

2023-2024
Parent and Student Handbook
K-5



MISSION

Bladen County Schools will ensure all students are future-ready by providing meaningful learning experiences in an inclusive and supportive environment.

VISION

Bladen County Schools will provide a student-focused learning community that fosters high expectations for all stakeholders and prepares all students for future success.

CORE VALUES

Inspiration

We will foster an environment that empowers all students and staff with enthusiasm and motivation.

Inclusion

We will value all people for who they are, nurture diversity, and embrace the contributions of all stakeholders to strengthen our learning community.

Innovation

We will embrace forward-thinking and creativity to transform our schools.

Integrity

We will communicate and act in a trustworthy manner to build genuine relationships through self-awareness, transparency, accountability, and responsibility.

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Students and Families,

It is my privilege to welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year! The beginning of a new year is always an exciting time. A new year brings opportunities for growth through innovative teaching and learning practices in an environment that embraces continuous improvement. We are so thankful that you are a part of the Bladen County Schools family. We remain steadfast in our commitment to educating the whole child and providing a safe and welcoming environment for our students to learn.

It is our vision to provide a student-focused learning community that fosters high expectations for all stakeholders and prepares all students for future success. Having a clear understanding of expectations is important as we begin this school year. The pages of this handbook are filled with important information regarding district and school policies and procedures. Parents and students should review the contents together. We feel that open and clear communication between school and home is important to the success of our educational programs. By working together, I know we will have a successful year!

If you have any questions, please call your child’s school. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jason B. Atkinson

Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Bladen County Schools
2023-24 District Calendar—Traditional Schools



- Required Teacher Workday
- Optional Teacher Workday
- Annual Leave Day
- Holiday
- Early Release
- Summer Learning/Early Summer Testing
- Reading Camp
- End of Quarter

1,025 Hours Required—61,500 Minutes—Legislative Requirement
Calendar has 173 instructional days (1,066 hours accumulated)
370 instructional minutes per day minimum per school
First Semester—83 instructional days, exams before Christmas break
Second Semester—90 instructional Days
Built in 29 hours for weather delays, cancellations, early release, etc.
Adopted by the Board of Education November 21, 2022.

August	
14-18	Optional Teacher Workdays
21-25	Required Teacher Workdays
28	First Day of School
September	
4	Labor Day Holiday
October	
12	Early Release Day
13	Optional Teacher Workday
16	End of 1st Qtr Grading Period
23	Report Cards—Qtr 1
November	
10	Veterans Day Holiday
22	Optional Teacher Workday
23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	
15	Early Release Day
	End of 2nd Qtr Grading Period
18	Optional Teacher Workday
19-Jan 1	Holiday Break
January	
2	Start of 2nd Semester
8	ES/MS Report Cards—Qtr 2
12	HS Report Cards—Qtr 2
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	
22	Early Release Day
23	Optional Teacher Workday
March	
15	End of 3rd Qtr Grading Period
22	Report Cards—3rd Qtr
28	Early Release Day
29	Optional Teacher Workday
April	
1-5	Easter Holiday/Spring Break
May	
9	Early Release Day
10	Optional Teacher Workday
27	Memorial Day Holiday
31	Early Release
	Last Day of School
	End of 4th Qtr Grading Period
	ES/MS Report Cards—Qtr 4
June	
3-7	Required Teacher Workdays
7	EBHS Graduation—10:00 AM
	WBHS Graduation—3:00 PM
7	HS Report Cards—Qtr 4
10-14	Summer Learning/Early Summer Testing
	Reading Camp
17-20	Reading Camp
24-25	Reading Camp

Bladen County Schools | 2023-2024 Testing Calendar

14-18

Optional Workdays

21-25

Required Workdays

28

Students Return

28

EL WIDA Screening (first 30 Days)

AUGUST '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

1-29

K-12 WIDA ACCESS 2.0

12-16

HS Check-In 1 English 2 Biology, Math 1 & Math 3

22

Early Release Day

23

Opt. Teacher Workday

27

HS ACT 11th GR and CCRAA

27-29

HS ACT 11th Gr Accommodations

4

Labor Day

6-26

mClass BOY k-3

6

BOG 3 & Makeups (7th)

6-8

COGAT Testing

25-29

HS Check-In 1 English 2 Biology, Math 1 & Math 3

SEPTEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1-8

K-12 WIDA ACCESS 2.0

1-8

HS ACT 11th Grade Accommodations

4-8

ACT WorkKeys 12th Gr

12

ACT Make-up Day Standard Admin

28

Early Release Day

29

Option Teacher Workday

9-12

3-8 Check-In I 3-8 & MS Math I

12

Early Release Day

13

Opt. Teacher Workday

23-27

Pre-ACT CCRAA 10th gr

25

3rd RTA Test % Transition

OCTOBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-5

Spring Break

8-19

3-8 Check-In 3 MS Math I Check In 2 HS Check-In 2 English 2 Biology, Math 1 & Math 3

25-30

mClass EOY k-3

10

Veterans Day

6 - 9

HS Check-In 1 English 2 Biology, Math 1 & Math 3

13-17

ACT WorkKeys 12th gr

22

Early Release Day

23-24

Thanksgiving Holidays

NOVEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1-16

mClass EOY k-3

17-31

EOG (3-8), NCEXTEND1 (3-12) and year-long EOCs

24-31

EOC/CTE 2nd Semester

24-31

Cursive Assessment (Gr 2-5)

24-31

Mult. Assessment Gr 3

27

Memorial Day

29

RtA Assessment 3rd Grade

31

Early Release Last Day of School

11-15

1st Sem EOC/CTE Tests

15

Early Release Day

18

Option Teacher Workday

19-29

Winter Break

DECEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

3-7

Required Teacher Workdays

Summer Learning/Reading Camp dates TBD

1

New Year's Day

8-12

3-8 Check-in 2

9-30

mClass MOY K-3

15

M.L. King Day

22-31

K-12 WIDA ACCESS 2.0

JANUARY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JULY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Dates are subject to change

BLADEN COUNTY SCHOOLS DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Bladen Early College High School

Grades 9-12
Parker Building
7418 NC Highway 41 West
Dublin, NC 28332
(910) 876-6654
Principal: Haley Cheshire

East Bladen High School

Grades 9-12
5600 NC Highway 87 East
PO Box 578
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 247-4610
Principal: Georgia Spaulding

Bladen Lakes Primary School

Grades PreK-5
9554 Johnsontown Road
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 247- 4608
Principal: Jennifer Marlowe

Elizabethtown Middle School

Grades 5-8
1496 Highway 701 South
PO Box 639
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 862-4071
Principal: Joyce Spencer

Bladenboro Middle School

Grades 5-8
910 South Main Street
Bladenboro, NC 28320
(910) 863-3232
Principal: Chrystal McColskey

Elizabethtown Primary School

Grades PreK-4
301 Mercer Mill Road
PO Box 2649
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 862-3380
Principal: Priscilla Brayboy

Bladenboro Primary School

Grades Prek-4
312 Whiteville Road
Bladenboro, NC 28320
(910) 863-3387
Principal: Stephanie Norris

Plain View Primary School

Grades PreK-4
1963 Chicken Foot Road
Tar Heel, NC 28392
(910) 862-2371
Interim Principal: Kimbrie Esters

Clarkton School of Discovery

Grades 5-8
10000 North College Street
Clarkton, NC 28433
(910) 647-6531
Principal: Marc Edge

Tar Heel Middle School

Grades 5-8
14888 NC Highway 87 West
PO Box 128
Tar Heel, NC 28392
(910) 862-2475
Principal: Vanessa Ruffin

Dublin Primary School

Grades PreK-5
7048 Albert Street
PO Box 307
Dublin, NC 28332
(910) 862-2202
Principal: Jason Folsom

West Bladen High School

Grades 9-12
1600 NC Highway 410
Bladenboro, NC 28320
(910) 862-2130
Principal: Peggy Hester

East Arcadia School

Grades K-5
21451 NC Hwy 87 E
Riegelwood, NC 28456
(910) 247-4609
Principal: David Wimert

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who Should I Call? (pages 7-11)

- Who to Call Flowchart
- District Administration Directory
- Board of Education Directory
- District Lead Directory

General Information (pages 11-12)

- Mobile App
- Blackboard Reach
- Blackboard ParentLink
- Media Access & BCS Publications
- Visitor Procedures
- Sign-In & Sign-Out Procedures

Medical/Health Information (pages 13-14)

- Student Health Assessment
- Immunizations
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices (Epi-Pen)

Academic/Instructional Information (pages 14-22)

- Elementary Schedules (Daily/Early Release/Two-Hour Delay)
- Grading Reference
- Recognizing Student Excellence
- Reach to Achieve—3rd Grade
- Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program (AIG)
- Advanced Courses in Mathematics
- Student Email & Digital Resource Accounts
- Network/Internet Use
- Acceptable Use Policy
- 1:1 Program

Student Behavior/Conduct (pages 22-43)

- Attendance Policy
- K-5 Behavior Expectations
- Student Dress Code
- Discipline Procedures
- Code of Conduct
 - Level One-Level Five Violations
 - Level One-Level Five Offenses
 - Bus Conduct

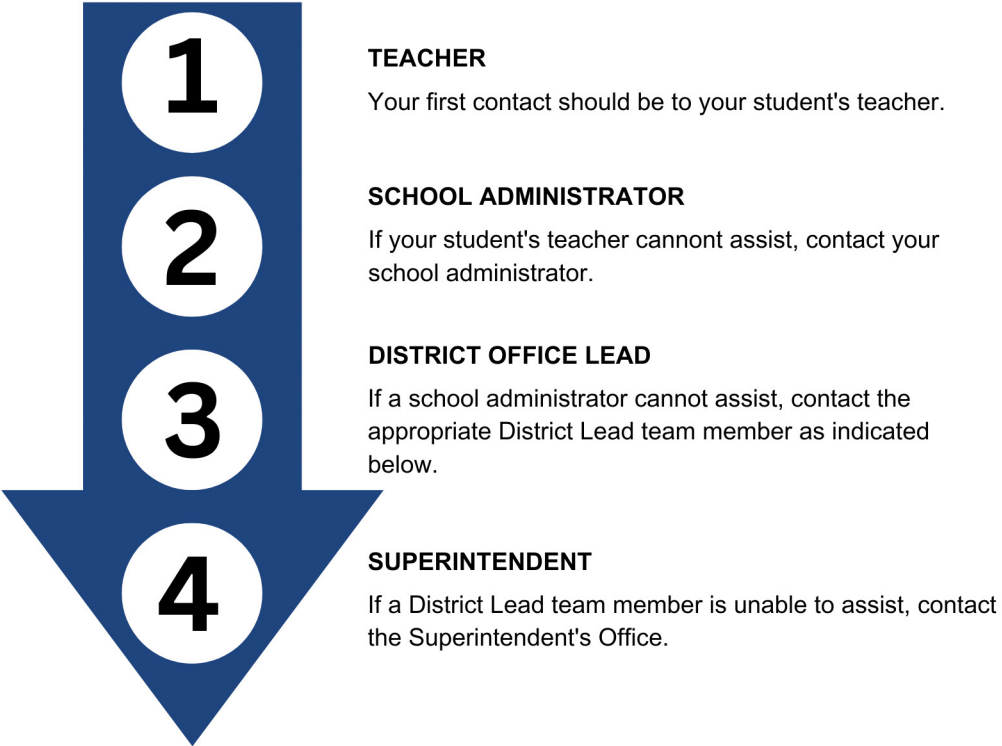
Annual Notices (pages 44-46)

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Non-Discrimination: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Title IX
- Grievance Procedures
- IDEA & Child Find
- Section 504 Plans
- Parents Right to Know—Title 1 Schools

Strategic Plan Summary (page 47)

WHO SHOULD I CALL?

