



**KOSCIUSKO  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

*Student Handbook*  
2025-2026



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## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Kosciusko School District! This handbook is an essential guide for students and parents, outlining our discipline plan and policies to ensure a supportive and structured educational environment. Each family is required to acknowledge receipt of this handbook to understand the district's discipline policies fully. Within, you will find comprehensive details on students' duties, responsibilities, rights, and the legal framework guiding our educational practices. Disclaimer: This policy cannot address all potential situations that may occur during the school year. The KSD does not discriminate based on race, creed, gender, religion, age, national origin, disability, or handicap.

## **Visitors**

All visitors must report directly to the school office and sign in. The principal has the right to deny visitation to any individual if, in the judgment of the principal, the visit might negatively affect school climate. The principal also has the right to contact the proper authorities if a problem with a visitor should arise. Parents are welcome to visit our school at any time. Visitors will not be allowed in classrooms during the school day. Anyone wishing to see a student for a specific reason may seek permission to do so from the principal's office. Unauthorized personnel shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. Principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings or from loitering on school grounds. Such persons may be prosecuted. No solicitation of teachers or students on personal matters on the school premises by salesmen or agents is allowed. Students are not allowed to have visitors accompany them as visiting guests in the schools.

## **STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE**

### **Residence Verification Procedure**

A student enrolling in the Kosciusko School District must provide documentation of their residency address as part of the registration process, in accordance with Mississippi State School Board of Education Policy Rule 68.1 and Kosciusko School District procedures. Any change of address by an existing student requires updated residency documents to be submitted. Students are not legally enrolled until the documentation is provided, and verification of residence has been completed. The student must physically reside full-time (seven days a week, including nights and weekends) at a primary residence located within the limits of the Kosciusko School District.

### **Enrollment Requirements and Proofs of Residency**

To enroll a child in the Kosciusko School District, the parent or legal guardian must provide the following documentation: Proof of Identification, Birth Certificate, Immunization Certificate (Form 121), Township and Range, and Two proofs of Residency. All proofs must be listed in the custodial parent or legal guardian's name. All proofs must show the physical address/service address of the residence. All proofs must be dated within 30 days of student registration.

#### **Proof #1: Provide ONE of the following documents showing the property/service address.**

Filed Homestead Exemption Application

Mortgage Document or Property Deed

Residential Lease

Property Management/Apartment Lease.

Leases must be current and notarized. Refer to the important reminders and the additional information on leases below.

#### **Proof #2: Provide ONE of the following utility bills showing the property/service address.**

Gas Bill

Electric Bill

Landline Telephone Bill

Cable/Satellite Bill

Water Bill

Garbage Bill

Internet Bill

### **Important Reminders**

Parents/Guardians must be listed on the lease agreement. Utility bills must be within 30 days of registering the student. Additional documents may be required based on the student's school/grade level (e.g., custody papers, immunization records, birth certificates, township and range, withdrawal forms, discipline records, \$25 technology fee, etc.). Notify a school official immediately if the student and custodial parent/legal guardian move or change residences after enrollment. Students admitted with false information will be immediately dismissed. Misrepresentation of residency is unlawful and considered a misdemeanor. School officials may investigate suspected falsified residency documents using appropriate measures. The following documents will NOT be accepted as proof of residency: Cell Phone Bills, Government Assistance Documents, Automobile Registration, MiFi Bills, Voter Precinct Registration, Driver's License.

### **Leases Pending Renewal and Notarization**

For leases that are current but not yet up for renewal and may not have been notarized at the time of signing, the Kosciusko School District will review these cases individually. The parent or legal guardian must provide the current lease along with two utility bills in their name with the service address/property address listed on the lease. Random, unannounced home visits will be conducted to verify the accuracy of the presented documents. Once the lease is renewed, a new, notarized copy of the lease must be submitted to maintain compliance with residency requirements. For questions or further assistance, please contact the Kosciusko School District Office.

### **General Eligibility**

Kosciusko School District admits all eligible residents and legally transferred minor children ages five (5) to twenty (20) years old as of September 1st of the school year. Students must attend the school within their residential district unless legally transferred.

### **Admission from Non-Accredited Schools**

Students from non-accredited institutions must undergo evaluation to determine appropriate grade placement.

