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHO:**

- Keep in regular contact with the school concerning their child's conduct and progress and offer assistance as necessary.
- Ensure that their child is in daily attendance and report and explain any absence to the school.
- Provide their child with the resources needed to complete classwork.
- Attend conferences and meetings as invited/requested.
- Assist their child in being well-groomed, neat, clean, and following the dress standard.
- Bring to the attention of school authorities any problems or conditions which affect their child or other children as members of the school community.
- Discuss report cards and work assignments with their child.
- Support the school by keeping the child in school throughout the entire school day.
- Inform the child of the school's rules, and support the administration of discipline for violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **STUDENTS WHO:**

- Attend all classes daily and are on time.
- Are prepared to come to class with appropriate working materials.
- Are respectful to all individuals and property.
- Refrain from profane or inflammatory statements.
- Conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner.
- Are well-groomed, clean, neat, and dressed according to the dress standard.



- Are responsible for their own work.
- Abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school and individual classroom teachers.
- Seek changes in an orderly and recognized manner.
- Participate in deciding appropriate discipline procedures.

#### **TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS WHO:**

- Support the teachers' plans for classroom control.
- Encourage 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 training or discipline based on fair and impartial treatment of all students.
- Develop a good working relationship among staff and with students.
- Endeavor to involve the entire community in order to improve the quality of life within the school.
- Support and participate in community activities.

#### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO:**

- Assume responsibility, in part, for developing positive attitudes among children and youth.
- Offer programs and activities that reinforce positive behavior and meaningful use of leisure time.
- Participate in the enforcement of the rules in the Code of Student Conduct as appropriate.

### **III. Student Support Process**

The most appropriate disciplinary action taken by school officials is the **LEAST EXTREME MEASURE** that can resolve the discipline problem. Teachers and administrators use a variety of student support services prior to and/or during disciplinary action. Early parent contact and involvement is expected. Some of these services include:

- Teacher-student conference
- Teacher-parent conference or contact
- Counselor-parent conference or contact
- Counselor-student conference
- Student program adjustment
- Home visit by school personnel
- Referral to counselor, social worker
- Referral to Student Support Team/team meeting with student

### **IV. Progressive disciplinary actions recognized in the Code**

The Code of Student Conduct recognizes many strategies which may be used as alternatives to home suspensions, or as follow-up to suspension or temporary removal from class:

**REFERRAL TO ADMINISTRATOR:** An administrator intervenes when informal corrective actions fail or when violations are serious.

**DETENTION:** A school may elect to provide for certain conduct. Each school specifies those types of conduct for which detention may be assigned. A maximum of ten days of detention may be assigned for any one conduct problem.

**SCHOOL CHORES:** A school may elect to provide the student with an opportunity to perform supervised activities, away from other students, related to the upkeep and maintenance of school facilities instead of suspension, not to exceed ten hours of work for any one conduct problem. The student and parent may request this alternative; however, the decision rests with the principal.

**TIME-OUT:** Temporary removal from the situation/activity where the student is having a problem. The time-out period varies from a few minutes to the length of the school day, depending on the infraction and the student's response to this disciplinary action. Time-out areas are monitored. Parent notification recommended.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS):** ISS is the removal of students from their regular classes to an isolated area that is highly structured and supervised. Students who exhibit disruptive behavior and/or repeated offenses are assigned to ISS. Students can continue their regular classroom assignments during ISS. Remedial and/or enrichment activities are provided if needed. Parents are notified by phone or letter when students are assigned. Rules specific to ISS are provided to the student upon assignment.

**BUS SUSPENSION:** Any short term, long term, or permanent removal of bus riding privileges.

**HOME SUSPENSION:** A school administrator may suspend a student from school for up to 10 days for chronic disobedience and/or gross misconduct. Principals take this action when they have at least considered other alternatives and rejected them as inappropriate in a given situation. Conferences to resolve the problem are scheduled with the parent, student, and appropriate administrator. **Students are not allowed on campus during the school day, nor are they allowed to attend, participate in, or practice at, any school function or activity during the period of suspension. Students are required to make up all missing assignments.**

**BEHAVIOR CORRECTION PLAN:** When a student's behavior results in chronic discipline, the parent will help write a Behavior Correction Plan. It will state: (1) expected behavior; (2) consequences for misbehavior; and (3) rewards/privileges for compliant behavior.

**TEACHER AUTHORITY TO REMOVE A STUDENT FROM CLASS: Student Removal**

House Bill 605 has drastically impacted student discipline. One major area is that of teacher authority. Teachers have the authority to remove from their classes, a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of a student's classmates to learn. Before a student is removed from the classroom, the request will be reviewed by a Placement Review Committee to be rejected or upheld.

**REFERRAL TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM:** When less severe strategies seem inappropriate or when all school strategies have been exhausted, a principal may refer a student to the alternative program if age-appropriate. Misbehavior at Alternative School can result in recommendation for expulsion.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT:** Corporal punishment may be administered by an administrator to a pupil for an infraction of school rules. Corporal punishment will always be administered in the presence of a witness who must be a member of the school faculty. Sound discretion will be exercised, and corporal punishment will not be excessive or unduly severe. In all cases involving corporal punishment, a written report will be kept on file in the principal's office.

**EXPULSION:** A school principal may request the Superintendent to recommend the expulsion of a student. This is the most serious disciplinary step available. It denies the student attendance in any and all programs of the Turner County Schools for a period of time as designated in policy.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT:** Law enforcement agencies can be contacted at the discretion of the school if criminal activity occurs on campus, if disruption is excessive, or if chronic truancy is a problem. Law enforcement agencies must be notified without exception in situations involving weapons, alcohol, drugs, battery, or sex offenses.

## **CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATIONS:**

Off-Campus Behavior Notification from law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the court system, or any official organization that a student has been taken into custody or charged with a felony or a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or a charge that is sexual in nature, will prompt the school principal to collect pertinent information and to make a determination whether the student's continued presence at school presents a potential danger to persons or property at the school or may substantially disrupt the educational process.

If such a determination is made, the principal may recommend a suspension or expulsion of longer than ten (10) days. A tribunal of school officials will hold a disciplinary hearing to consider and make final decisions on such recommendations. If a student is adjudicated, or found guilty of a felony offense, the principal will make an immediate recommendation of expulsion or assignment to an alternative program. A tribunal of school officials will hold a disciplinary hearing to consider and make final decisions on such recommendations.

Any student transferring to Turner County Schools from a juvenile YDC or other disciplinary state facility will be placed in an alternative program for a length of time to be determined by the principal. Some misdemeanors (especially of a sexual nature) may result in a student not being allowed to attend school also.

The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this code of conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

The student code of conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- **On the school grounds during, before, and after school hours**
- **On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a group**
- **Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event**
- **En route to and from school on a school bus or any other school vehicle**

### **Disciplinary Action**

Any student who violates any conduct related policy will be subject to the disciplinary plan of the school system and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Students whose actions violate the criminal code will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The disciplinary actions to which a student may be subjected include, at the discretion of the building level administrator and/or designee, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, referral to proper law enforcement authorities for protection, and/or referral to a disciplinary tribunal for possible long-term suspension, alternative placement, or expulsion.