School-based issues and concerns must first be routed to the building level principal. District contacts will review concerns and inquiries once the building level principal has had an opportunity to respond. Please follow the process as outlined to ensure prompt assistance. If you do not follow the process from the beginning, you will be asked to contact the appropriate staff member as indicated here.



Role of Board Members in Handling Concerns and Complaints

It is the goal of the school district to address concerns and complaints in a timely manner. The flowchart provided above outlines the process in which concerns and complaints will be addressed. In accordance with Board Policy 2122, an individual board member who receives a complaint or inquiry concerning a school matter will refer the individual to the appropriate school administrator. Board members will not take individual action with regard to complaints other than referring them to the proper administrative employee, as outlined in the flowchart above.

District Administration

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Jason Atkinson	Superintendent	jbatkinson@bladen.k12.nc.us
Ann Brown	Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services	eabrown@bladen.k12.nc.us
Jerry Faulkner	Information Technology Coordinator	jfaulkner@bladen.k12.nc.us
Deborah Guyton	Executive Director of Human Resources & Professional Development	dwguyton@bladen.k12.nc.us
Susan Harrison	Executive Officer of Finance & Business Services	sharrison@bladen.k12.nc.us
Robert Heavenridge	Director of Transportation	rmheavenridge@bladen.k12.nc.us
Elly Johnson	Director of Communications & Family Engagement	ewjohnson@bladen.k12.nc.us

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Bennie Lennon	Director of Maintenance	bflennon@bladen.k12.nc.us
Brendan McCarthy	Director of Accountability & Title I	btmccarthy@bladen.k12.nc.us
Dana Melvin Mills	Director of Career & Technical Education	dbmelvin@bladen.k12.nc.us
Crystal O’Briant	School Nutrition Coordinator	ceobriant@bladen.k12.nc.us
Amy Reeves	Instructional Technology Coordinator	awreeves@bladen.k12.nc.us
Dia Thomas	Director of Multilingual Learner & Migrant Education Programs; McKinney-Vento Liaison	dmcollins@bladen.k12.nc.us
Cheryl White-Smith	Executive Officer of Instruction & Specialized Services	cwsmith@bladen.k12.nc.us

Board of Education

NAME	EMAIL
Tim Benton, Board Chair	ctbenton@bladen.k12.nc.us
Glenn McKoy, Vice Chair	gcmckoy@bladen.k12.nc.us
Chris Clark	cvclark@bladen.k12.nc.us
Harfel Davis	hcdavis@bladen.k12.nc.us
Dennis Edwards	dredwards@bladen.k12.nc.us
Steve Kwiatkowski	skwiatkowski@bladen.k12.nc.us
Keith Locklear	kelocklear@bladen.k12.nc.us
Gary Rhoda	gnrhoda@bladen.k12.nc.us
Mackie Singletary	msingletary@bladen.k12.nc.us

Who to Contact—District Leads

AREA	NAME
504	Cheryl White-Smith
AIG	Demetris Jacobs and Patsy Moffat

AREA	NAME
Athletics	Patty Evers and Ann Brown
Beginning Licensed Teachers	Deborah Guyton
Budgets	Susan Harrison
Business Services	Susan Harrison
Canvas	William Bell
Career and Technical Education	Dana Melvin Mills
CCP Program	Merideth Colville
CCRG Program	Merideth Colville
Communications	Elly Johnson
Driver’s Education	Dana Melvin Mills
Elementary Instruction	LaShanta Junious
Employee Benefits	Susan Harrison
Employee Grievances	Deborah Guyton
Employment	Deborah Guyton
Exceptional Children	Cheryl White-Smith
Facilities Use	Ann Brown
Field Trip	Ann Brown
Finance	Susan Harrison
Fundraisers	Ann Brown
Guidance Counselors	Ann Brown
Homebound	Cheryl White-Smith
Human Resources	Deborah Guyton

AREA	NAME
Information Technology	Jerry Faulkner
Instructional Services	Cheryl White-Smith
Instructional Technology	Amy Reeves
Licensure (Teachers)	Deborah Guyton
Maintenance	Bennie Lennon
McKinney-Vento Program	Dia Thomas
Media Services	Amy Reeves
Migrant Education	Dia Thomas
Multilingual Language Learners	Dia Thomas
MTSS	Cheryl White-Smith
NCSTAR	Brendan McCarthy
PowerSchool	Allison Kirby
Pre-Kindergarten	Kim Harris
Professional Development	Deborah Guyton
Public Information	Elly Johnson
Read to Achieve	LaShanta Junious
School Fundraisers	Ann Brown
School Improvement Plans	Brendan McCarthy
School Nutrition	Crystal O’Briant
School Safety/SROs	Ann Brown
Secondary Instruction	Merideth Colville
Social Workers	Ann Brown

AREA	NAME
Staff Dress Code	Deborah Guyton
Student Attendance	Ann Brown
Student Discipline	Ann Brown
Student Dress Code	Ann Brown
Student Grievances	Ann Brown
Student Health	Susan Lanier
Student Insurance	Susan Harrison
Student Transfers	Ann Brown
Superintendent’s Office	Crystal Johnson
Testing and Accountability	Brendan McCarthy
Title I	Brendan McCarthy
Transportation	Robert Heavenridge
Translation Services	Susana Valadez

GENERAL INFORMATION

BCS Mobile App
 The Bladen County School System has a mobile application. The app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The free app offers news and alerts for the entire Bladen County Schools District. Users can receive notifications about school delays, cancellations, and special events, read the latest announcements and headlines, access school menus, calendars and Blackboard Reach. Additionally, parents can “follow” their student’s school(s) through the app and receive school-specific updates and information. Users must enable push notifications when downloading the app in order to receive the breaking alerts.

Blackboard Reach
 Blackboard Reach is the district’s newly adopted two-way communication tool for parents and teachers to communicate. Available in the BCS app or online, you’ll be able to get important class updates and ask your student’s teachers questions. You will need to log in to connect Blackboard Reach with your student. This information will be provided at the beginning of the school year, or you can contact your school for assistance.

Blackboard ParentLink

Blackboard ParentLink is a messaging system that allows our school district to communicate with parents via phone, email, text and/or push notifications to the BCS app about emergency situations, school events, school closings and delays and important issues relative to your student’s school or the entire district. It is important that your student’s school has your accurate contact information so that you don’t miss any important announcements.

News Media Access & BCS Publications

During the school year students are likely to be recorded, videotaped, photographed, interviewed and/or quoted for BCS publications such as the school or district social media pages or websites and/or external news media (radio, television, newspaper, billboards) in relation to any and all coverage of success and achievements in BCS in which your student is involved. At the beginning of each school year parents/guardians will have the opportunity to either grant permission for BCS to use your student’s image and/or name in media and/or press release information or not grant permission.

Procedures for Visitors to School Campuses & District Departments

1. All visitors must enter buildings through the main entrance.
2. Upon entering a school or district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a driver’s license, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system.
3. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have state or US government-issued ID, the school or district staff member can accept an alternate form of identification and manually enter the person’s name into the Raptor system and take a photo.
4. The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor’s name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency.
5. Once entry is approved, the Raptor system will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit.
6. A visitor’s badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools to simply drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.
7. Visitors must remain in the school office or lobby area until a staff member accompanies them to their destination.
8. At the conclusion of the visit, visitors are required to sign out prior to leaving.

Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedures

1. All visitors must enter buildings through the main entrance.
2. Upon entering a school or district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a driver’s license, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system.
3. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have state or US government-issued ID, the school or district staff member can accept an alternate form of identification and manually enter the person’s name into the Raptor system and take a photo.
4. All sign-in and sign-out transactions will be done electronically using the Raptor system.
5. Only those individuals who are approved and have consent by the student’s parents/guardians will be allowed to sign students out. Individuals are verified using the photo ID process above.
6. Parents/guardians must remain in the school office or lobby area for their student.
7. Students who arrive tardy must sign-in at the front office and receive a pass to go to class.

8. Students cannot be signed out 30 minutes prior to dismissal. Please review your school’s schedule and make necessary arrangements as needed.

MEDICAL/HEALTH INFORMATION

The school health program provides registered nurses who coordinate health services to manage students’ health needs during the school day. The school nurses serve as a link between the schools, parents and healthcare providers. Parents should notify school administration and/or the school nurse of any chronic health conditions, acute hospitalizations, or any change in medical condition that may affect the student’s academic success. If a health-related emergency occurs during the school day, it may be deemed necessary to call 911 to activate emergency medical services (EMS) for continuation of prompt medical care.

Student Physical Exams (Student Health Assessment) (Policy 4110)

Pursuant to NCGS 130A-440, all students entering the public schools in North Carolina for the first time, regardless of grade level, shall receive a health assessment conducted no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry.

A completed health assessment form must be presented by the parent/guardian to the principal or designee on or before the child’s first day of attendance.

A 30 calendar day grace period after school entry is allowed. A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be permitted to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented. Such absences will not be considered suspensions, and the student will be given an opportunity to make up work missed during the absence.

Exceptions to the health assessment requirement will be made only for religious reasons.

Immunizations (Policy 4110)

No child shall attend a school (Pre-K-12) unless a certificate of immunization indicating that the child has received the required immunizations has been provided to the school.

Requirement for Initial Entry

Within 30 calendar days of the students first day of attendance, evidence of age-appropriate vaccinations in accordance with state law and regulation, must be provided. The current required vaccination schedule is available from the NC Immunization Branch online at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov>.

Additional Requirements

- All students entering seventh grade or who have reached age 12, are required to receive the following:
 - Booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine)
 - Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
- All students entering the twelfth grade or who have reached age 17 are required to receive a booster dose of MCV.

Certificate of Immunization

- Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must present an official certificate that meets the immunization requirements of NCGS 130A-154(b).
- Principals are required to refuse admittance to any child whose parent/guardian does not present a medical certification of proper immunizations within the allotted time. If, following approved medical practice, the administration of a vaccine requires more than 30 calendar days to complete, upon certification of this fact by a physician, additional days may be allowed in order to obtain the required immunizations.
- Exceptions to the immunization requirements will be made only for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a physician pursuant to state law and regulation.

Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices (Epi-Pens) (Policy 5024/6127/7226)
Designated trained school personnel are authorized to use emergency epinephrine auto-injector devices to deliver emergency medical aid to any person suffering from an anaphylactic reaction during the school day or at a school-sponsored event on school property.

As part of the medical care program under NCGS 115C-375.1, each school principal shall designate one or more school personnel to receive initial training and annual retraining from a school nurse or qualified representative of the local health department regarding the storage and emergency use of epinephrine auto-injector devices. Only such trained personnel are authorized to administer epinephrine to persons believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction.

Epinephrine auto-injector devices provided by the school are intended for unforeseen emergencies. Students known to have medical conditions requiring the availability of an epinephrine auto-injector device are expected to provide such devices for their use at school. Parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/ or anaphylaxis should provide the school with written instructions from the student’s health care provider for handling anaphylaxis and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order in accordance with Policy 6125, administering Medicines to Students.

ACADEMIC/INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

Elementary Block Schedule

TIME	SUBJECT
7:30-7:55 AM	Arrival (Tardy Bell @ 7:55)
7:55-9:25 AM	ELA
9:25-10:55 AM	Math
10:55-11:25 AM	Social Studies
11:25-11:55 AM	Science/STEAM Project
11:55 AM-12:00 PM	Lunch
12:25-1:00 PM	Healthy Active Children
1:00-1:50 PM	iReady/Intervention Time
1:50-2:40 PM	Enhancement
2:40 PM	Dismissal

Elementary Early Release Schedule

TIME	SUBJECT
7:30-7:55 AM	Arrival (Tardy Bell @ 7:55)
7:55-9:25 AM	ELA
9:25-10:55 AM	Math
10:55-11:25 AM	Healthy Active Children
11:25-11:50 AM	Lunch
11:50 AM-12:30 PM	Science/SS/Interventions
12:30 PM	Dismissal

Elementary Two Hour Delay Schedule

TIME	SUBJECT
9:30-9:55 AM	Arrival/Breakfast (Tardy Bell @ 9:55)
9:55-10:25 AM	ELA
10:25-11:55 AM	Math
11:55 AM-12:25 PM	Healthy Active Children
12:25-12:50 PM	Lunch
12:50-1:30 PM	Science/SS/Interventions
1:30-2:20 PM	Enhancement
2:20-2:40 PM	Intervention
2:40 PM	Dismissal

Bladen County Schools Grading Reference

GRADES K-2		
S+	90-100	Outstanding
S	80-89	Satisfactory
N	70-79	Needs Improvement
N-	60-69	Not meeting grade level objectives
U	0-59	Unsatisfactory
Notes: Percentage grades in K-2 are for PowerSchool values Progress Reports—Issued two times per grading period. (Teacher may assign an actual grade for the progress report period) Report Cards—Issued one time per grading period. Percentage grade will be no lower than a 50.		

GRADES 3-12 (10 POINT GRADING SCALE)		
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	0-59	0.0
Notes: Progress reports—Issued two times per grading period. (Students will receive an actual grade earned) Report Cards—Issued one time per grading period. Percentage grade will be no lower than a 50.		



Recognizing Student Excellence

The Bladen County Board of Education believes that outstanding student achievement should be recognized. Each school shall use the criteria as outlined below.

Grades 3-4

For a student to be eligible for Superintendent’s List, A Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, he/she must meet all of the listed criteria during any nine week grading period.

- Superintendent’s List
 - Have a 96 or above in all core classes
 - Have no grade lower than an 85 for elective classes
- A Honor Roll
 - Have an A in all core classes
 - Have no grade lower than an 85 for elective classes
- A/B Honor Roll
 - Have an A or B in all core classes
 - Have no grade lower than an 85 for elective classes
- Principal’s List—BUG CLUB (**B**ringing **U**p **G**rades)
 - Show improvement in grades in all core subjects
 - Have no failing grades

Grades 5-12

For a student to be eligible for Superintendent’s List, A Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, he/she must meet all of the listed criteria during any nine week grading period.

- Superintendent’s List
 - Have a **96 or above** in **ALL** classes
- A Honor Roll
 - Have an A in every class
 - Have no **INCOMPLETE** at the time report cards are issued
- A/B Honor Roll
 - Have an A or B in every class
 - Have no **INCOMPLETE** at the time report cards are issued
- Principal’s List
 - Show improvement in grades in all core subjects
 - Have no failing grades

Superintendent’s Academic Scholar Award

In order for a student to be eligible for this award, he/she must have met the criteria for Superintendent’s List at least one of the first three grading periods.

District Academic Scholar Award

In order for a student to be eligible for this award, he/she must have met the criteria for A Honor Roll for all of the first three grading periods.

Notes

- Attendance requirements must be met for students to be eligible for academic recognition, unless extenuating circumstances arise and have been approved by school administration.
- Eligible students will be recognized school-wide.
- Superintendent’s List, A Honor Roll, and A/B Honor Roll will be published.
- Student conduct may not be used when calculating student grades to meet above criteria.

Read to Achieve—3rd Grade

As your child begins third grade, you will see a concentrated focus in ensuring students can read at or above grade level and are making progress in reading proficiency. The goal is to ensure all third-grade students can read,

comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for academic success and to ensure all students can meet the requirements of the Read to Achieve law (G.S. §115C-83.1).

There are three ways your students can meet the promotion requirement of the Read to Achieve legislation.

1. Score an achievement level 3, 4, or 5 on the Beginning-of-Grade 3 Reading Test.
2. Achieve a 725 Lexile on the formative, diagnostic assessment during a benchmark period.
3. Score an achievement level 3, 4, or 5 on the reading end-of-grade (EOG) test.
 - a. If your student is not proficient on the reading EOG test and has not met the Read to Achieve law through one of the previously stated pathways, he or she will have the opportunity to take the reading EOG test again as a retest, the Read to Achieve Test, or the locally-approved alternative test.

If your student has not satisfied the requirements of the Read to Achieve law by the end of third grade, he or she can attend a reading camp to help improve reading skills. At the end of reading camp, students achieving proficiency are eligible to be promoted to fourth grade.

Students who do not achieve proficiency at the end of reading camp can be retained in third grade, placed in a transitional third and fourth class combination with a retained reading label, or placed in a fourth-grade accelerated reading class with a retained reading label. Ninety minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction is provided daily in these classes. Students in the transitional third and fourth class combination or fourth-grade accelerated class are eligible to retake the Read to Achieve Test again by November 1 to achieve a mid-year promotion and to have the retained reading label removed. Students will remain in the same fourth-grade class for the entire school year and will continue to receive uninterrupted reading instruction throughout fourth grade to support ongoing improvement in reading skills.

After November 1, non-proficient students can achieve a 725 Lexile on the DIBELS 8 assessment during a benchmark period, or pass the Grade 4 Reading EOG Test by the end of the fourth-grade year and have the retained reading label removed.

If you have questions or concerns about the Read to Achieve law, please contact the principal at your school.

Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program (AIG)

State Definition of AIG Students, Article 9B (N.C.G.S. 115C-150.5)—Academically or intellectually gifted students perform or show the potential to perform at substantially high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. Academically or intellectually gifted students exhibit high performance capability in intellectual areas, specific academic fields, or in both the intellectual areas and specific academic fields. Academically or intellectually gifted students require differentiated educational services beyond those ordinarily provided by the regular educational program. Outstanding abilities are present in students from all cultural groups, across all economic state, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Student Identification and Placement Process (2022-2025)

- 85% or higher on Achievement Test (EOG), Woodcock Johnson IV and Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be offered by BCS.
- 85% or higher on Aptitude Test—Cognitive Abilities Test, Otis Lennon School Ability Test, and Naglieri Nonverbal Analogies Test will be offered by BCS.
- 90% or higher classwork grade in the specific subject area.

The above criteria is required for students to attend Project Challenge in grades 6-8. Once admitted, students must maintain an 80 average.

Advanced Courses in Mathematics Policy and Procedures

The information provided below will govern the placement and appeal process for students who qualify to take advanced courses in mathematics.

Current District Procedures Based on SL 2019-120

NC General Statute, 115C-81.36 (State Legislation) requires the following:

- A. When practicable, local boards of education shall offer advanced learning opportunities in mathematics in grades three through five, and advanced courses in mathematics in all grades six and higher. For the purposes of this section, advanced learning opportunities are those services and curricular modifications in mathematics for academically or intellectually gifted students approved as part of the local plan, as required by GS 116C-150.7.
- B. When advanced learning opportunities are offered in mathematics in grades three through five, any student scoring at the highest level on the end-of-grade test shall, for the next school year, be provided advanced learning opportunities in mathematics approved for that student’s grade level. No student who qualifies under this subsection shall be removed from the advanced learning opportunity provided to the student unless a parent or guardian of the student provides written consent for the student to be excluded or removed after being adequately informed that the student’s placement was determined by the student’s achievement on the previous end-of-grade test.
- C. When advanced courses are offered in mathematics in grades six or higher, any student scoring at the highest level on the end-of-grade or end-of-course test for the mathematics course in which the student was most recently enrolled shall be enrolled for the next mathematics course in which the student is enrolled. A student in seventh grade scoring at the highest level on the seventh grade mathematics end-of-grade test shall be enrolled in a high school level mathematics course in eighth grade. No student who qualifies under this subsection shall be removed from the advanced or high school mathematics course in which the student is enrolled unless a parent or guardian of the student provides written consent for the student to be excluded or removed from that course after being adequately informed that the student’s placement was determined by the student’s achievement on the previous end-of-grade or end-of-course test.

As discussed in Sections A, B, and C, Bladen County Schools will provide the following support for students who qualify:

Grades 3-5: Students will participate in Academically-Intellectually Gifted (AIG) pull-out groups for supplemental and advanced instruction, as well as participate in any AIG-clustered math courses.

Grades 6-7: Students will participate in Academically-Intellectually Gifted (AIG) pull-out groups for supplemental and advanced instruction, as well as be registered in the same AIG math cluster sections of math courses for their grade level.

Grade 8: Students will be enrolled in NC Math I as the advanced math course.

Grades 9-12: Students will be enrolled in the appropriate honors section of their currently enrolled math course in fulfillment of their graduation requirements.

The legislation also provides an option for parents or guardians to waive their child’s participation.

Initial Placement for Advanced Math Courses

The following considerations should be made in making placement decisions:

- Most recent EOG/EOC data, keeping in mind that a student does not have to earn a Level 5 to participate in advanced mathematics courses
- Other assessment data
- Course performance prior to school closure
- Data routinely used to offer advanced learning opportunities for AIG students
- Student learning profiles
- Teacher or team observations

- Student work samples
- Other evidence of critical thinking and/or student readiness to achieve.