### **Withdrawal from School**

Students must have written consent from their parents or guardian prior to withdrawing from school. Parents must complete withdrawal procedures as determined by the school AND sign the withdrawal document from the school. Please note, student records will be retained and not released until the return of all issued materials is confirmed.

### **Attendance Laws, Policies, and Procedures**

A student must be present for 63% of his or her individual instructional day, as determined by the local school board for each individual school to be considered having attended school for a full day. A student who is absent for more than 37% of the instructional day shall be considered absent for the entire school day. This percentage is also determined by the school board for the school in which the student is enrolled.

### **Documentation Requirements for Absences**

Medical, dental, or personal appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. Written excuses must be submitted within three days of the student's return. Each parent note can only account for two consecutive days missed. There are only 3 parent notes allowed per semester. Absences lasting more than 2 days require a doctor's excuse. Extended absences require documentation from medical, court, or funeral services. Medical excuses for household members will count towards students if the illness is highly contagious. Students who miss school for school-related activities will still be considered as present.

### **Unexcused Absences**

An absence will be unexcused if a parent or guardian does not contact the school in writing by the conclusion of the third day after the student returns. Five unexcused absences will trigger parental notification and a report to the truancy officer. Absences resulting from suspension, expulsion, or any disciplinary actions will not be considered excused.

### **Make-Up Work**

Students are responsible for requesting makeup work following an absence. Teachers may allow students to complete assignments before a planned absence if approved by the principal, excluding final exams. Students will have the number of days absent, plus one additional day, to complete their makeup work. For excused absences, work completed within the

required period can earn full credit. Work missed due to an unexcused absence, even with parental knowledge and consent, cannot receive full credit. Makeup work for unexcused absences submitted within the allowed time may earn a maximum grade of 65 of the assignment's original value. Any work not completed within the required time will receive a grade of zero.

### **Absence Reporting and Absences Affecting Academic Credit**

Students must attend school every day it is open to ensure academic growth and success. A child of compulsory school age must enroll within 15 calendar days after the school year starts. If a child has not enrolled by this time, or if a child has 5 unlawful/unexcused absences in a year, the school principal or designee must report the absences. This report to the school attendance officer or court must be made within 2 school days or 5 calendar days, whichever is shorter. Legal Reference: Mississippi Code, Section 37-13-91 (1993).

### **Perfect Attendance**

Perfect attendance recognition shall be presented to students who are present 100% of every school day. Students may not have any check-ins or check-outs to receive this honor.

### **Check-Out Procedures**

1. A parent, legal guardian, or authorized person must sign the student out in person.
2. Individuals checking out students must be 18 years or older AND listed as an approved contact for the student.
3. Upon return, a parent note or doctor's excuse is required stating the reason for the absence. This note must be presented to the attendance clerk.
  - Each parent note can only account for two consecutive days missed.
  - There are only 3 parent notes allowed per semester.
  - Absences lasting more than 2 days require a doctor's excuse.
4. The school verifies the identity of individuals checking out students.
5. All checkouts and/or early dismissals must go through the school office.
6. Students cannot check out for lunch and then return.
7. Absence for more than 37% of the school day counts as a full day's absence.
8. Lunch and breaks are not considered instructional time for attendance purposes.

### **Work Release/Early Release (High School Only)**

- Early Release Policy for Seniors and Juniors
  - Seniors
    - Must be after 2nd block and be in good academic standing.
    - Must meet either:
      - ACT subscore benchmarks: 17 in English or 22 in Reading and 19 in Math.
      - Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys assessments.
    - Must be on track to complete required Carnegie units for 12th grade or graduation.
    - Parents can sign seniors out for the semester if they have quality work release during the 3rd and 4th blocks.
  - Juniors
    - Must be after 3rd block and be in good academic standing.
    - Must meet either:
      - ACT subscore benchmarks: 17 in English or 22 in Reading and 19 in Math.
      - Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys assessments.
    - Must be on track to complete required Carnegie units for 12th grade or graduation.
    - Parents can sign juniors out for the semester if they have quality work release during the 4th block.
- Early Release Form
  - Must be completed and signed by the parent, student, principal, counselors.
  - Must be notarized by Kosciusko school personnel.
  - The principal and counselors will approve or deny early release based on the student's track and credits towards graduation.
- General Rules
  - Students must have a way to leave the school campus after release.