### ***Responsibility—Employee***

All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school where the violation occurred or where the student is enrolled.

**Turner County Schools practice progressive discipline processes. The degree of discipline is proportional to the severity of the behavior. Students' previous disciplinary history and other related factors are taken into consideration. Turner County Schools adheres to all due process procedures required by federal and state law.**

## ***Disciplinary Policy—Progressive Model***

This progressive discipline model is divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequences. The level of discipline imposed shall be based on the severity of the misbehavior.

**Level I Discipline:** Level I discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly school procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student's own learning process. Students may be disciplined by the professional staff member involved or may be referred directly to the principal.

Professional staff may utilize any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation, including but not limited to the following:

1. Classroom detention.
2. Classroom isolation from peers.
3. Corporal punishment.
4. Student participation in conferences with parents/guardian and teacher.
5. Participation in a school-service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait(s).
6. Development of a written or graphic representation that reflects understanding of the specific misbehavior, the nature of the expected behavior and the related character trait(s).
7. Isolation during lunch.

The principal may utilize any of the above discipline management techniques, and/or may employ:

1. Student participation in conferences with parent/guardian, teacher, and/or principal.
2. Restriction from school programs and special assemblies.
3. Partial day in-school suspension.
4. Full day in-school suspension for up to three school days.
5. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
6. Any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

**Level II Discipline:** Offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct that require administrative intervention. These acts include, but are not limited to, repeated, but unrelated, acts of minor misconduct and misbehaviors directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health, safety or well-being of others. Consideration of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided.

Students guilty of a Level II offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Student participation in conferences with parent/guardian, teacher, and/or principal.
2. Corporal punishment.
3. Restriction from programs and special assemblies.
4. Partial day in-school suspension.
5. Full day in-school suspension for up to five school days.
6. Suspension from school for up to three school days, which shall include any time during which the student was subject to suspension pending investigation.
7. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
8. Financial restitution for the repair of and damage caused to the school-related environment.
9. Participation in a school-service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait(s).
10. Any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).
11. Assignment to detention.

***NOTE:*** Level II differs from Level I in that it increases the maximum number of days in in-school suspension from three to five, adds financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment, provides for out-of-school suspension for up to three school days, and prompts consideration of behavior support services.

**Level III Discipline:** Offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehavior that is similar in nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal. Offenses that threaten the health, safety, or well-being of others may result in immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities

for up to three school days pending disciplinary investigation of the allegations. Student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal is a required element of all discipline actions in this category, even if such a conference has previously occurred. Initiation of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the school disciplinary tribunal and/or procedural safeguards provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students guilty of a Level III offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Restriction from programs and special assemblies.
2. Full day in-school suspension for up to 15 school days.
3. Suspension from school for up to five school days, which shall include any time during which the student was subject to suspension pending investigation.
4. Placement in an alternative education program for up to one semester and until such a time as the student meets the exit requirements to the alternative school program.
5. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
6. Financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
7. Participation in a school-service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait(s).
8. Any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

**NOTE:** Level III differs from Level II because it requires the student and parent/guardian to participate in a conference with the principal for any discipline incident in this category, omits partial day assignments to in-school suspension, increases the maximum number of days in in-school suspension from five to fifteen, increases the number of days for out-of-school suspension from three to five days, provides an option to immediately suspend a student from school for up to three school days in situations in which the health safety or well-being of others is at-risk during the disciplinary investigation, and adds alternative school placement options.

**Level IV Discipline:** Offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct. These offenses must be *immediately* reported to the principal. These violations are so serious that they may require use of outside agencies and/or law enforcement. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Any misconduct that threatens the health, safety, or well-being of others may result in immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to three school days, pending disciplinary investigation of the allegations. Student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal is a required element of all discipline actions in this category, even if such a conference has previously occurred. Initiation of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These include such procedures as the school disciplinary tribunal and/or procedural safeguards provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students guilty of a Level IV offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee, including, but not limited to the following:

1. In-school suspension for up to 30 school days.
2. Out-of-school suspension for up to ten school days, which shall include any time during which the student was subject to suspension pending investigation.
3. Placement in an alternative education program for up to two semesters and until such a time as the student meets the exit requirements for the alternative school program.
4. Expulsion from the regular school program for up to one calendar year.
5. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
6. Financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
7. Participation in a school-service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait.
8. Any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

**NOTE:** Level IV differs from Level III in that it requires student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal for all discipline incidents in this category, eliminates restriction from programs and activities as an independent consequence, increases the maximum number of days in in-school suspension from 15 to 30, increases the length of placement in an alternative school program from up to one semester to up to two semesters, increases the maximum number of days suspended from school from five to ten, and provides for expulsion for up to one calendar year.

## **V. Disciplinary Policy and Procedures**

The offenses and disciplinary actions listed below apply to all situations which occur on school campuses, during school activities, or during school-related functions, and en route to and from school on school buses. The school has the flexibility to implement the plan to best address the needs of the school and student. Any disability of the student must be taken into account when addressing misbehavior, in accordance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, IDEA, and the Georgia Special Education rules. All actions for offenses are **minimum dispositions**. The age of the child and the severity of the offense are considered in the administration of these rules. **Repeated episodes of misconduct will result in increasingly severe disciplinary actions.**

Discipline	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Comments
Possession, sale, use in any amount, distribution or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturates, marijuana, drug paraphernalia or alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant			X	X	Requires law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Possession, distribution, attempted sale or sale of substances represented as drugs or alcohol.			X	X	Requires law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Sale, attempted sale, distribution, or being under the influence of a prescription or over-the-counter drug.		X	X	X	Requires law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument.				X	Requires law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Assault, including threats of bodily harm and/or sexual assault, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions.			X	X	Terroristic threats fall into this category. Requires Law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Battery, including sexual battery, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions			X	X	Requires law enforcement involvement – Criminal Law Violation
Disrespectful conduct toward teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions.	X	X	X		

Discipline	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Comments
Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature.		X	X	X	Sexual Harassment falls into this category. May require law enforcement involvement.
Possession or use of tobacco in any form		X	X		May require law enforcement.
Damaging or defacing personal property or school property (vandalism)	X	X	X	X	May require law enforcement.
Theft, willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of school or person at school.	X	X	X	X	May require law enforcement.
Extortion or attempted extortion	X	X	X		May require law enforcement.
Possession and/or use of fireworks or any explosives			X	X	May require law enforcement.
Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat			X	X	May require law enforcement.
Marking, defacing or destroying school property or the property of other school members.	X	X	X	X	May require law enforcement.
Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives; disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff	X	X	X		
Classroom and school disturbances	X	X			
Violation of school dress code	X	X			
Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words (including ethnic or racial slurs)	X	X	X		
Indecent exposure, and/or inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts.		X	X	X	Level IX if age disparity outside of legal limit; may involve law enforcement