In utilizing the data points above, no single data point should prohibit a student from consideration in advanced learning opportunities or advanced mathematics courses. However, any single piece of data, at an exemplary level, indicates a student’s potential need for the mathematics advanced learning opportunity or advanced math courses.

Student Email and Digital Resource Accounts

Your student will be given a Bladen County Schools email account. Additionally, teachers may have students use their accounts for digital resources that are directly related to instructional needs in the classroom.

Network/Internet Use by Students

The Bladen County Schools Network (BCS Network) has been established to allow access to the Internet and other electronic resources for educational purposes. This includes classroom activities, research activities, peer review of assigned work and the exchange of project-related ideas, opinions and questions via electronic mediums. This access makes a vast amount of diverse information available to students. The goal of the BCS Network is to provide resources that support the educational objectives of the State of North Carolina and Bladen County Schools. It is a privilege, not a right, which is extended to students, teachers and staff within the school system.

Student Acceptable Use Policy

Because the Internet provides access to computer systems located all over the world, users must understand that Bladen County Schools cannot control the content of the information available. With access to this resource comes additional responsibility for the student. Some of the information is controversial and sometimes offensive; however, the valuable information and interaction accessible on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may find inappropriate material. Bladen County Schools does not condone the use of such materials and takes reasonable precautions to filter access to these materials. Anyone using the BCS Network is required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy, which will be kept as a permanent record. School employees, students and parents must be aware that access to the BCS Network will be withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established by the Bladen County Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

BCS Network Rules and Regulations

1. Acceptable Use: The BCS Network is to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner and must be in support of the educational objectives and the student behavior guidelines. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state regulations is prohibited.

Unacceptable Use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Violating copyright/trademark laws
- Using peer-to-peer file sharing software programs
- Unauthorized access to social networking sites
- Forwarding personal communications without the author’s prior consent
- Using threatening or obscene material
- Distributing material protected by trade secret
- Utilizing the Internet for commercial purposes
- Providing political campaign information
- Using offensive or harassing statements or language including profanity, vulgarity and/or disparagement of others based on race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability and religious or political beliefs
- Changing settings on computers and peripherals
- Disrupting the use of the BCS Network
- Connecting unauthorized devices to the BCS Network
- Streaming non-educational music and videos
- Using web proxies to bypass Internet content filtering for access to blocked websites
- Accessing programs or computer equipment not designated for student use, including hacking and other unlawful activities
- Playing non-educational games
- Displaying, distributing or printing offensive pictures, language or graphics

Deliberate violation of the BCS Network acceptable use will result in the following consequences and is subject to the most current version of the Bladen County Schools Code of Conduct:

Offense 1: Warning and notification of parents
 Offense 2: Temporary loss of BCS Network access (not to exceed 30 calendar days)
 Offense 3: Loss of BCS Network access for the remainder of the year

2. **Internet Etiquette:** Users must abide by Internet etiquette rules in their communications online. These rules include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Be polite—rudeness is never acceptable.
- b. Do not reveal any personal information, such as an address or phone number about yourself or anyone else.
- c. Assume that all communication and information accessible via the BCS Network is private property.

3. **Privileges:** The use of the BCS Network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of user privileges and any other penalty determined appropriate by the Superintendent or designee, including without limitation, suspension or expulsion. No reference to any specific penalty in this policy shall limit the authority of the Superintendent’s designee to impose any other or additional penalties or timelines determined to be appropriate as a consequence for violation of this policy consistent with the Discipline Policy of the Bladen County Board of Education.

4. **Disclaimer:** Bladen County Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered, including loss of data resulting from delays, service interruptions or inaccurate information. The user accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained via the BCS Network, including the sharing of personal information such as home address or financial information.

5. **Security:** Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Attempts to login to the system as any other user or to share a password should be reported immediately to an administrator. Such attempts to fraudulently login and failure to report such attempts will result in cancellation of user privileges. If a security problem is identified, notify an administrator at the school. Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private; system operators have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

6. **Vandalism:** Vandalism will result in cancellation of user privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment and/or data or anyone connected to the BCS Network. This includes, but is not limited to: uploading, creating or transmitting computer viruses/spyware.

7. **Internet Safety Education:** Students are required to complete Internet Safety Education training each year as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act and federal E-rate guidelines. Training will be provided by schools and documented appropriately.

8. **Monitoring:** School faculty and/or staff will monitor and uphold the Bladen County Schools Acceptable Use Policy as students use the BCS Network at the school.

9. **Compliance:** Anyone using Bladen County Schools network services is required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy, which will be kept as a permanent record and is to be renewed on an annual basis.

1:1 Program

Bladen County Schools will loan devices to students to support teaching and learning.

If a person violates any of the user terms and conditions in the 1:1 Program Contract signed when picking up their device, the BCS Acceptable Use Policy, or the Student Code of Conduct, privileges may be terminated, access to school district technology resources may be denied, and the appropriate disciplinary action shall be applied.

Deductibles will apply for repairs and damages. Deductibles are the financial responsibility of the student and parent. These fees are significantly lower than the actual costs of repairs.

Students should only use the device in which they are assigned. The ultimate responsibility for loss and damages rests with the assigned user.

Fee Schedule:

DESCRIPTION OF POSSIBLE DAMAGES/ISSUES	DEDUCTIBLE FEE SCHEDULE
Keyboard Damage Markings/Stickers/Cosmetic Damages to Outside/Inside Damaged Screen Damaged/Lost/Stolen Charger Stolen Device (police report required—one incident only)	First Offense: \$25.00 Second Offense: \$50.0 Third Offense: 100.00
Lost Device Damaged Beyond Reasonable Repair	Full Cost Replacement—\$250.00

The district reserves the right to charge any other repair fees not listed above, that are directly associated with any misuse or intentional damage to devices. In addition, some damages may warrant a full replacement of the device, which is currently valued at \$250.00. As fee structures may change throughout the term of the device contract, sufficient written notice of changes to the fee schedule will be made available to all users and posted online. All repairs must be made by Bladen County Schools Technology Department. No other individual, organization, or company is authorized to make any repairs to the loaned device.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT

School Attendance (Policy 4400)

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

The following attendance guidelines are approved for Bladen County Schools and should be referred to when determining student promotion or retention.

	Principal/School follows LEA Policy	Waiver required for promotion/retention Committee Review and Hearing	Superintendent Decision (Review of waiver documentation)
Elementary and Middle School K-8	Up to 20 absences Total excused and unexcused	21-30 Absences Waiver Required Minimum Documentation: 3,6,10 day notices Conference notifications Evidence of counselor or social worker involvement	More than 30 absences during the school year
High School 9-12	UP to 10 absences per semester, per course Total excused and unexcused	11-15 absences Waiver Required Minimum Documentation: 3,6,10 day notices Conference notifications Evidence of counselor or social worker involvement	More than 15 absences per semester

K-5 Behavior Expectations

Elementary Classroom Expectations

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Respect yourself and others
- Follow directions
- Be prepared to learn

Common Area Expectations

CAFETERIA	BUS	HALLWAY	OUTSIDE	BATHROOM
Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
Use your quiet voice at all times.	Use your quiet voice at all times.	Stay quiet at all times.	Remain in your designated play area.	Use your quiet voice at all times.
Remain seated at all times.	Remain in your assigned seat at all times.	Walk on the right side of the hall.	Share recess equipment.	Use the restroom for its intended purpose.
Clean up your area.	Enter and exit the bus safely.	Stay in a single file line.	Be a good citizen.	Wash your hands.
Walk everywhere you go.		Keep your hands and feet off the wall.		Place paper towels in the trash can and toilet paper in the toilet.
		Be a good citizen.		Be clean and safe.

Student Dress Code

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that will be conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board requires that appearance and clothing comply with the following board standards.

- For sanitary and safety reasons and in accordance with State health regulations, all students are required to wear shoes/footwear to school. Specific footwear may be required for certain courses/classes. Slippers, flip flops, slides, and bedroom shoes are prohibited.
- Dress for special school sponsored activities that occur outside the regular school day may be determined and regulated at the discretion of the principal.
- Sunglasses, hats, hoods, and any other headgear including kerchiefs, bandannas, and rags may not be worn inside. Accommodations will be made for religious and medical exemptions.
- Jewelry and visible tattooing must not promote illegal drug, gang activity, alcohol or tobacco use, or be provocative, obscene or substantially disruptive. Jewelry cannot include any items that can be used as a weapon like spikes and chains.
- Clothing which promotes illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco use, gang activity, or is provocative, obscene or substantially disruptive is prohibited (for information on gang- related attire, see policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity).

- 6. Clothing that is torn, cut, sliced or shredded from the neck to 4 inches above the knee is prohibited. No skin should be visible at any time.
- 7. Garments for the lower body section must fall to at least four inches above the kneecap when the student is standing erect. These garments include dresses, skirts, shorts and any other appropriate apparel. These garments must fit snugly around the waist to eliminate sagging. Pajamas are not permitted.
- 8. Garments for the upper body section must cover the upper torso. These garments include shirts, blouses and any other appropriate apparel. The bottom of any top must cover the waistband of the lower body garment so no skin is showing. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts must reach the edge of the shoulder and top of the arm. Pajamas are not permitted.
- 9. All undergarments must be covered at all times.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Bladen County Schools Discipline Procedures

Introduction

Students are expected to comply with all guidelines and policies listed in the Bladen County Board of Education Policy Manual. Students are also expected to comply with the rules established by the faculty and staff of BCS and their individual school. Minor classroom disturbances will be handled by the teacher. If disciplinary action by the administration is warranted, faculty/staff members will refer students using the Disciplinary Referral Form. The appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the Bladen County Schools Discipline Chart (see below) and following an escalating consequence model. School administrators will work in conjunction with law enforcement and/or the school SRO when necessary and violations of school rules that are considered breaking the law will be reported to law enforcement. Please keep in mind that behavior violations that do not fit into our level of consequences will be handled on an individual basis. *All individual offenses will be handled at the discretion of the school principal and/or designee.

*You may access the Bladen County Board of Education Policy Manual by visiting: <https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=bladen>.

Statement of Purpose

An educated citizenry is essential to good government in this country and cannot exist without effective public schools that offer a high-quality education to all students. The goal of student discipline is to maintain safe and caring schools, to teach students to behave in ways that contribute to academic achievement and school success and to support a school environment where students and staff are responsible and respectful. As such, school disciplinary measures should be used to preserve the safety of students and staff. Bladen County Schools is committed to providing an environment where teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere free from disruption and obstacles that impede learning.

General Provisions

Students should recognize their responsibility to know the contents of this Student Code of Conduct and to ask the local school administration or staff for any clarification. All students, regardless of age, are subject to the rules and regulations of Bladen County Public Schools. Each local school will review the contents of this handbook with its students.

