

Descriptor Term: DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES

Descriptor Code: JCEC

Rescinds: JCEC

Board Approved: 12/07/92

Previously Approved: 4/04/88

The Board of Trustees is responsible for providing an appropriate educational program for the children of school age in the Gulfport School District.

The right of a child to attend school and receive a suitable education is determined under state law. The Board will not tolerate any disruption or interference through violence, vandalism, seizure of any area of school property, sit-ins, walk-outs, or other methods of disruption that violate this right. Students who participate in such events in violation of instructions from school officials must bring their parents to a conference with the principal or his/her designee to determine what disciplinary action, if any, may be necessary to reestablish the student in a positive role within the school setting and/or to accomplish any reparations of breaches committed by the student during the prohibited event.

#### PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING APPROVED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

1. Student leaders of a group wishing to conduct a demonstration or activity of emphasis must first obtain permission for the event from the school principal and develop procedures for the event, including setting the time and place of occurrence.
2. Approved student demonstrations may be granted by the principal to take place either before or after school, during a designated activity period, during a part of a selected lunch period, or on stage or the school grounds for a special assembly.
3. Armbands, badges, petitions, and individual expressions of protest or other demonstration can be permitted if the principal finds that such demonstrations do not violate school dress codes, do not interfere with normal disciplinary processes, and do not otherwise disrupt normal school order.
4. Students who engage in demonstrations without obtaining the principal's permission will be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with school rules.

LEGAL REF.: Mississippi Code 1972, §37-13-1; Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U. S. 503 (1969); Goss v. Lopez, 419 U. S. 565 (1975)