<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Level I</b>	<b>Level II</b>	<b>Level III</b>	<b>Level IV</b>	<b>Comments</b>
School day use/misuse or inappropriate storage of a cell phone, or electronic communication device, except for health or other unusual reasons approved by the Board of Education	X	X	X		
Inappropriate public displays of affection;	X	X	X	X	
Gambling or possession of gambling devices	X	X	X	X	May require law enforcement.
Moving and non-moving driving violations	X	X			May require law enforcement.
Giving false information to school officials	X	X	X	X	
Cheating on school assignments	X	X			
Unexcused absences, chronic tardiness, truancy, skipping class, leaving campus without permission, in unauthorized area	X	X	X		
Bullying			X	X	On the third offense, the student will be automatically placed in alternative school.
Criminal law violations			X	X	
Habitual violations	X	X	X	X	

## **PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING STUDENT DISCIPLINE REPORTS/REFERRALS**

**It is the expectation of the Turner County School System for teachers to incorporate Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies within the classroom environment. When specific strategies generate limited to no success, teachers are expected to submit a student discipline report via the student information system to the school principal or the principal's designee. This documented student behavior report should only include an individual student's behavior details. The principal or the principal's designee will notify the student's parent or guardian of the behavior incident within one day of his/her receipt of the behavior referral. The principal or principal's designee will provide parents and/or guardians with a written notification of the school's resolution of their student's student discipline report. The referring teacher may access the student discipline referral resolution via the school's information system.**

## **PROCEDURES WHEN DISCIPLINING**

### **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

School personnel may, for not more than ten school days in a row, remove a child with a disability who violates the code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another

setting, or suspension without consulting the student's IEP team. School personnel may also impose additional removals of not more than ten days for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.

Once a child has been removed from his or her current placement for a total of ten, consecutive or not consecutive, school days in the same school year, the school system must, during any subsequent days of removal in that school year, provide services that enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP.

Within ten school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct (except for a removal that is less than ten school days and is not a change in placement), a manifestation determination review must be conducted by the school system, which includes all member of the IEP team including the parent and student (if applicable). The manifestation determination will review all relevant information in the student's file, in the IEP, any teacher observations and any relevant information provided by the parent to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was a direct result of the school systems failure to implement the child's IEP.

If the relevant members of the IEP team determine that either of these conditions was met, the conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability. If the conduct was the result of the school system's failure to implement the IEP, the school system must take immediate action to remedy those deficiencies.

When the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP team must conduct (or review if already in place) the Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and develop and implement (or review and modify) a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) for the student to address the behavior so as to prevent it from occurring in the future.

1. If your child carries a weapon to school or to a school function; if your child knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or if your child inflicts serious bodily injury on another person while at school, on school premises or at a school sponsored function, school system personnel may order a change in placement of your child to (a) an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for not more than 10 school days (to the extent such alternatives would be applied to children without disabilities), or to (b) an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for the same amount of time that a child without a disability would be subject to discipline, but for not more than 45 days without regard to whether or not the behavior was a manifestation of disability. The alternative education setting shall be determined by the IEP team.
2. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement is appropriate.
3. An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or hearing officer may order a change in placement of your child to the IEP-determined appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days if the/hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of your child is substantially likely to result in injury to your child or to others; and determines that the interim alternative educational setting meets the requirements of paragraph (5).
4. Any interim alternative educational setting in which your child is placed pursuant to paragraph (1) or paragraph (4) in this section shall: (a) be selected so as to enable your child to continue to receive educational services in order to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to continue to progress toward the goals set out in the IEP; and (b) receive the services and modifications of a functional behavioral assessment and behavior intervention plan designed to address the behavior so that it does not recur.

5. If a disciplinary action is contemplated as described in paragraph (1) or paragraph (4) of this section for the behavior of your child, you shall be notified of that decision and of all procedural safeguards accorded under this section no later than the date on which the decision to take that action is made, and immediately, if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date on which the decision to take that action is made, the school system, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team shall conduct a review of the relationship between your child's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action.
6. In carrying out a review described in paragraph (6) of this section, the school system, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the parent and the school system) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, and teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine (1) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or (2) if the conduct in question was the direct result of the school systems failure to implement the IEP. When the school system, the parent and the relevant members of the IEP determine that either (a) or (b) is applicable, the conduct is a manifestation of the disability.
7. If the determination is that the behavior of your child was not a manifestation of his or her disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to children without disabilities may be applied to your child in the same manner in which they would be applied to children without disabilities except that the child: (a) must continue to receive educational services so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP; and (b) receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.
8. If the determination is made that the conduct was a manifestation of the disability, then the IEP team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement the behavior intervention plan or review such and revise as necessary if already in place. The child shall be returned to the placement from which he or she was removed, unless the parent and the school system agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan. For circumstances described in paragraph (1) or (4) an interim alternative setting may be used as determined by the IEP team.
9. If you request an expedited due process hearing regarding a disciplinary action described in paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph (3) to challenge the interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination, your child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period provided for in paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph (3), whichever occurs first, unless you and the State or the school system agree otherwise. Such expedited due process hearing must occur within 20 school days of the date the hearing is requested and must result in a determination within 10 school days after the hearing; a resolution session meeting must occur within seven days of the date the hearing is requested and the hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 days of receipt of the hearing request. The decision of an expedited due process hearing may be appealed.
10. When an expedited due process hearing has been requested regarding placement as a result of a violation of code of conduct, the child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period defined, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the State or local agency agree otherwise.
11. If a child has not been determined eligible for special education and related services and violated a code of student conduct, but the school system had knowledge before the behavior occurred that the child may be a child with a disability, then the child may assert the protections described in this notice. A school system has knowledge that the child may be a child with a disability if:
  - A. The parent of the child has expressed concern in writing that the child is in need of special education and related services to supervisory or administrative personnel or the teacher of the child.
  - B. The parent requested an evaluation related to eligibility for special education and related services under the IDEA.

- C. The child's teacher or other system personnel expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child directly to the school system's director of special education or to other supervisory personnel of the school system.

A school system does not have knowledge if:

- a. The child's parent has not allowed an evaluation of the child.
- b. Has refused special education and related services.
- c. Has revoked consent for the delivery of special education and related services or;
- d. The child has been evaluated and determined not to be a child with a disability eligible for services under the IDEA.

If you would like a further explanation of any of these rights, you may contact the Special Education Director for Turner County School System.