All students are expected to comply with all rules governing behavior and conduct. It is the responsibility of the principal/assistant principal to investigate fully the cases of students appropriately referred to his/her office for misbehavior, to ensure fair treatment of such students and protection of their procedural and substantive rights, and to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is warranted. The teacher shall have the responsibility and authority to discipline students, except in those cases requiring the attention of the principal/assistant principal.

Unless otherwise specified, and/or with the exception of a Class V violation as later defined, this code shall apply

to all students in the system before, during, and after school hours while at school, in any school building, and on any school premises; on any school-owned vehicle or in any other vehicle used to transport students to and from any school or school activities; bus stops; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, including athletics; and during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of school personnel; to include conduct which occurs off school property which has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

In assigning appropriate disciplinary consequences under this Code of Conduct, eligible students will be given all rights as provided by the IDEA, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Procedures for implementing requirements for students with disabilities are found in **Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities and Section 504 Procedures and Guidelines** handbook.

During the period a student is suspended or disciplinary reassigned to an alternative program, he/she is prohibited from entering the grounds of any school in the Bladen County School system or from attending any school-related functions, including graduation, without the express permission of the building principal. During a period in which a student is long-term suspended or disciplinary reassigned to an alternative program, the student is prohibited from any Bladen County School system property other than the alternative school/program to which the student has been reassigned.

Violation of Board policies, this student Code of Conduct, any behavior management plan or regulations issued by the individual school, or any North Carolina General Statutes may result in disciplinary action including expulsion or suspension of the student from Bladen County Schools pursuant to the Due Process Procedures for Bladen County Schools.

Violations of the Bladen County Schools’ Student Code of Conduct may result in a Disciplinary Reassignment to an alternative education program. If the principal determines that a Disciplinary Reassignment is appropriate, the principal may recommend to the superintendent or his/her designee that the student be reassigned to an alternative educational program.

Disciplinary reassignment of a student to a full-time educational program that meets the academic requirements of the standard course of study established by the State Board of Education and provides the student with the opportunity to make timely progress towards graduation and grade promotion is not a long-term suspension requiring the due process procedures described in Policy 4353 – Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion.

In addition to the compulsory attendance law, if the student fails to enroll in and regularly attend the alternative educational setting as reassigned, or other appropriate school (e.g. private or charter school, North Carolina Virtual Public School, etc.), the disciplinary reassignment will continue until such time as reassignment to the home school is appropriate as determined by the superintendent or his/her designee. A disciplinary reassignment may continue for a period up to and including that which could be imposed for a long-term suspension. In addition, if the offense(s) leading to the disciplinary reassignment occurs during the final quarter of the school year, the reassignment may include a period up to the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed and the first semester of the following school year.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school’s behavior management plan (see Policy 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

Minor Violations

Minor violations of the Student Code of Conduct are those less severe infractions that involve a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations, and minor physical altercations that do not involve weapons or injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in Policy 4351 – Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are

not limited to, the following:

1. parental involvement, such as conferences;

2. time-out for short periods of time;

3. behavior improvement agreements;

4. instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;

5. peer mediation;

6. individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
7. academic intervention;

8. in-school suspension;

9. community service;

10. exclusion from graduation ceremonies;

11. exclusion from extracurricular activities;

12. suspension from bus privileges;

The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation that may be required to carry out the consequence.

Serious Violations

Serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary reassignment or any of the other consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that either (1) threaten the safety of students, staff, or school visitors or (2) threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information about the procedures for disciplinary reassignments is provided in Policy 4353 – Long Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion.

Information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions, and expulsions is provided in Policies 4351 – Short-Term Suspension and 4353 – Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion. (See also Policy 4333 – Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety, for information regarding 365-day suspensions for certain firearms violations.)

Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

Level One Violations

Level One Offenses are behaviors that do not significantly violate the rights of others and do not appear chronic.

1 st Violation	2 nd Violation	3 rd Violation
Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services as needed.	Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services and may include up to 4 days ISS or up to 2 days OSS.	Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services and may include up to 5 days OSS.

Level Two Violations

Level Two Offenses are behaviors that violate the rights of others or put others at risk or harm.

1 st Violation	2 nd Violation	3 rd Violation
Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services as needed. This violation may result in 1-3 days OSS or other disciplinary measures as deemed necessary by the building principal.	Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services and may include 3-5 days OSS or other disciplinary measures as deemed necessary by the building principal.	Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services and will include OSS up to 10 days. Other disciplinary measures as deemed necessary by the building principal.

Level Three Violations

Level Three Offenses are behaviors that significantly violate the rights of others or put others at risk of harm.

In accordance with the Bladen County Schools Student Code of Conduct, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by phone and/or letter when students are referred to an administrator for disciplinary action. All consequences will be determined on an individual basis. Multiple infractions may result in extended or long-term suspension. Students suspended from school shall be provided with an opportunity to make up any EOC, semester exam, or major test missed during the suspension period. The Principal reserves the right to make exceptions to the level of punishment in accordance with the BCS Student Code of Conduct and G.S. 115C-288.	Any Violation
	Parent conference and/or referral to school counselor/mental health services as needed. This violation may result in up to 10 days of OSS.

Level Four Violations

Level Four Offenses significantly compromise the safety and welfare of others. This includes any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 14-208.

In accordance with the Bladen County Schools Student Code of Conduct, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by phone and/or letter when students are referred to an administrator for disciplinary action. All consequences will be determined on an individual basis. Multiple infractions may result in extended or long-term suspension. Students suspended from school shall be provided with an opportunity to make up any EOC, semester exam, or major test missed during the suspension period. The Principal reserves the right to make exceptions to the level of punishment in accordance with the BCS Student Code of Conduct and G.S. 115C-288.	Any Violation
	10 days OSS, referral to ALP, and/or possible recommendation for long-term suspension based upon the presence of any aggravating factors. Also, at the discretion of the Principal, criminal charges or a juvenile petition may be pursued. Students may also be referred to counselors and/or mental health services.

Level Five Violations

Level Five Offenses are behaviors that significantly compromise the safety and welfare of others and warrant a recommendation for long-term suspension and/or require a suspension of a specific length under the North Carolina law.

Felony Notification: Any student, who has been charged with a felony and is waiting for the disposition of the case by the court, will be automatically suspended. If the suspension exceeds 10 days, the student will be placed in remote learning or on APEX until the case has been settled. Students are suspended from the public school until the case has been settled.

***The principal or designee has the authority to determine when a short-term suspension is an appropriate consequence and to impose the suspension, so long as all relevant board policies are followed. In accordance with G.S. 115C-390.6(e) and 115C-45(c)(1), a student is not entitled to appeal the principal’s decision to impose a short-term suspension to either the superintendent or the Board of Education and its members.

In accordance with the Bladen County Schools Student Code of Conduct, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by phone and/or letter when students are referred to an administrator for disciplinary action. All consequences will be determined on an individual basis. Multiple infractions may result in extended or long-term suspension. Students suspended from school shall be provided with an opportunity to make up any EOC, semester exam, or major test missed during the suspension period. The Principal reserves the right to make exceptions to the level of punishment in accordance with the BCS Student Code of Conduct and G.S. 115C-288.	Any Violation
	An automatic 10 day out of school suspension and a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-390.11, students who are fourteen (14) years of age or older who engage in Level 5 violations and whose behavior indicates that their continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students and/or school staff may be suspended for 365 days. Additionally, any student who is a registered sex offender under N.C. General Statutes 14-208 may be expelled.

CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENSES

LEVEL ONE OFFENSES		
Being in an Unauthorized Area	059-UB	The wrongful breaking or entering of any school building, school-owned vehicle, or secured property of the Bladen County Board of Education at any time is prohibited. This includes the BCS network, computers, systems, and programs.
Cell Phone Use	060-UB	Cell phones may not be utilized during the school day unless for supervised instruction. Inappropriate use of cell phones may result in the loss of cell phone privileges at school.
Cutting Class	074-UB	This behavior may be used when a student is found to have been absent from class in violation of the student code of conduct.
Dress Code Violation	031-UB	The dress code violation includes wearing, decorating, or adorning clothing that is inappropriate to the learning process. Clothing that reveals undergarments, chest, breasts, navel, buttocks or any private body part will be considered inappropriate for the school setting. Any article that displays, suggests, promotes, or reveals a lewd, vulgar, unsafe, violent, or sexual message through language, images, and/or symbols is prohibited.
Excessive Tardiness	064-UB	This behavior type may be used when a student has an excessive number of school tardies in violation of the student code of conduct.
Falsification of Information	035-UB	Falsification of information is a false statement meant to deceive or give a wrong impression.
Honor Code (Dishonest Acts)	028-UB	Cheating, plagiarism, dishonesty, falsification of assignments and signatures, violation of software regulations or copyright laws, and inappropriate computer access are considered honor code violations. Also, selling merchandise, magazines, newspapers, or other property on school grounds, unless the same is an approved school activity, is considered private enterprise and an honor code violation
Inappropriate Behavior	114-UB	This behavior may be used when an offender engages in behavior that is deemed inappropriate. Examples of inappropriate behavior are (but not limited to) aggressive verbal or written communications, unwanted attention or touching, excessive talking or communications, disrespect to school personnel or students, lewd, and being disruptive
Late to Class	078-UB	This behavior type may be used when a student is late to class in violation of the student code of conduct.
Leaving Class without Permission	066-UB	This behavior type may be used when a student leaves class without permission in violation of the student code of conduct.
Other	069-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Other School Defined Offense	058-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Skipping School	075-UB	This behavior type may be used when a student is absent from school in violation of the student code of conduct.

Truancy	030-UB	Each student will be assigned a school schedule and must adhere to that schedule except when excused by the principal or a teacher authorized to excuse a student.
LEVEL TWO OFFENSES		
Disrespect of faculty/staff	061-UB	This behavior type may be used when the offender engages in behaviors such as (but not limited to) name-calling, humiliation, taunting, or using disrespectful language directed toward school personnel.
Disruptive Behavior	042-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender engages in behaviors that are disruptive to teaching, learning, and order. These behaviors may include (but not limited to) running through the school building or classroom, throwing objects, excessive and loud talking or noise, horseplay, and leaving the classroom or event without permission.
Gambling	034-UB	Gambling means to bet money or wager anything on the outcome of a game, contest, or other event.
Inappropriate Language/ Disrespect	032-UB	Any communication used to degrade, disrespect, or that is abusive in nature, whether by signs, symbols, or gestures is prohibited in the school environment.
Leaving School without Permission	067-UB	This behavior type may be used when a student leaves school without permission in violation of the student code of conduct.
Misuse of School Technology	091-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender is found to have used school technology inappropriately or in violation of the student code of conduct or school rules. School technology may be defined as the school-issued computers and electronic devices, personal devices subject to school use policies under Bring Your Own Device, school internet or wireless networks, school electronic communication networks or systems, and school telephone systems. Misuse of school technology may include (but not limited to) behaviors such as: hacking; unauthorized use or access; using another person's sign on information/ credentials; unauthorized sharing or distribution of school technology or sign on information/credentials; accessing, displaying, or sending inappropriate, threatening, or harassing communications, images, or materials; intentionally harming, damaging, compromising, or corrupting software, applications, hardware, networks, data, or systems; and using technology in violation of state or federal law.
Other	069-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school related or sponsored trip that is in violation of the student code of conduct.
Other School Defined Offense	058-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school related or sponsored trip that is in violation of the student code of conduct.
Possession of Tobacco	041-UB	Possession of tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia such as paper or cigarette lighters is prohibited. This includes possession at any time in any school building or school vehicle on the school premises (including extra-curricular activities).
Possession of Vaping (Non-Tobacco) Device	116-UB	The behavior type may be used when an offender is found to possess a vapor product such as electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, and electronic pipe.
Property Damage	039-UB	Damage is intentionally damaging, or attempting to damage, any school property or private property while under school jurisdiction.