- Early Release Students may not return any school campus unless they are involved in athletics/activities that are occurring on that campus.
- All other athletes must report to their assigned locations during the 4th block.
- Students must follow all guidelines of the Early Release Policy, or permission will be revoked.
- This policy may change according to the Mississippi Department of Education's graduation requirements.

**Tardy Policy**

Tardies are defined as not being physically present and prepared for class when the tardy bell rings or when the teacher is ready to begin class if extended time is given by the teacher. Tardies are counted on a semester basis.

Tardy #	Consequence
1-3	Teacher Gradebook
4	Parent Contact
5	ISR (1) Day and Parent Contact
6	ISR (2) Days and Parent Contact
7	OSS (1) Day and Parent Contact
8	Consequences may range from OSS (2) Days to Alternative School

**Schedule Changes**

Students and parents are encouraged to take course selections in the spring very seriously. Teaching assignments and school schedules are developed based on the subjects selected during the spring. Therefore, courses chosen during spring course selection will remain on the students' schedules. This will ensure that students remain in required and appropriate courses and that instruction may begin on the very first day of school. Schedules will be given out at designated times during the summer. Only corrections due to incorrect scheduling will be made. The correction will need to be made when the schedule is picked up, not after school has started. Errors should be brought to the attention of the students' counselor prior to the start of school. Errors that require corrections include the following:

- In a class that requires a prerequisite that you do not have
- In the wrong level of a class
- Needing to add a senior requirement
- In the same class twice
- In a class for which you have already received credit
- The principal must approve any other changes.

**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Academic Conduct**

The Kosciusko School District expects all students to engage in their studies diligently and honestly. Students are expected to study and perform the tasks given by the teacher. If a student is found to be academically dishonest in any manner, it is up to the teacher to notify the parents and disciplinary actions may occur.

Classroom Grading Scale	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	65-69
F	Below 65

<b>Grading Components</b>	
Daily	10%
Quiz	30%
Test	60%

<b>Nine Weeks Average Calculation</b>	
Term Average (Daily, Quizzes, Tests)	75%
9 Weeks Exam	25%

<b>Minimum Gradebook Entries Per 9 Weeks</b>	
Daily	8
Quizzes	7
Tests	3

A nine (9) weeks test will not be given at the end of the 2nd and 4th nine (9) weeks due to semester exams being given; therefore, the term average will be counted as the nine (9) weeks average.

### **Semester Average**

To calculate the Semester Average, the first nine weeks average and the second nine weeks average will be averaged to count as 75% of the semester average. A semester exam will be given and count as 25% of the semester average. The same process will apply for the second semester average, using the third nine weeks and the fourth nine weeks average. If a student is exempt from a semester exam, then the average of the two nine weeks will count as the semester average.

### **Final Average**

For a semester course (0.5 credit course) the semester average will count as the final average for the semester course or 0.5 credit course. For a full year course (1 credit course) the first semester average and the second semester average will be averaged for the final average for the course. Numeric rounding is completed on the final average.

**Exemption Policy** (Check outs during a class may result in an absence in the class.)

<b>Numeric Average</b>	<b>1st Semester Days Absent (Excused or Unexcused)</b>	<b>2nd Semester Days Absent (Excused or Unexcused)</b>	<b>All Year Absent (Excused or Unexcused)</b>
90-100	4	4	8
80-89	2	2	4
70-79	0	0	0

## Reporting Schedule

Term	Report	Date
1st	Progress Report	Wednesday, September 3, 2025
	Report Card	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
2nd	Progress Report	Wednesday, November 5, 2025
	Report Card	Wednesday, January 7, 2026
3rd	Progress Report	Wednesday, February 4, 2026
	Report Card	Wednesday, March 18, 2026
4th	Progress Report	Wednesday, April 15, 2026
	Report Card	Friday, May 22, 2026

We encourage all parents to sign up for ACTIVE PARENT on our school website [www.kosciuskoschools.com](http://www.kosciuskoschools.com)

### Student Workbooks

The Kosciusko School District provides instructional workbooks free of charge to students. It is the duty of each student to care for the instructional workbooks to the best of his/her ability. Students who lose/damage instructional workbooks will be charged a \$25.00 replacement fee.

## HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY

### Student Health

The parent/guardian of each student will be required to complete student health information as a part of registration. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school district of any health conditions that may affect a student during school hours or at school related functions. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide current information from the student's physician regarding precautions to be taken, symptoms to monitor, and/or necessary treatments. Student health information is to be updated by the parent/guardian as needed throughout the school year.

### Student Hygiene

Students are expected to maintain personal hygiene standards to ensure a conducive and respectful learning environment including regular showering, wearing clean and appropriate clothing, and practicing good oral hygiene.

### Blood Sugar Management

For diabetic students, parents will be contacted to take their child home if their blood glucose level exceeds 400+.

### Food Allergy Management

The Kosciusko School District is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all students and employees. Parents or guardians of students with food allergies must provide an action plan from the student's physician. This action plan should include a detailed list of the student's food allergies along with expected reactions, specify whether the student should avoid inhalation, touch, and/or ingestion of the allergen, outline necessary precautions to prevent a reaction at school, and include a clear plan of action if accidental exposure occurs, including specific medications to be administered.

### Medication Policy and Guidelines

Medication should ideally be administered outside school hours. If school-time medication is necessary, a Physician/Parent Medication Authorization/Indemnity Form is required, signed by both the physician and parent/guardian. Possession of medication without proper authorization may lead to disciplinary action. The school is not liable for injuries sustained from self-administering medications.

### **Medication Administration at School**

Medications must be delivered to the school office by a parent/guardian for counting and registration. Medications must remain in original packaging with clear labeling including the student's name, medication details, and dosage instructions. A district nurse or trained designee, not students, must administer medication unless specific conditions for self-administration are met. Changes in medication details require new authorization forms and notification to the school office.

### **Types of Medication**

**Prescription Medication:** Must be in the pharmacy-labeled container, detailing comprehensive information including the student's name, medication name, dosage, and expiration.

**Over-the-Counter Medication:** Must retain original packaging with the student's name written on it and requires the same authorization form as prescription medications.

### **Self-Administration of Emergency Medications**

Students may self-administer emergency medications (e.g., Inhalers, Epi-pens, Glucagon) under certain conditions: Medication requirements and authorizations must be fully met. Medications may be carried by students if deemed appropriate by the physician. The school nurse should be notified immediately after the use of any emergency medication. The school assumes no liability for injuries resulting from self-administration.

### **Unused Medication**

Parents/guardians are responsible for retrieving unused medication by the end of the term or upon discontinuation. Unclaimed medications will be disposed of according to school policy.

### **Chronic Illnesses**

Students with chronic illnesses must have an action plan or plan of care from their physician on file in the school office at the beginning of each school year or at any time when a student receives a diagnosis. This plan includes precautions, symptoms to monitor, and treatments, including medications. This plan will allow school staff including district nurses to provide the best care for each student during school hours. Plans should be updated throughout the year as changes are made by the student's physician. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the school receives updated plans as applicable.

### **Communicable Diseases**

The district has the authority to exclude students with infectious or contagious diseases, with re-entry allowed upon presentation of a certificate from a health official indicating the student is free from disease. KSD policy is that any student who tests positive for COVID/FLU shall quarantine for at least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing agents. The student should also have an improvement in overall symptoms. If a student is sent home with fever, we ask that they remain home for 24 hours or until they are fever free without the use of fever reducing agents. If a student returns to school from quarantine and runs a fever, they will be sent home. They must then be fever free for an additional 24 hours and have an improvement in symptoms prior to returning to school again. Students will be sent home if they are experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea. They may return the following day if their symptoms have cleared. Fever is anything over 100 degrees. A doctor's excuse is highly recommended due to maintaining our school attendance records. Doctor's excuses may be sent with the student upon their return or faxed to the school nurse at 662-290-6056. Our guidelines are reflective of the CDC current recommendations.