## NOTICE

**Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1, it is unlawful for students and certain others to carry, possess or have under control any weapon or explosive compound within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or on school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school.**

**The term "weapon" may include but is not limited to:**

- 1. Any pistol, revolver, handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any weapon which will or can be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or electrical charge; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in OCGA sec 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade, and**
- 2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chankha, nunchuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star, oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined at O.C.G.A. § 16-11-106(a). (See O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1)(a)(2).**

**The term "weapon" shall not include any baseball bats, golf clubs or other sports equipment possessed by competitors for legitimate athletic purposes, nor any firearms possessed by participants in school organized sport shooting events or firearm training courses, or persons participating in military training programs conducted by or on behalf of the armed forces of the United States or the Georgia Department of Defense.**

**Any violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1 by a student may result in expulsion from school for one year and/or criminal prosecution. A juvenile who violates O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1 may have a juvenile complaint filed against him or her and be subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 15-11-63.**

**Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a student possesses or has had possession of a weapon as defined in paragraph 1 above, is involved in an assault using a weapon as defined in paragraph 2, or is involved in a second offense with a weapon on campus must report such violations to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that such a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.**

**The student's parents or guardian shall be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons.**

**The Turner County Board of Education with the guidance and direction of the Superintendent of Schools ensures that the qualifying Student Discipline Hearing Officer and Disciplinary Tribunal or Panel Members receive the appropriate training prior to serving in the related capacity. Student Discipline Hearing Officer and Disciplinary Tribunal or Panel Members participate in on-going related professional learning as they continue to serve in the above capacity.**

**.....**

**In an effort to comply with the requirements of State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16, Turner County Schools reports annually to the Georgia Department of Education data regarding students found by official action to be in violation of a school rule related to a criminal offense that occurs on school property. See also O.C.G.A 160-4-8-.15 Student Discipline Code JD.**

- All incidents listed in **bold type** are subject to inclusion in annual discipline reports to the Georgia Department of Education.

## **BOARD POLICY – JB**

### **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

In responding to student attendance issues, the Turner County School System shall comply with all requirements of state law, applicable State Board of Education rules, and the protocol developed by the student attendance and school climate committee.

#### **Excused Absences**

It is the policy of the Board to excuse students from school for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U. S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
8. Any other absence not explicitly defined in this policy but deemed to have merit based on circumstances as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The principal may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

School days missed as a result of out of school suspension shall not be counted as unexcused for the purpose of determining student truancy, but shall be counted as unexcused for all other purposes.

#### **Students Counted Present**

Students shall be counted present under the following circumstances:

1. When they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
2. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to his or her foster care shall be counted present and shall not be counted absent, either excused or unexcused, for any day or portion of a day missed from school

## **Grades and Absences**

Final course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily

### **Policies and Procedures to Reduce Unexcused Absences: Notification**

1. The school system shall provide to the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student (hereinafter referred to as "parent") when the student has five unexcused absences. The notice will outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence will constitute a separate offense. After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, the school system will send written notice via first class mail or via certified mail, return receipt requested; and
2. Prior to any action to commence judicial proceedings to impose a penalty on the parent for failing to comply with compulsory attendance law, the school system will notify the parent by certified mail, return receipt requested; and
3. Each school shall provide to the parent of each student enrolled a written summary of possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with compulsory attendance. By September 1 of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment, the parent will be asked to sign a statement indicating receipt of such a written statement of possible consequences and penalties. In addition, students age ten or older by September 1 must sign a statement indicating receipt of a written statement of possible consequences for non-compliance with the local Board policy.

An Appeals Process shall be established by the administrative staff to consider extenuating circumstances which may need to be addressed based on individual needs.

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

The following administrative procedures shall be followed by the school, students and parents/guardians as students return to school after an absence:

### **Definitions for Student Attendance Protocol Tardy**

**Tardy to Class** – A student is "tardy to class" when he/she arrives to class after the tardy bell.

**Excused Tardy** – Includes events that are physically out of your control such as: a verifiable accident, road closed due to an accident, power outage, sickness when verbally verified by parent, doctor appointment when verified by doctor's office visit slip, etc.

**Unexcused Tardy** – Over-sleeping, traffic too heavy, errand for parents, delayed at train crossing, out of gas, car trouble, missed bus, personal business, out of town, etc.

### **Truant**

Any child subject to compulsory attendance who, during the school calendar year, has 10 or more unexcused absences.

### Exception for Suspension

School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall count as excused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.

### Excused Absences

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. Mental health clearance letter from a Mental Health Professional before returning to school.
4. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
5. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
6. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
7. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
8. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
9. Any other absence not explicitly defined in this policy but deemed to have merit based on circumstances as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

### Students Counted Present

Students shall be counted present under the following circumstances:

1. When they are serving as Pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
2. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to his or her foster care shall be counted present and shall not be counted absent, either excused or unexcused, for any day or portion of the day missed from school.
3. A student who successfully participates in the Student Teen Elections Participant (STEP) program shall be present and given full credit for the school day in which he or she served as a volunteer poll worker, up to two school days per school year.

### **Grades and Absences**

Course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
2. All make-up work was completed satisfactorily.
3. In the event of prolonged absences due to extenuating circumstances, the student, parent or guardian may request the case be reviewed by the Attendance Appeals Committee. (See Attendance Appeals Committee.)

### **Procedures for Absences: Notification**

1. A written excuse from a physician, parent or guardian, stating days missed and reason for absence, shall be provided to the designated person at each within three (3) days the student returns to school after an absence. Only five (5) written excuses and/or emails from a parent/guardian will be accepted per semester. Also, school officials will accept faxed notes from the doctor once the student returns to school. School officials will ONLY EXCUSE the note(s) provided with the date(s) from the physician, parent or guardian.



2. Parents of students from ages 6-15 (including kindergarten students which have been enrolled 20 consecutive school days) who have accumulated three (3) or more unexcused absences shall be referred to the Turner County School Attendance Support Team which shall initiate the Truancy Prevention Protocol included in this Code of Conduct.

### **Withdrawal**

When a sixteen or seventeen year-old student desires to withdraw from school, he/she must have the written permission of his/her parent or guardian prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator will have a conference with the student and parent/legal guardian within two school days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw. The purpose of the conference is to share with the student and parent/guardian educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma

### **Attendance and Tardies/Early Dismissals for Students in Grades K-12:**

#### **K-5th Grades:**

1. Students are expected to be on time and in attendance daily. Students must be present at least 1/2 of the school day to be counted present.
2. Parents are responsible for getting students to school on time and should not make a habit of taking students out of school prior to official dismissal time.

Students will be referred to the Attendance Support Team (AST) when they have received excessive tardies/early dismissals. The AST will determine whether the tardies/early dismissals are excused or unexcused. If the school nurse calls the parents/guardians to pick up the student, he or she will be excused for the rest of the school day. For students who have acquired 10 unexcused tardies/early dismissals, the school social worker may initiate legal action to resolve truancy. Social worker may initiate any or all of the following actions:

- a. Contact the parent for a second attendance conference;
- b. Refer matter to the Department of Family and Children's Service for an investigation of possible educational neglect.
- c. File a complaint in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be a dependent child for reasons of parental inability to ensure the child attends school and for educational neglect.