LEVEL THREE OFFENSES		
Affray (G.S. 14-33)	021-UB	An affray is a fight between three or more students on school property or at a school-related activity.
Aggressive Behavior	027-UB	This attempted assault occurs when a student behaves in such a manner as could reasonably cause physical injury to any student or staff member. This definition also includes the accidental striking of an adult while attempting to break up a fight.
Assault on a Non-Student w/o a Weapon	071-UB	This behavior type may be used when the assault occurred on a non-student victim, the assault resulted in minor injuries, the offender did not use a weapon or firearm and the assault does not meet the definition for the reportable offense of "Assault on School Personnel".
Assault on a Student w/o a Weapon	072-UB	This behavior type may be used when the assault occurred on a student, the assault resulted in minor injuries and the offender did not use a weapon or firearm.
Assault on Student	044-UB	Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a student.
Bullying	052-UB	Bullying is a form of harassment. Bullying means the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse or through destruction or theft of property of another. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, verbal taunts, name-calling, put-downs, rumor spreading, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups.
Communicating Threats (G.S. 14-277.1)	019-UB	Threatening actions include language that reasonably threatens force of violence and any sign or action that reasonably constitutes a threat of force or violence toward another individual.
Cyber-bullying	094-UB	Cyberbullying includes but is not limited to the following misuses of any school or non-school technology resources or networks: harassing, threatening, teasing, intimidating, humiliating, embarrassing, terrorizing another student or school employee by sending or posting such inappropriate or hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, text/digital pictures or images, or through social media websites and blogs.
Disorderly Conduct (G.S. 14-288.4(a)(6))	022-UB	Disorderly conduct is any action that disrupts the peace and order of the school. Trespassing/Loitering is also included as a part of disorderly conduct. Trespassing to include loitering is the presence of any student on the campus of another school in the Bladen County School system without the knowledge and consent of the officials of the school he/she is visiting. Any student who has been suspended from school will be considered trespassing if he/she appears on school property during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.
Extortion	023-UB	Extortion is the use of one's position or power to obtain property, funds, or patronage.
False Fire Alarm	029-UB	Students will not initiate a false fire alarm on any school premises.
Fighting	024-UB	Fighting is the act of two or more persons involved in a physical conflict such as hitting or kicking another student or other person. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent to free himself/ herself from the attack and notifying proper school authorities. A student who exceeds this reasonable force may be disciplined even though he/she may not have provoked the fight.

Harassment—Disability	102-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on the student’s actual or perceived disability—such as a physical, developmental, intellectual, emotional, or sensory disability. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Religious Affiliation	110-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived religion. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Harassment—Sexual	038-UB	Sexual harassment may consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats, pressure for sexual activity, continued or repeated offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, continued or repeated verbal remarks about an individual’s body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, sexual assault, sexual violence, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures or written materials. Acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex, but not involving sexual activity or language, may be combined with incidents of sexually harassing conduct to determine if the incidents of sexually harassing conduct are sufficiently serious to create a sexually hostile environment.
Harassment—Sexual Orientation	109-UB	Gender-based harassment is also a type of harassment. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.
Harassment—Verbal	025-UB	Verbal harassment means to worry, torment, trouble, verbally attack, or irritate persistently any student, school employee, or any other person.
Harassment-Racial	101-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived race, color, or national origin. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Hazing	026-UB	To annoy any student by playing abusive or ridiculous tricks upon him, to frighten, scold, or harass him, or to subject him to personal indignity is hazing.
Inappropriate Items on School Property	040-UB	Any device disruptive to the school environment to include electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, digital cameras, and laser devices, will not be displayed or utilized while on the school bus or school premises during the school day unless utilized for educational purposes as approved by the school administration.
Insubordination	033-UB	Refusal to comply with all appropriate or reasonable directions of principals, teachers, School Resource Officers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, volunteers, and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of such school personnel.

Mutual Sexual Contact Between Two Students	068-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender engages in consensual sexual contact or a sexual act in violation of the student code of conduct.
Other	069-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Other School Defined Offense	058-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Possession of Counterfeit Items	046-UB	Possessing any false item, which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying marks, imprint, number, or device to include currency, is prohibited.
Theft	036-UB	Theft is stealing, attempting to steal, or possessing stolen property having reason to know it was stolen.
Under the Influence of Alcohol	095-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender is found to be under the influence of alcohol.
Under the Influence of Controlled Substances	096-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender is found to be under the influence of a controlled substance.
Use of Counterfeit Items	047-UB	Use of any counterfeit item, which the person thereof obtains, or attempts to obtain, money, property, services, or something of value is prohibited.
Use of Narcotics	050-RO	The behavior type may be used when an offender is found to use narcotics.
Use of Tobacco	070-UB	The behavior type may be used when an offender is found to use tobacco.
Use of Vaping (Non-Tobacco) Device	117-UB	The behavior type may be used when an offender is found to use a vapor product such as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, and electronic pipe.
LEVEL FOUR OFFENSES		
Alcohol Possession (G.S. 18B)	020-RO	Any student possessing any malt beverages, fortified or unfortified wine, or spirituous liquor, in any amount or form to include any alcoholic beverage on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop or at any school-sponsored event is prohibited.
Assault on School Personnel, Not Serious	003-RO	Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a school official, employee, or school volunteer who is not a student.
Assault Resulting in a Serious Injury	001-PD	An intentional act or attempt by force or violence to do injury to the person of another that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm resulting in one of the following: (1) substantial risk of death, (2) serious permanent disfigurement, (3) a coma, (4) a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, (5) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or (6) that results in prolonged hospitalization.
Assault-Other	045-UB	Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a non-student or non-school employee.
Excessive Display of Affection	063-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender engages in consensual sexual behavior that is overly affectionate.

Gang Activity	079-UB	Gang activity shall be defined as any act(s) that further promotes gangs or gang-related activities or which threatens or intimidates another person or disrupts the educational environment on school premises or during any school-sponsored activity which includes, but is not limited to: (1) communicating either verbally or non-verbally (hand signs, gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.), to convey membership or affiliation with a gang; (2) defacing school or personal property with gang-related graffiti, symbols or slogans; (3) requiring payment of protection, insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity; (4) inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity; (5) soliciting others for gang membership; (6) committing any other illegal act or other violation of the Bladen County Schools' policies that relate to gang activity e.g. gang-related assault on student.
Harassment—Disability	102-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on the student's actual or perceived disability—such as a physical, developmental, intellectual, emotional, or sensory disability. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Harassment—Religious Affiliation	110-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived religion. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Harassment—Sexual	038-UB	Sexual harassment may consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats, pressure for sexual activity, continued or repeated offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, continued or repeated verbal remarks about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, sexual assault, sexual violence, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures or written materials. Acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex, but not involving sexual activity or language, may be combined with incidents of sexually harassing conduct to determine if the incidents of sexually harassing conduct are sufficiently serious to create a sexually hostile environment.
Harassment—Sexual Orientation	109-UB	Gender-based harassment is also a type of harassment. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.
Harassment—Verbal	025-UB	Verbal harassment means to worry, torment, trouble, verbally attack, or irritate persistently any student, school employee, or any other person.
Harassment-Racial	101-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived race, color, or national origin. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Indecent Exposure	115-UB	This behavior type may be used when the offender intentionally exposes private body parts, such as the buttocks or breasts.

Mutual Sexual Contact Between Two Students	068-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender engages in consensual sexual contact or a sexual act in violation of the student code of conduct
Other	069-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Other School Defined Offense	058-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Possession of a Weapon (Excluding Firearm, Powerful Explosives)	008-RO	Possessing, handling, transferring, bringing, or storing whether openly or concealed, without educational permission or consent, any BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, facsimile of a gun, ammunition, knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, loaded cane, loaded cane, sword cane, machete, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, and razor blades, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument.
Possession of Another Person's Prescription	087-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.
Possession of Chemical or Drug Paraphernalia	051-UB	Possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia or any other item used for inhaling/ingesting any controlled substance, narcotic, alcohol, or chemical.
Possession of Controlled Substance-Cocaine	005-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.
Possession of Controlled Substance-Other	017-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.
Possession of Controlled Substance-Ritalin	007-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.

Possession of Controlled Substance-Opioid	118-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.
Possession of Marijuana	006-RO	It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.) • The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense. • The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.
Possession of Student's Own Prescriptions	086-UB	This behavior type may be used when an offender is found to be in possession of their own prescription drug in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
Robbery without a Weapon	093-UB	The taking or attempting to take anything of value from another's person, by force, or by an act threatening force or violence, which puts a victim in fear, without the use of a weapon. The stealing of someone's property without the use of force or from a source other than the victim's person is not included in this offense. If the taking from the person involves the use of a dangerous weapon the incident is reported under Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon
Threat of a Physical Attack without a Weapon	107-UB	This behavior type should be used when the threat to physically injure a person. The threat is made in person. Using words that refer to a weapon or firearm, but no weapon or firearm is displayed, brandished, or discharged, would be considered a threat of physical attack without a weapon.
Use of Alcoholic Beverages	048-RO	Any student found to be using any malt beverages, fortified or unfortified wine, or spirituous liquor, in any amount or form to include any alcoholic beverage on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop, or at any school-sponsored event is prohibited.
LEVEL FIVE OFFENSES		
Assault Involving the Use of a Weapon	002-PD	An intentional offer or attempt by force or violence to the person of another that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm through the use of any firearm or other dangerous weapon, implement or means, any explosive or incendiary device or material, or discharges or attempts to discharge a firearm into occupied property, from within an enclosure to incite fear, or from an enclosure toward a person(s) outside enclosure as part of gang activity.
Bomb Threat	043-RO	Communicating a report, while knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is located on any school premises a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning. Placing on any school premises with the intent of perpetrating a hoax, any device that would appear to a reasonable person to be a bomb or similar instrument capable of causing injury and/or damage.
Burning of a School Building (G.S. 14-60)	053-RO	Any person who maliciously and willfully sets fire to, burns, or causes to be burned i.e. aids, directs, or procures the burning of any school building owned, leased, or used by the public schools.
Distribution of a Prescription Drug	088 - RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be distributing prescription drugs.

