

Classification of Violations

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into the three classifications of minor, intermediate, and major offenses. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary procedure to be implemented by the principal or designees.

Procedures for the Administration of Formal Disciplinary Action

In the following classes of violations and disciplinary procedures, it is understood that the principal or designee shall hear the student's explanation and consult further with school personnel, if necessary, before determining the classification of the violation.

Each classroom teacher will deal with general classroom disruption by taking in-class disciplinary action, by making a personal call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) when deemed necessary and/or feasible, and/or by scheduling conferences with parent/guardian(s) and other school staff when deemed necessary and/or feasible. Only when the action taken by the teacher is ineffective or the disruption is severe, should the student be referred to the principal or designee. Failure to bring notebook, pencil, books, or required materials and equipment to class; refusal to do homework, or refusal to work in class is not cause for disciplinary referrals. Parents or guardians of students who consistently exhibit poor work habits should be notified by school personnel. Habitual refusal to comply after intervention may be classified as defiance of authority and/or insubordination.

MINOR OFFENSES – CLASS I

- 1.1 Excessive distraction of other students:** Any conduct and/or behavior that is disruptive to the orderly educational process in the classroom or any similar grouping.
- 1.2 Unauthorized organizations:** Any on-campus participation in non-sanctioned fraternities, sororities, secret societies, or non-affiliated clubs.
- 1.3 Excessive Tardiness:** Reporting late to school or class.
- 1.4 Use of profane or obscene language**
- 1.5 Non-conformity to dress code**
- 1.6 Minor disruption on a school bus:**
- 1.7 Inappropriate public display of affection**
- 1.8 Unauthorized absence from class or school**
- 1.9 Repeated refusal to complete class assignments and failure to bring required instructional materials to class**
- 1.10 Minor vehicular violations**
- 1.11 Littering of school property**
- 1.12 Academic dishonesty**
- 1.13 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting, or assisting another to commit any of the Class I offenses**
- 1.14 Any other violation or school rule or disruption that has a detrimental impact on school activities or the educational process that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.**

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES – CLASS I

- ◆ Administrative responses for Class I violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Student conference
 - Parent contact(s)/conference(s)
 - Detention
 - Suspension from bus
 - Corporal punishment
 - Principal's probation

INTERMEDIATE OFFENSES – CLASS II

- 2.1 Defiant use of a personal electronic communication device or Student Dress Code**
- 2.2 Defiance of Board employee's authority**
- 2.3 A. Possession, control, or use of tobacco products, lighters, matches**
- 2.3 B. Vape/Vapor possession:** Possession of a device used to inhale and exhale vapor containing nicotine and/or flavoring or other substance.
- 2.3 C. Vape/Vapor Usage:** Using a device used to inhale and exhale vapor containing nicotine and/or flavoring or other substance
- 2.3 D. Vape/Vapor sale:** Selling of a device used to inhale and exhale vapor containing nicotine and/or flavoring or other substance
- 2.4 Intentional touching, striking, or badgering of another**
- 2.5 Fighting:** Any physical conflict involving two or more individuals
- 2.6 Vandalism:** Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$200 to public property or the real or personal property of another
- 2.7 Stealing – Larceny – Petty Theft:** The intentional, taking and/or carrying away of public, real, or personal property valued at less than \$100 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another.
- 2.8 Possession of stolen property**
- 2.9 Threats to commit extortion:** NOTE: Completion of the threat, either by the victim's complying with the demands or the carrying out of the threats against the victim, constitutes a Class III offense.
- 2.10 Trespassing:** The willful entering or remaining in any structure, conveyance, or property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or having been authorized, licensed, or invited, is warned by an authorized person to depart and refuses to do so.
- 2.11 Possession of fireworks or ammunition**
- 2.12 Inappropriate sexual behavior (verbal, written or physical)**
- 2.13 Use of obscene manifestations (verbal, written, physical) toward another person (student, visitor, board employee, etc.)**
- 2.14 Verbal assault upon a Board employee or visitor.**
- 2.15 Leaving premise without permission**
- 2.16 Cheating or other academic dishonesty: serious or repeated violations**
- 2.17 Unauthorized absence from class or school**
- 2.18 Threat, bullying, cyberbullying or intimidation**
- 2.19 Loitering:** Remaining in the restroom, cafeteria, hallway, parking lot, gym areas, or any other unauthorized area.
- 2.20 Inappropriate use of technology resources, including but not limited to taping or filming without consent**
- 2.21 Possession of pocketknife**