#### **6th-8th Grades:**

1. Students are expected to be on time and in attendance daily. Students must be present at least 1/2 of the school day to be counted present.
2. Parents are responsible for getting students to school on time and should not make a habit of taking students out of school prior to official dismissal time.
3. Students will be referred to the Attendance Support Team (AST) when they have received excessive tardies/early dismissals. The AST will determine whether the tardies/early dismissals are excused or unexcused.
4. Students who arrive after the tardy bell (to school) must go directly to the front office and SIGN IN.
5. Students must see the principal's designee to obtain a tardy pass to enter the classroom after the tardy bell rings. Excessive tardiness will result in progressive punishment using steps B-D of the disciplinary action plan.
6. Students who are tardy to class by more than 1/2 of the period are required to have an admit pass and are recorded absent for that class.

7. Parents/guardians or other persons approved to check-out students during the day must report to the Front Office. After the checkout is verified and approved by the school official, the student will be cleared to check-out at the end of the instructional period. Students who miss class for more than 1/2 of the period due to early dismissal will be recorded as absent.

**Students' Illness During the Day:** Students who become ill during the day must have a pass from the school nurse to come to the Front Office. Students may be checked out of school only by their legal guardian or by persons authorized on the student's Medical Authorization and Emergency Release Form. Parents/ guardians must be available by telephone. If the school nurse calls the parents/guardians to pick up the student, he or she will be excused for the rest of the school day. For students who have acquired 10 unexcused tardies/early dismissals, the school social worker may initiate legal action to resolve truancy. Social worker may initiate any or all of the following actions:

- a. Contact the parent for a second attendance conference;
- b. Refer matter to the Department of Family and Children's service for an investigation of possible educational neglect.
- c. File a complaint in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be a dependent child for reasons of parental inability to ensure the child attends school and for educational neglect.

#### **9th-12th Grades:**

1. Students are expected to be on time and in attendance daily. Students must be present at least 1/2 of the school day to be counted present. Students must be present at least 1/2 or more of the class block to be counted present for that class.
2. Parents are responsible for getting students to school on time and should not make a habit of taking students out of school prior to official dismissal time.
3. For students who have acquired 20 unexcused tardies/early dismissals, the school social worker will file a CHINS petition with the Juvenile Judge.
3. Students who arrive after the tardy bell (to school) must go directly to the office and SIGN IN. Tardy passes are issued by the attendance official until 8:45 a.m. After 8:45 a.m., tardy students are recorded as absent for 1st block and issued an admit pass to take to class.
4. Students may not have more than 3 tardies to class per semester. Upon the 4th tardy the teacher will write an administrative discipline referral.
5. Students must see the principal's designee to obtain a tardy pass to enter the classroom after the tardy bell rings. Excessive tardiness will result in progressive punishment.
6. Students who are tardy to class by more than 1/2 of the class are required to have an admit pass and are recorded absent for that class.
7. Parents/guardians or other persons approved to check-out students during the day must report to the Attendance Office. After the checkout is verified and approved by the attendance official, the student will be cleared to check-out at the end of the instructional period. Students who miss class for more than 1/2 of the class due to early dismissal will be recorded as absent.
8. **Pre-Approved Early Dismissal (Check-Out):** Students who need to leave school during the school day must take their note to the Office before 1<sup>st</sup> block. The student should present a note from the parent/guardian authorizing the student's early release. The note must include a parent contact number. When this note is presented and verified by the attendance official, an Early Dismissal Pass will be issued to the student. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the student will not be allowed to check-out.
9. The Early Dismissal Pass must be presented to the teacher of the class in session when the student leaves during the day. The student must report to the Attendance Office and sign-out before leaving campus. Verification/authorization

for sign-outs must occur prior to the students' leaving campus. If the student is being checked out for a doctor's appointment, documentation regarding the appointment must be presented in order for the absence to be excused. If the parent/guardian picks up the student from the nurse's office, the absence/early check-out will be counted as excused for the remainder of the day.

**10. Students Illness During the Day:** Students who become ill during the day may be checked out of school only by their legal guardian or by persons authorized on the student's Medical Authorization and Emergency Release Form. Parents/guardians must be available by telephone to verify student release if they do not personally check-out the student. If the school nurse calls the parents/guardians to pick up their child, the student will be excused for the rest of the school day. For students who have acquired 10 unexcused tardies/early dismissals, the school social worker may initiate legal action to resolve truancy. Social worker may initiate any or all of the following actions:

- a. Contact the parent for a second attendance conference;
- b. Refer matter to the Department of Family and Children's Service for an investigation of possible educational neglect.
- c. File a complaint in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be a dependent child for reasons of parental inability to ensure the child attends school and for educational neglect.

### **Attendance Appeals Process: Grades K-12**

1. An Attendance Appeals Committee shall be established by the building administrator.
2. The Attendance Appeals Committee in each school shall be composed of an administrator, counselor, school social worker, teacher, or any other person the principal feels necessary who has information for the Committee to consider.
3. The Attendance Appeals Committee shall meet as the building administrator deems it necessary. (The Attendance Appeals Committee must meet upon the request of a parent or student.) Minutes are to be kept of all attendance hearings.
4. Parents/guardians must be advised of their right of appeal to the Superintendent. This advice must be recorded.

### **TRUANCY PREVENTION PROTOCOL**

Upon receiving a referral for a child in danger of becoming truant, the Attendance Support Team (AST) shall initiate the following steps:

# of unexcused absences	Intervention action
3	Infinite Campus Call Out
5	Mail and/or email letter to parents
7	Schedule mandatory a conference with the School Social Worker or AST. Mail attendance conference letter. The Parent attends the conference and signs the letter. At the discretion of the AST, the child may also be required to attend the conference.
10	Initiate legal action to resolve truancy. Social worker may initiate any or all of the following actions :

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Contact the parent for a second attendance conference;</li> <li>b. Refer matter to District attorney's office to initiate an action in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be a child in need of services (CHINS);</li> <li>c. File a complaint in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be in need of services.</li> <li>d. Refer matter to the Department of Family and Children's service for an investigation of possible educational neglect.</li> <li>e. File a complaint in Juvenile Court alleging the child to be a dependent child for reasons of parental inability to ensure the child attends school and for educational neglect.</li> <li>f. Refer matter to District Attorney's Office to request that a criminal action be initiated in State Court alleging the parent to have violated Georgia's mandatory school attendance law</li> </ul>
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### **HEAD LICE**

Turner County Schools are following a "no-nit" policy. Your child can return to school only when all head lice and nits are removed from the child's head. Your child will be rechecked by the clinic aide/school personnel before being allowed to return to class. If nits are found, the child will not be allowed to return to class. The student will be allowed up to two excused absences for head lice treatment. Any days after those two days will be counted as unexcused absences.