Harassment—Disability	102-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on the student's actual or perceived disability—such as a physical, developmental, intellectual, emotional, or sensory disability. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Harassment—Religious Affiliation"	110-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived religion. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Harassment—Sexual	038-UB	Sexual harassment may consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats, pressure for sexual activity, continued or repeated offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, continued or repeated verbal remarks about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, sexual assault, sexual violence, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures or written materials. Acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex, but not involving sexual activity or language, may be combined with incidents of sexually harassing conduct to determine if the incidents of sexually harassing conduct are sufficiently serious to create a sexually hostile environment.
Harassment—Sexual Orientation	109-UB	Gender-based harassment is also a type of harassment. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.
Harassment—Verbal"	025-UB	Verbal harassment means to worry, torment, trouble, verbally attack, or irritate persistently any student, school employee, or any other person.
Harassment-Racial	101-UB	Refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived race, color, or national origin. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties.
Homicide	004-PD	A murder which is perpetrated by one of the following means: (1) nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction, (2) poison, (3) lying in wait, (4) imprisonment, (5) starving, (6) torture, (7) any other kind of willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, (8) during the perpetration or attempted perpetration of arson, rape, sex offense, robbery, kidnapping, burglary, or other felony committed or attempted with the use of a deadly weapon, (9) the unlawful distribution of opium, opiate, or opioid or any other synthetic or natural salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium, cocaine or other substance described in G.S. §90-90(1)d., Methamphetamine, or a depressant described in G.S. 90-92(a)(1) and ingestion by the user results in, or (10) all other types of murder.

Kidnapping	016-PD	Confining, restraining, or removing from one place to another a person, without his/her or the victim's or a minor victim's parents' consent, for the purpose of committing a felony; or holding a victim as a hostage or for ransom, or for use as a shield. A parent taking a child in violation of a court order, although it may be a crime, is not kidnapping for this purpose.
Other	069-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that violates the student code of conduct.
Other School Defined Offense	058-UB	This behavior code may be used when the behavior of the offender is not found to fall under the definitions of the available behavior. This behavior may be used when disciplinary action is taken on a student for conduct that occurred off school grounds, not on school property, and not on a school-related or sponsored trip that is in violation of the student code of conduct.
Physical Attack with a Firearm or Explosive Device	104-PD	This behavior code should be used when the threat to physically injure a person involves the use of a firearm. The threat is made in person and the firearm is displayed, brandished, or discharged. Using words that refer to a weapon or firearm, but no weapon or firearm is displayed, brandished, or discharged, would be — 51— Return to Table of Contents considered a threat of physical attack without a weapon, not a threat of physical attack with a firearm.
Possession of a Firearm or Powerful Explosive	009-RO	Bringing or possessing a firearm or an explosive device on educational property or to a school-sponsored event off of educational property, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. An explosive device is a bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, device similar to those above. The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol
Rape	012-PD	Rape may be statutory or forcible. Forcible Rape is committed by force and without the consent of the victim, regardless of age. Statutory Rape is committed on a child under the age of 16 by a person who is at least 12 years old and at least four years older than the victim, regardless of whether the victim consented.
Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon	010-PD	This includes theft or attempted theft of anything of value from the person of another, or from the area under the immediate bodily control of the other, by using a dangerous weapon or by an act threatening the use of a dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is any article, instrument, or substance that is likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Forcible theft or attempted theft from a person without the use of a dangerous weapon should be reported under Robbery Without a Dangerous Weapon.
Robbery with a Firearm or Explosive Device	103-PD	Any person or persons who, having in possession or with the use or threatened use of any firearms or other dangerous weapon, implement or means, whereby the life of a person is endangered or threatened, unlawfully takes or attempts to take personal property from another or any place of business, residence, or banking institution or any other place where there is a person or persons in attendance, at any time, either day or night, or who aids or abets any such person or persons in the commission of such crime.
Sale of Controlled Substance	119-RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be conducting the sale of a controlled substance.
Sale of Controlled Substance - Cocaine	054 - RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be conducting the sale of a controlled substance-cocaine.

Sale of Controlled Substance - Marijuana	055-RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be conducting the sale of a controlled substance-marijuana.
Sale of Controlled Substance - Other	057- RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be conducting the sale of a controlled substance-other.
Sale of Controlled Substance - Ritalin	056- RO	This behavior code should be used when a student is found to be conducting the sale of a controlled substance-Ritalin.
Sexual Assault Not Involving Rape or Sexual Offense	014-PD	A person is guilty of sexual assault if he/she, for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, engages in sexual contact with another person by force and against the will of the other person, or if the person being assaulted is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know that the other person is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
Sexual Offense	013-PD	Sexual Offense may be forcible or statutory. Forcible Sexual Offense is committed by force and without the consent of the victim. Statutory Sexual Offense is a sexual act committed on a child under the age of 16 by a person who is at least 12 years old and more than four years older than the victim, regardless of whether the victim consented. Statutory Sexual Offense is also sexual acts committed on a person who is mentally handicapped or incapacitated or physically helpless, regardless of whether the victim consented.
Taking Indecent Liberties with a Minor	015-PD	Taking indecent liberties with children: A person is guilty of taking indecent liberties with a child if, being 16 years of age or more and at least five years older than the child in question, he/she either: (1) willfully takes or attempts to take any immoral, improper, or indecent liberties with any child of either sex under the age of 16 years for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, or (2) willfully commits or attempts to commit any lewd or lascivious act upon or with the body or any part or member of the body of any child of either sex under the age of 16 years. Indecent liberties between children: A person who is under the age of 16 years is guilty of taking indecent liberties with children if the person either: (1) willfully takes or attempts to take any immoral, improper, or indecent liberties with any child of either sex who is at least three years younger than the defendant for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, or (2) willfully commits or attempts to commit any lewd or lascivious act upon or with the body or any part or member of the body of any child of either sex who is at least three years younger.
Threat of Physical Attack with a Firearm	105-UB 105-PD	A person who (1) willfully threatens to physically injure the person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent or willfully threatens to damage the property of another; (2) the threat is communicated to the other person, orally, in writing, or by any other means; (3) the threat is made in a manner and under circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the threat is likely to be carried out; and (4) the person threatened believes that the threat will be carried out.
Threat of Physical Attack with a Weapon	106-UB 106-PD	A person who (1) willfully threatens to physically injure the person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent or willfully threatens to damage the property of another; (2) the threat is communicated to the other person, orally, in writing, or by any other means; (3) the threat is made in a manner and under circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the threat is likely to be carried out; and (4) the person threatened believes that the threat will be carried out.
Unlawfully Setting a Fire	018-UB	Intentionally starting a fire or attempting to start a fire or aiding and abetting in the starting or attempting to start a fire without educational permission or consent is prohibited.

Violent Assault Not Resulting in Serious Injury	090-UB	An intentional physical attack — 129— Return to Table of Contents resulting in pain and/or fear of severe harm for the victim but resulting in an injury less severe than that described in the definition of Assault Resulting in Serious Injury.
ADDITIONAL OFFENSES		
No Immunizations	065-UB	G.S. §130A-155 requires that parents or guardians submit proof of immunization for any child enrolled in public schools at the time of enrollment. If the certification of immunization is not presented on the first day of attendance, parents or guardians have 30 days from the first day of attendance to obtain the required immunization. Additional days may be allowed for immunizations which are administered in a series of doses given at medically approved intervals beyond the 30 days. At the end of the 30 days or the extended period if the required immunization has not been obtained principal or operators shall not permit the student to attend the school or facility until the proof of immunization has been presented. This behavior code may be used at the end of the 30 days or the extended period if the required proof of immunization has not been obtained. The behavior code should be used along with the action code of “135 OSS Medical Reasons”. These incidents are not considered out-of-school suspensions and are excluded from reporting.
Physical Exam	077-UB	G.S. §130A-440 requires that parents or guardians submit proof of health assessment for any child presented for admission into public schools for the first time. If the health assessment transmittal form is not presented on the first day of attendance, parents or guardians have 30 days from the first day of attendance to submit the form. At the end of the 30 days, if the required form has not been presented, the principal or operators shall not permit the student to attend the school or facility until the form is presented. This behavior code may be used at the end of the 30 days if the required form has not been presented. The behavior code should be used along with the action code of “135 OSS Medical Reasons”. These incidents are not considered out-of-school suspensions and are excluded from reporting. Continuation of Disciplinary Action from Previous School Year.
Repeat Offender	092-UB	This behavior code may be used when an offender is found to willfully and repeatedly violate school rules or the Student Code of conduct. This behavior code will most often be entered along with another additional behavior code.
Continuation of Disciplinary Action from Previous School Year	121	When student discipline carries over from one school year into the next school year, in the second year, use the behavior type “121: Continuation of Disciplinary Action from Previous School Year” when recording the disciplinary action that occurs during the second year.

BUS CONDUCT

School transportation service is a privilege, not a right. At all times, students riding the bus will observe the directives of the school bus driver and all other rules outlined here and in the Student Code of Conduct. Repeated discipline infractions on the bus may result in the loss of riding privileges.

The school bus, including bus stops, is an extension of the school. Therefore, the Student Code of Conduct is applicable to incidents occurring on the school bus and at the bus stop area. While riding a school bus, students shall at all times comply with the directives of the school bus driver and all other rules outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Discipline on the school bus is the responsibility of the principal/assistant principal of the school where the student is assigned. The bus driver has the responsibility and authority for the safe operation of the bus and will refer all students who violate any directives or rules to the principal/assistant principal.



Bus Misbehavior	037-UB	This behavior type may be used when the offender displays any behavior on school transportation that violates the student code of conduct.
-----------------	--------	--

MINOR OFFENSES	
Offense 1	Students must remain in their assigned seats at all times.
Offense 2	Loud and boisterous talking or yelling while on the bus and/or out the window will not be permitted.
Offense 3	Students are not permitted to eat or drink while on the bus.
Offense 4	Students are only permitted to ride their assigned bus to and from their designated stop, unless approved by administration.
MINOR OFFENSE VIOLATIONS	
1 st Violation	The parent/legal guardian will be contacted and the student will receive a warning.
2 nd Violation	The parent/legal guardian will be contacted and may include up to 3 days bus suspension.
3 rd & Subsequent Violations	The parent/legal guardian will be contacted and may include up to 10 days bus suspension. *Continuous violations may result in a loss of bus privileges.