2.22 Violation of the conditions of principal's probation

2.23 Gambling: Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value

2.24 Intentionally providing false information to Board employee

2.25 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting or assisting another to commit any of the Class II offenses:

2.26 Any other violation or school rule or disruption that has a detrimental impact on school activities or the educational process that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.

2.27 Multiple, repeated, persistent, or blatant/gross Class I violations that result in a significant disruption of school events, school days, school activities, classes or other parts of the educational process.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES – CLASS II

◆ Administrative responses for Class II violations include, but are not limited to, all of the responses for Class I violations, as well as the following:

- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension not to exceed five (5) days; and/or
- Alternative Placement (i.e., the student may not be permitted to participate in the same classes, privileges, and/or activities as the general population of students)
- Legal action

MAJOR OFFENSES – CLASS III

3.1 Drugs and alcohol: The unauthorized possession, transfer, use, sale, soliciting, trafficking, misuse and/or abuse of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, or other intoxicant of any kind.

3.2 Arson: The willful and malicious burning of any part of a building or its contents.

3.3 Assault or battery upon Board employee, student, and/or visitor: The threatening by word or act **OR** the unlawful and intentional touching or striking **OR** the intentional causing of bodily harm.

3.4 Robbery: The taking of money or other property from the person which may be the subject of larceny from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault or putting in fear of same.

3.5 Stealing – Larceny – Grand Theft: Knowingly or intentionally taking, obtaining, receiving, or exerting unauthorized control over property valued at \$100 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.

3.6 Burglary of school property: The breaking into, entering, or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein.

3.7 Criminal mischief: Willful and malicious injury or damages at or in excess of \$200 to public property, or real property belonging to another.

3.8 Possession of firearms: Any firearm (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; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device.

- 3.9 Discharging of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, pellet gun or BB gun, or any other device on school property or at any school related function**
- 3.10 Possession of weapons:** Any knife, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or any other weapon, instrument, or other object capable of causing bodily harm, or with the intent to be armed.
- 3.11 Bomb threats:** Any such communication(s) that has the effect of interrupting the educational environment.
- 3.12 Explosives:** Preparing, possessing, or igniting on School Board property explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.
- 3.13 Sexual acts:** Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to, battery, sodomy, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape.
- 3.14 Aggravated battery:** Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon.
- 3.15 Inciting or participating in major student disorder:** Leading, encouraging, or assisting in major disruptions of school events, activities, classes, or other parts of the educational process.
- 3.16 Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system**
- 3.17 Igniting fireworks**
- 3.18 Sexual harassment**
- 3.19 Written or Verbal Propositions to Promote Sexual Acts:**
- 3.20 Threats of Death or Serious Bodily Harm:** The verbal, written or electronic communication of a threat to kill or do serious bodily harm to another person.
- 3.21 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting or assisting another to commit any of the Class III offenses.**
- 3.22 Multiple, repeated, persistent, or blatant/gross Class I or Class II violations that result in a major disruption of school events, school days, school activities, classes or other parts of the educational process.**

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES - CLASS III

- ◆ Administrative responses for Class III violations include, but are not limited to, all of the responses for Class I and II violations, as well as the following:
 - Out-of-school suspension not to exceed 10 days; and/or
 - Expulsion

NOTE: Due to the serious nature of some offenses, it may be necessary to remove a student immediately from school property.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL

ADOPTED: November 5, 1978, REVISED: June 16, 1994; REVISED: June 7, 2005; REVISED: May 21, 2009; REVISED: May 17, 2012; REVISED: May 1, 2014; REVISED August 9, 2019; REVISED November 16, 2023;

LEGAL REF.: Ala. Code § 16-1-14 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-1-24.1 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-28-12 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-28A-3 (1975).