### **BOARD POLICY – JCDAG**

#### **BULLYING**

The Turner County Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:

- a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
- b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
- c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee who, in the exercise of his or her personal judgment and discretion, believes he or she has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying is encouraged to immediately report it to the school principal. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

## **OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT**

The Turner County Board of Education and the institutions under its jurisdiction shall have authority to control the conduct of students under the general power to provide for control and management of the school system. It is the duty of the Board of Education to make necessary rules and policies to regulate student conduct for the purpose of maintaining good order and discipline in the school. The Board has a responsibility to provide protection for students and employees and to provide and maintain a safe and orderly environment for education to take place.

Administrators are authorized to take disciplinary action for conduct which occurs:

(a) on the school grounds during or immediately before or immediately after school hours; (b) on the school grounds at any other time; (c) off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event; (d) en route to and from school or school activity.

Authority to take disciplinary action also extends to any off-campus non-school related actions by students which have a direct and immediate impact on school discipline, the educational function of the school or the welfare of the students and staff. A student who has been formally charged with violation(s) of criminal law, whether or not the case has been adjudicated, and whose presence on school property may endanger the welfare and/or safety of other students or staff, or whose presence may cause substantial disruption at school is subject to disciplinary action. Off-campus, non-school related misconduct may be considered as a sufficient basis for suspension, exclusion from school. Other appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to in-school suspension and assignment to an alternative educational program or site may be taken.

School officials shall contact proper authorities to verify any and all allegations that a student has been arrested or charged. The Superintendent and staff shall cooperate with the probation office or courts in order to allow for that office to conduct a proper investigation. If the matter involves a juvenile, the Superintendent and staff shall cooperate with the Juvenile Court concerning the student's conduct and record in school.

Any suspension, expulsion, or exclusion from enrollment under this policy shall not waive the student's rights to a due process hearing as set out in Board policy relating to suspension or expulsion.

## **STUDENTS – INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES**

### **Search of School Property**

Any property owned by, loaned to, or otherwise entrusted to the Board may, even though possession thereof has been assigned by school employees to individual students, be searched by school officials where there exists reasonable cause to believe that such property contains or otherwise conceals items, the possession of which is prohibited by either rules adopted by the Board or criminal laws.

### **Search of Private Property, and the Person of Students**

On reasonable cause that private property brought onto school property by a student or that the person of a student while on school property contains or conceals items described in the Code of Student Conduct, school officials may search such property or person. Upon the failure of any student to grant such permission, school officials may detain such student until such time as the school day ends, the school receives permission of the student's parent or guardian for such search, or a warrant is issued authorizing such search, whichever event shall first occur.

### **Seizure**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, school officials may seize and retain custody of any item referred to in the Code of Student Conduct upon the discovery of the existence of any such item either in or on any school property, in or on any private property brought onto school property by a student, or on the person of a student while on school property.

## **PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT REPORTING OF ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

- A. Any student (*or parent or friend of a student*) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator, or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor, or administrator at his/her school.
- B. Any teacher, counselor, or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator, or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*
- C. Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate policy authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator, or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

The Superintendent of Schools will ensure that all bus drivers know and understand their responsibilities for establishing and maintaining appropriate student behavior on school buses. The administrative procedure for Bus Conduct will be included in each driver's Transportation Handbook.

### **Discipline**

Self-control on the part of the student is necessary for the safe operation of any school bus. Students are expected to conform to the same standards of behavior as required during regular school activities.

Students who fail to conform to reasonable behavior expectations may expect to receive disciplinary measures. Repeated or serious violations will result in short or long term loss of bus privileges, and are subject to all other provisions contained in Code of Student Conduct.

Level III and Level IV discipline violations on the bus may result in school disciplinary action along with bus disciplinary action.

### **Safety**

All drivers will emphasize safety instructions and emergency evacuation procedures during the first week of school. An annual emergency drill will be conducted.

Students are expected to follow safety procedures concerning loading, unloading, seating and emergency evacuation as directed by their driver, teacher and principal.

Violation of safety measures is considered a serious offense; appropriate disciplinary measures will result.

## **TRANSPORTATION RULES AND PUPIL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **School Bus Rules and Pupil Responsibilities**

1. The driver is in charge of the bus and all pupils aboard. Obey the driver promptly and cheerfully.
2. Students must be at the bus stop a minimum of 5 minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time; the driver cannot wait beyond his or her regular schedule for those who are tardy.
3. Wait in an orderly line off the street or road. (Minimum: 12 Feet)
4. Cross in front of the bus only when the road is clear and at a safe distance in front of the bus in order to be seen by the driver. (Minimum: 12 Feet)
5. Do not run toward a school bus while it is in motion.
6. Ride only the bus assigned by school officials. Students must get on and off at the stop assigned by school officials.
7. Do not try to get on or off the bus or move about within the bus while it is in motion.
8. Pupils must remain seated while the bus is moving. Ride three in a seat, if necessary, and do not exchange seats unless given permission by the driver. If all seats are taken, stand to the rear while the bus is in motion.
9. Behave on the bus as you are expected to behave in the classroom. Any acts of physical violence, bullying, physical assault or battery of other persons on the bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the bus and other unruly behavior is prohibited. Physical violence is defined as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with another or intentionally making physical contact that causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or harms were in self-defense.
10. Do not engage in any activity which might divert the driver's attention and cause an accident such as:
  - (a) Loud talking or laughing, or unnecessary confusion.
  - (b) Unnecessary conversation with the driver.
  - (c) Extending any part of the body out of the bus windows or doors.
11. The usage of mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus is prohibited.



12. The usage of any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the bus is prohibited.
  13. Pupils are not to open or close bus doors at any time nor shall they regulate or operate any part of the bus.
- Students must be able to hold items carried on the bus in his/her lap. This does not include prohibited items.
14. Do not engage in any activity which might damage, cause excessive wear or litter to the bus or other property. The following activities are prohibited at all times:
    - (a) Smoking, eating, possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the bus.
    - (b) Spitting or throwing anything in or from the bus.
    - (c) Possessing knives or sharp objects on the bus.
    - (d) Bringing animals, baseball bats, skateboards, or any other item deemed inappropriate by the Director of Transportation.
  15. Pupils will not leave the bus on the way to school or home without a written request from the parent/guardian except in cases of personal emergency or if approved by the principal or transportation director.
  16. Pupils must be courteous to the driver, to fellow students, and to passersby at all times.
  17. Report promptly to the driver any damage done to the bus. Persons causing damage shall be expected to defray its full cost.
  18. All School Board Policies governing Student Discipline and Conduct will be observed.

### **Violations**

Discipline for bus misconduct will be handled with an age appropriate, progressive plan of discipline that may include any of the punishments listed in the disciplinary action plan. In addition to these punishments, bus conduct will also be subject to bus contracts, assigned seating, and short-term, long-term, or permanent removal of bus riding privileges.

**Automatic suspension of bus riding privileges can be implemented for the following offenses: fighting, cussing, vulgar language, obscene gestures, bullying, or other behavior deemed inappropriate by the school administration.** When a student is removed from a bus, they are not allowed to ride any Turner County bus. During any bus suspension, the parent/student is responsible for school attendance, unless he/she has been suspended from school.