MAJOR OFFENSES	
Offense 1	Students are prohibited from opening the emergency door except in the event of an emergency.
Offense 2	Students shall not interfere in any way with the safe operation of the bus. Behavior which distracts the driver will not be tolerated.
Offense 4	Vandalism of the bus is prohibited.
Offense 5	Pushing, fighting, profanity, possession/use of tobacco/vaping products, and other violations as defined in the Student Code of Conduct are prohibited.

MAJOR OFFENSE VIOLATIONS	
1 st Violation	The parent/legal guardian will be contacted and will include bus suspension up to 5 days.
2 nd Violation	The parent/legal guarding will be contacted and will include bus suspension up to 10 days.
3 rd & Subsequent Violations	The parent/legal guardian will be contacted and will include loss of bus privileges up to the remainder of the school year.

Conduct and Safety Rules for School Bus Passengers

1. Behavior and Safety at the Bus Stop—The behavior and the safety of the passenger are the responsibility of the parent/guardian until the student boards the bus and after the student exits the bus at his or her scheduled bus stop. (Safety concerns should be reported to the school principal or appropriate law enforcement agency.)
2. Safe Route to Bus Stop—In walking to a bus stop, parents and passengers should decide the safest route. If there is no sidewalk, passengers should walk to the left of the street or highway on the road shoulder facing traffic.
3. Being on Time—Passengers must be on time and at the bus stop. The driver has a schedule to follow and cannot wait on tardy passengers. The driver is not obligated to blow the horn or wait for passengers not in sight.
4. At the Bus Stop—A passenger must stay 10 feet off the street or roadway. A child should never approach a school bus until the bus is completely stopped, all red lights are flashing, the stop sign is out, the walk arm extended and the driver has motioned it is safe. Then the passenger must check to make sure all vehicles are stopped.
5. Entering the Bus—While boarding the bus the passenger should use the handrail and watch his/her step.
6. Taking a Seat—When a passenger enters the school bus he/she should take their assigned seat immediately and remain seated. Absolutely, no moving around on the bus while the bus is in motion.
7. Opening Windows—A passenger must ask permission if the window needs to be opened. A passenger must never hang any part of his/her body from the school bus window.
8. Throwing Objects, Shouting—Objects should never be thrown about in the bus or out the windows. A passenger should not shout and wave to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles from the bus windows. Passengers should talk quietly.
9. Eating—A passenger should never eat or drink on the bus.
10. Keeping the Aisle Clear—Personal belongings should be kept on the lap or under the seat. Arms and legs must be kept out of the aisle.
11. Bullying—Passengers should never harass or abuse the driver or another passenger verbally or physically, this is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Failure to comply may result in loss of bus privileges.
12. Profanity or Vulgar Language, Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, and Gang Activity—Passengers must never use profanity or vulgar language, tobacco, drugs, or alcoholic beverages while riding the bus. Gang colors, hand gestures, or related activity shall not be displayed.
13. Weapons, Firearms, and Dangerous Instruments—No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any object known or fashioned as a weapon, any firearms, or any dangerous instrument that can cause bodily harm on a school bus.
14. Distracting the Driver—A passenger must never be disrespectful or distract the driver’s attention in any way.

Disruptive behavior constitutes any physical or verbal action, which reasonably could disrupt, disturb, or interfere with the peace, order, and/or discipline while on the bus.

15. Silence at Railroad Crossings—Passengers must maintain complete silence at all railroad crossings.
16. Care of the Bus—A passenger must never damage or deface the bus in any way. Vandalism of state property may result in the dismissal of bus privileges and reimbursement for the damage cost.
17. Emergency Equipment—Passengers must never tamper with the emergency door, emergency windows, roof hatches, fire extinguishers, or video equipment. These features are put in place for safety purposes and should always be ready for use when needed.
18. Bus and Seat Assignment—Passengers shall never attempt to ride on a school bus unless assigned to it by the principal. It is unlawful for a person to ride on a school bus without prior assignment. (G.S. 115-184(a).) A parent must request any change of bus assignment in written form to the principal. Bus drivers shall assign seats and passengers must sit in assigned seats.
19. Inappropriate Items— Any device disruptive to the bus ride to include electronic devices, including but not limited to pagers, cell phones, and laser devices will not be displayed or utilized while on the school bus.
20. Code of Conduct—All Code of Conduct rules and consequences apply to incidents on the bus or at the bus stop.
21. Authority—The driver of a school bus subject to the direction of the principal shall have complete authority over and the responsibility for the operation of the bus and the maintaining of good order and conduct upon such bus, and shall report promptly to the principal any misconduct upon such bus or disregard or violation of the driver’s instruction by any person riding upon such bus. (GS.115C-245(b).)

Policies and Procedures for the Use of Video Cameras on School Buses

The use of video cameras on school buses is aimed at increasing overall bus safety. Video cameras will function to prevent discipline problems from occurring, but are not to serve as a threat to normal behavior. Video cameras will be used on school buses transporting to and from school or extra-curricular activities.

1. Only school personnel as determined by the superintendent will review videos.
2. Staff, students, and employees of the school system are prohibited from tampering or otherwise interfering with the video camera equipment.
3. Video footage will be stored for ten (10) school days after initial recordings, then recordings will be recorded over. Video recordings held for review of student incidents or for other purposes deemed appropriate by the principal may be downloaded to the principal or bus manager’s school computer pending resolution.
4. Viewing will be permitted only at school-related sites including the transportation office, school buildings, or central administrative offices.
5. Copies of video or pictures saved from video shall not be released to individuals or permitted for viewing outside of these locations unless subpoenaed as evidence for the court system’s official use. The release of all information shall be approved by the superintendent.

ANNUAL NOTICES OF LEGAL RIGHTS OF PARENTS & STUDENTS

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

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

- **The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of Bladen County Schools receiving a request for access.** Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the requester of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.
- **The right to request an amendment to the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading.** Parents or eligible students may ask Bladen County Schools to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want amended, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the school system decides not to amend the record as requested, the school system will notify the requester of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding hearing procedures, will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- **The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.** One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school system as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school system has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or per professional responsibility. Upon request, the school system discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. A copy of the records disclosed to another school district can be provided to parents or eligible students upon request.
- **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of FERPA.** The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

NON-DISCRIMINATION: TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (SECTION 504); AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (ADA)

It is the policy of Bladen County Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, genetic information or veteran’s status in its educational programs, activities, admissions, or employment policies. For inquiries or complains or to request a copy of the School District’s grievance procedures, please contact:

Bladen County Schools 504 Coordinator
Cheryl White-Smith
Executive Officer of Instruction and Specialized Services
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

For information concerning the educational rights of homeless students, please consult Board Policy 4125 and/or contact:

Dia Thomas
Director of English Learner & Migrant Education Programs; McKinney-Vento Liaison
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 70 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX: TITLE IX

The school system does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and federal regulations to not discriminate in such a manner. This requirement extends to admission and employment. The board will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex, including any form of sexual harassment as that term is defined under Title IX, in any program or activity of the school system.

The board has designated the following Title IX coordinators to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under Title IX and its implementing regulations.

Bladen County Schools Title IX Coordinator for Student Matters

Ann Brown
Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

Bladen County Schools Title IX Coordinator for Employee Matters

Deborah Guyton
Executive Director of Human Resources and Professional Development
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing federal regulations may be deferred to the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. The contact information for the Office of Civil Rights with jurisdiction over North Carolina is: 4000 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: 202-453-60820. Email: OCR.DC@ed.gov.

STUDENT AND PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Bladen County Board of Education strives to resolve concerns and complaints of students and parents whenever possible and has provided opportunities for students and parents to express their concerns through processes established in board policies. Bladen County Board of Education Policy 1740/4010 identifies the procedure.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (IDEA) & CHILD FIND

Pursuant to the IDEA, a federal law, the School District must provide special education services to all children residing in the school district who are between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) who have been diagnosed with or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and who are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. If your child or a child you know may qualify for such special assistance, please contact:

Cheryl White-Smith
Executive Officer of Instruction and Specialized Services
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

SECTION 504 PLANS

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against any individual on the basis of a disability. Any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment may qualify for a 504 Plan. A disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. If a student has a medical condition or other physical or mental impairment that creates a substantial limitation on a major life activity, he/she may be eligible for accommodations and/or modifications to allow for equal access to the educational environment. For more information please call or set up an appointment with the Section 504 contact at your child’s school.

Bladen County Schools 504 Coordinator
Cheryl White-Smith
Executive Officer of Instruction and Specialized Services
PO Box 37
1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW—TITLE 1 SCHOOLS

The following schools in this District receive federal funding through Title 1: Bladen Lakes Primary School, Bladenboro Primary School, Bladenboro Middle School, Clarkton School of Discovery, Dublin Primary School, East Arcadia School, Elizabethtown Middle School, Elizabethtown Primary School, Plain View Primary School, Tar Heel Middle School.

Federal guidelines require that districts provide a process by which parents may request the qualifications of their child’s teacher, if their child’s school receives funding through Title I. As the parent or legal guardian of a student in Bladen County Schools, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child’s classroom teachers and requires the school district to provide the information in a timely manner, if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s teachers:

- 1. Whether the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- 2. Whether the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has decided that the teacher can teach in the classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- 3. The teacher’s college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of those degrees.
- 4. Whether any teacher’s aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call your student’s school.

***The Student and Parent Handbook is subject to change contingent upon updates to board policies and state and federal legislation. A current version of the handbook is available on our website.*

**BLADEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC PLAN
2022-2027**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND ALIGNMENT

- The district sets district, school, and student subgroup achievement targets.
- The district supports a student-centered approach and provides an instructional framework based on learner profiles that inform individualized learning paths and competency-based progression in a flexible learning environment.
- The district provides and supports digital-age classrooms and learning opportunities through relevant and necessary materials, resources, and tools.

LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

- The district has oriented its culture toward shared responsibility and accountability.
- The district examines existing school improvement strategies being implemented across the district and determines their value, expanding, modifying, and culling as evidence suggests.
- The district proactively supports and emphasizes student-centered instruction by seeking solutions to remove barriers, including those related to policies, practices, and traditions.

PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

- The district has a plan and process to recruit and retain highly-qualified teachers and staff to support school improvement.
- The district has a team available to help principals as they support under performing employees to minimize the principal's time spent dismissing low performers.
- The district implements and measures the effectiveness of personalized professional development to build the capacity of all educators through coaching, modeling, and networks of support.

PLANNING & OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- The district provides schools with technology, training, and support for integrated data collection, reporting, and analysis systems.
- The district regularly reallocates resources to support schools, staff, and instructional improvement.
- The district supports schools working toward creating the conditions for personalized learning.

FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

- The district includes parent organizations in district and school improvement planning and maintains regular communication with them.
- The district establishes two-way communication channels to encourage transparency, feedback loops, and access to information for families and the community.

Bladen County Schools

1489 US Hwy 701 South
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136