### **K-5**

1st Offense: Discretion of administrator.

2nd Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 2 days.

3rd Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 3 days.

4th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 4 days.

5th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 5 days.

Six or more Offenses: Suspension of bus privileges for a minimum of 10 days.

Automatic Suspension: Suspension of bus privileges for a minimum of 10 days.

## 6-12

1st Offense: Discretion of administrator.

2nd Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 3 days.

3rd Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 6 days.

4th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 9 days.

5th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for up to 15 days.

Six or more Offenses: Suspension of bus privileges for a minimum of 30 days.

Automatic Suspension: Suspension of bus privileges for a minimum of 30 days.

## POSSESSION/USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES BY STUDENTS

### Student and Faculty Owned Electronic Devices On Campus

Turner County Schools does not prohibit students from bringing personal electronic devices on campus. However, the use of personal electronic devices on each campus is subject to the discretion of the administration of that campus. There is no uniform rule requiring or allowing use of devices during the school day. Students, parents, and staff are duly informed that bringing a personal device on campus can subject it to search and seizure in the event of an investigation of misuse.

- **Definition of "Device"**

"Device" means a wireless and/or portable electronic hand held equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, portable internet devices, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), hand held entertainment systems or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc. This list is not all inclusive and the administration of the building will determine if the device is acceptable.

- **Security and Damages**

The responsibility for keeping one's device secure rests with the individual owner. **The school system, its staff and employees, shall not be liable for any loss or damage to any device owned by a user or third party.** If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office similar to other personal property that is stolen or damaged. It is recommended that serial numbers are recorded and that skins (decals) and other custom touches are used to identify a user's device. Serial numbers will be used to identify "found" items. Additionally, protective cases for devices are encouraged.

- **Student Responsible Internet Use Guidelines**

As a student, I understand that using digital devices (whether personal or school owned) and the school system's technological resources is a privilege, conditioned upon compliance with this regulation.

- *Students are required to:*

- Use digital devices, networks and software in school for educational purposes and activities.
- Show respect for yourself and others when using technology including social media.
- Give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- Report inappropriate use of technology immediately.
- Abide by the Student Acceptable Use Agreement with the school system.

**Educational Use ONLY During Class** – devices are to be used to support or enhance teaching and learning only while in the classroom unless specifically authorized by school level administration.

**Used ONLY with Teacher Discretion During Class** – Teachers will work with students to establish when technology devices are to be used in class.

## **GENERAL STUDENT DRESS STANDARD**

The **rationale** for dress standards is to foster good citizenship and the school's ability to achieve its academic and instructional purposes. The **goal** is to promote student learning, safety, and behavior by assisting students and parents in making choices about appropriate school attire. The **expectation** is for students to dress in a clean, modest, and dignified manner reflecting self-respect and respect for others.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

- Clothing must be worn with appropriate undergarments and the undergarments must not be exposed or visible.
- Clothing must not expose the breast bone, midriffs, or low back.
- Clothing must not have holes or tears above the knee.
- Clothing must fit appropriately; excessively loose or tight clothing is not permitted.
- Clothing, body, and hair should be clean.
- **Clothing with words or graphics depicting or alluding to any of the following are strictly prohibited:**

*violence	*alcohol
*weapons	*tobacco
*gang affiliation	*intimidation
*sex	*bullying
*profanity	*self-destructive behavior
*drug use	*negative/inappropriate messages

- Any attire deemed by the administration to be a threat to the safety and security of the campus or a distraction to the learning environment will not be permitted.

### **QUICK GUIDE DRESS CODE**

#### **Pants:**

- All must be appropriately fitted, not baggy, not excessively large or tight, and worn and fastened at the waist (no sagging).

**Shorts and Skorts:**

- All must be appropriately fitted, not baggy, not excessively large or tight, and worn and fastened at the waist (no sagging).
- All must be no shorter than 3 inches above the bend behind the knee.

**Skirts and Dresses:**

- All must be no shorter than 3 inches above the bend behind the knee.
- Skirts must be fastened securely at the waist.
- Dresses must have sleeves (or covered by jacket/shirt/sweater).

**Shirts and Tops (including tops of dresses)**

- All must be buttoned and worn so the breast bone, midriff, or low back are not exposed.
- All must have sleeves; a jacket, blazer, shirt, or sweater may be worn to cover a sleeveless top.
- If worn untucked, shirts must be hemmed and may not exceed length of hips (for males).
- Shirts that exceed the length of hips must be tucked in except tops styled as a “tunic” (for females).

**Shoes and Footwear:**

- Shoes must be worn at all times and properly secured.
- Appropriate footwear is required for science labs, vocational shop classes, P.E., and other classes as deemed by administration.
- Bedroom shoes/slippers and roller-skate shoes/heelys are NOT allowed.

**Accessories:**

- Leggings, jeggings, or tights can only be worn under a skirt or dress that is no shorter than 3 inches above the bend behind the knee.
- Bandanas are not allowed.
- Undergarments must be worn and should not be exposed or visible.
- Glasses should only be worn for prescription. Sunglasses cannot be worn inside the building.
- All headwear, including hats, caps, and hoods, must be removed upon entering the building.
- Other accessories must be worn in a non-distracting manner and must be deemed appropriate by school level administration or must be removed.
- Insignias that are deemed offensive to a given sector of the school population or cause a disruption to the school's routines or the smooth operation of its educational process are not allowed.

**Hair:**

- Hair bands/hair pins designed to secure hair from eyes are allowed; no picks/ combs, or head wraps in hair.

## **BOARD POLICY – JGF(2)**

### **SECLUSION OR RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS**

The Turner County Board of Education shall require that all schools and programs within the district comply with State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.35 concerning “seclusion” and “restraint”, as those terms are defined within the rule.

This policy is not intended to prevent the use of physical restraint in limited circumstances where a student exhibits behaviors that place the student or others in imminent danger and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or less intensive de-escalation techniques. The Board of Education recognizes that in determining when and how to implement this policy and any procedures related to it, educators will have to exercise their professional judgment and discretion. Therefore, the policy

is not to be construed as imposing ministerial duties on individual employees. Further, it is not intended to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

For schools and programs within the district that use physical restraint as defined within the SBOE rule, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement written procedures governing its use, which shall include the following provisions:

1. Staff and faculty training on the use of physical restraint;
2. Written parental notification within a reasonable time, not to exceed one school day from the use of restraint, when physical restraint is used to restrain a student;
3. Procedures for observing and monitoring the use of physical restraint;
4. Documentation by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student in each instance in which the student is restrained;
5. Periodic review of the use of restraint and the documentation described in item 4.

1.

## **BOARD POLICY – IDFA**

### **GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS**

It is the policy of the Turner County Board of Education to prohibit discrimination based on gender in its elementary and secondary school athletic programs. As a part of achieving this goal, the Turner County School District annually shall notify all of its students of the name, office address, and office telephone number of the employee(s) who coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out the provisions of state law. This notification shall be included in a student handbook containing the code of conduct and distributed to all students.

An equity in sports grievance procedure is hereby adopted which provides for prompt and equitable resolution of written student complaints, including those brought by a parent or guardian on behalf of his or her minor child who

is a student, alleging any action which would be a violation of the pertinent Code section. The grievance procedure shall be as follows:

1. The employee designated as the person who coordinates efforts to comply shall render his or her decision in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of the complaint, and such decision shall set forth the essential facts and rationale for the decision;
2. A copy of such decision shall be provided to the complainant within five days of the date of the decision; and
3. A complainant shall have a right to appeal such a decision to the local board within 35 days of the date of the decision;
4. A complainant may appeal a decision of the Board in accordance with the procedures specified in O.C.G.A. §20-2-1160.

The Superintendent shall annually appoint an Equity in Sports Coordinator whose responsibility is to coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out requirements in regard to Equity in Sports.

The Equity in Sports Coordinator shall investigate any complaints communicated to the school system in regard to Equity in Sports.

#### **Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact your local system's Section 504 Coordinator at the following address:

System 504 Coordinator  
423 N. Cleveland St., Ashburn, GA 31714

The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104 provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.33.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. 34 CFR 104.33.
3. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. 34 CFR 104.34.
4. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.34.
5. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. 34 CFR 104.35.

6. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child. 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
8. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations. 34 CFR 104.35.
9. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. 34 CFR 104.35.
10. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. 34 CFR 104.35.
11. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 34 CFR 104.36.
12. You have the right to examine your child's educational records. 34 CFR 104.36.
13. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. 34 CFR 104.36.
14. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request. 34 CFR 104.36.
15. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure. 34 CFR 104.36.
16. You have the right to, at any time, file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Right.

## Section 504 Procedural Safeguards

1. **Overview:** Any student or parent or guardian (“grievant”) may request an impartial hearing due to the school system’s actions or inactions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant’s failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system’s obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator. The school system’s Section

504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing.

2. **Hearing Request:** The Request for the Hearing must include the following:

- a. The name of the student.
- b. The address of the residence of the student.
- c. The name of the school the student is attending.
- d. The decision that is the subject of the hearing.
- e. The requested reasons for review.
- f. The proposed remedy sought by the grievant.
- g. The name and contact information of the grievant.

Within 10 business days from receiving the grievant’s Request for Hearing, the Section 504 Coordinator will acknowledge the Request for Hearing in writing and schedule a time and place for a hearing. If the written Request for Hearing does not contain the necessary information noted above, the Section 504 Coordinator will inform the grievant of the specific information needed to complete the request. All timelines and processes will be stayed until the Request for Hearing contains the necessary information noted above.

3. **Mediation:** The school system may offer mediation to resolve the issues detailed by the grievant in his or her Request for Hearing. Mediation is voluntary and both the grievant and school system must agree to participate. The grievant may terminate the mediation at any time. If the mediation is terminated without an agreement, the school system will follow the procedures for conducting an impartial hearing without an additional Request for Hearing.

4. **Hearing Procedures:**

- a. The Section 504 Coordinator will obtain an impartial review official who will conduct a hearing within 45 calendar days from the receipt of the grievant’s Request for Hearing unless agreed to otherwise by the grievant or a continuance is granted by the impartial review official.



- b. Upon a showing of good cause by the grievant or school system, the impartial review official, at his or her discretion, may grant a continuance and set a new hearing date. The request for a continuance must be in writing and copied to the other party.
- c. The grievant will have an opportunity to examine the child's educational records prior to the hearing.
- d. The grievant will have the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel at his or her own expense at the hearing and participate, speak, examine witnesses, and present information at the hearing. If the grievant is to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing, he or she must inform the Section 504 Coordinator of that fact in writing at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. Failure to notify the Section 504 Coordinator in writing of representation by legal counsel shall constitute good cause for continuance of the hearing.
- e. The grievant will have the burden of proving any claims he or she may assert. When warranted by circumstances or law, the impartial hearing officer may require the recipient to defend its position/decision regarding the claims (i.e. A recipient shall place a disabled student in the regular educational environment operated by the recipient unless it is demonstrated by the recipient that the education of the person in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. 34 C.F.R. §104.34). One or more representatives of the school system, who may be an attorney, will attend the hearing to present the evidence and witnesses, respond to the grievant testimony and answer questions posed by the review official.
- f. The impartial review official shall not have the power to subpoena witnesses, and the strict rules of evidence shall not apply to hearings. The impartial review official shall have the authority to issue pre-hearing instructions, which may include requiring the parties to exchange documents and names of witnesses to be present.
- g. The impartial review official shall determine the weight to be given any evidence based on its reliability and probative value.
- h. The hearing shall be closed to the public.
- i. The issues of the hearing will be limited to those raised in the written or oral request for the hearing.

Witnesses will be questioned directly by the party who calls them. Cross-examination of witnesses will be allowed. The impartial review official, at his or her discretion, may allow further examination of witnesses or ask questions of the witnesses.

- k. Testimony shall be recorded by court reporting or audio recording at the expense of the recipient. All documentation related to the hearing shall be retained by the recipient.
- l. Unless otherwise required by law, the impartial review official shall uphold the action of the school system unless the grievant can prove that a preponderance of the evidence supports his or her claim.
- m. Failure of the grievant to appear at a scheduled hearing unless prior notification of absence was provided and approved by the impartial review official or just cause is shown shall constitute a waiver of the right to a personal appearance before the impartial review official.
- 5. **Decision:** The impartial review official shall issue a written determination within 20 calendar days of the date the hearing concluded. The determination of the impartial review official shall not include any monetary damages or the award of any attorney's fees.
- 6. **Review:** If not satisfied with the decision of the impartial review official, any party may pursue any right of review, appeal, cause of action or claim available to them under the law or existing state or federal rules or regulations.

## **School sponsored clubs**

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction, and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them. School sponsored clubs will be in operation during this school Year and are listed annually in the school's student handbook. You as a parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. For your convenience, a form is included in this handbook if you do not wish for your student to participate in the club you have designated on the form. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation. (Schools then will list the club information, including the name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor, and a description of past or planned activities

Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-33-HAVEN (1-800-334-2836)

Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to  
1-855-GA CHILD (1-855-422-4453):  
OR

\*If a child is in immediate danger call **911**



# **NOTICE**

## **Search & Seizure Warning**

**All Persons, Vehicles and Personal Belongings on School Property Are Subject to Search  
by**

**School Administrators**

**and/or**

**School Resource**

**Officers.**

**If You Suspect a Weapon**

**in Your School, Call  
1-877-SAY STOP  
(1-877-729-7867)**

**Turner County Public Schools**

**423 N. Cleveland St., Ashburn, GA 31714**

Updated and Board Approved 10/12/20