### **Infectious Diseases**

Policies for handling infectious diseases align with CDC and Mississippi Department of Health guidelines. Parents will be notified of communicable illnesses identified in the classroom and are advised on hygiene practices to prevent the spread. Parents will be asked to pick up their child from school immediately under the following circumstances: The child does not feel well enough to return to the classroom. The child is bleeding and/or shows any sign of infection that needs to be evaluated by a physician. The child has a documented fever.

### **Meningococcal Disease**

Information about meningococcal disease, including its symptoms, prevention methods, and the availability of vaccinations, is provided to ensure awareness and promote health and safety. For additional information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### **Educating Students with Chronic Infectious Diseases Policy**

Determination is made by the district's medical advisor, district nurses, and the student's physician regarding the risk of transmission to others. The rights to privacy of students with chronic infectious diseases will be respected, maintaining strict confidentiality unless a breach is necessary for the health and safety of others. The superintendent must be notified of any student diagnosed with a chronic infectious disease. School principals, teachers, district nurses, and staff involved in the student's care or education must be informed about the student's condition. An evaluation team, including the student's doctor, parents/guardians, school medical advisor, district nurses, local health official, and an appointed school administrator, will regularly review the student's condition. This team will assess any changes in the student's health at least monthly to consider the risks and benefits to the student and the school community. Recommendations on whether the student can attend school in an unrestricted setting, a restricted setting, or if an alternative education program is necessary, will be made to the superintendent. Any significant changes in the student's condition, such as open lesions, must be promptly reported for immediate re-evaluation. The local health department is encouraged to provide a contact person knowledgeable about the disease to answer any arising questions.

### **First Aid**

Children who get minor injuries at school requiring basic first aid will be treated for these injuries by school staff and/or district nurses. If a student is seriously ill or injured, all efforts will be made to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the principal with the consultation of the district nurses will determine if additional medical help or advice is needed.

### **Health Screenings**

Hearing/Vision screenings are conducted per state law, with exemptions honored upon written request.

### **Head Lice Policy**

If a student is found with head lice, parents will be notified to pick up their child from school immediately. Students must submit proof of medically approved lice treatment. A reexamination showing no live lice may be required before a student's return. After three instances of head lice in one school year, the school may involve the county health department. The administrator in consultation with a district nurse will handle the situation at his/her discretion.

### **Fire Drill**

To inform the faculty and the student body of safety precautions during a fire drill, it is necessary to set up definite signals and rules of conduct to observe fire drills. The signal for the fire drill or for a real fire will be one long bell to warn the occupants to leave the building. In the event of a power failure, the same signal will be given with a whistle. At signal, all pupils will form a single line and march in an orderly fashion, without talking to the assigned place. A copy of the fire drill will be posted throughout the building. The KSD will conduct required monthly and yearly drills.

### **Natural Disaster**

A copy of the natural disaster plan will be posted in classrooms and offices, and each student will be aware of the total plan. For the safety of all students, it is strongly encouraged by the School Administration that no check-out of students is made during a natural disaster warning. The KSD will conduct required monthly and yearly drills.

### **Asbestos Management**

In accordance with AHERA regulations, school districts are required to perform several activities concerning asbestos in schools. These activities include an initial asbestos inspection and development of a Management Plan which addresses how identified asbestos containing materials (ACM) will be handled (abated or managed in place). As part of the Management Plan, schools are also required to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an environmental consulting firm. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in an inspection report as part of the Management Plan. As required, a three-year re-inspection of all our buildings is conducted. A copy of the Re-inspection Report is on file with the Mississippi Department of Education and in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. A copy of all management plans for the district schools is filed in the LEA's office located at 229 West Washington Street. These documents are available for review by representatives of EPA, the State, and the public, including parents. Questions or comments concerning the Asbestos Management Plan should be directed to the Superintendent of Education office (662-289-4771).

## STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

### Due Process/Appeal Process

The Kosciusko School District is dedicated to ensuring that all students are treated fairly and are fully aware of their rights during disciplinary proceedings. Students facing disciplinary action are entitled to due process as required by law, which includes being informed of their rights and the specific reasons for any disciplinary actions taken.

### Short-term Suspension (10 days or less)

Parents/guardians may request an informal meeting with the administrator who issued the suspension. This meeting can be arranged through the school office.

### Long-term Suspension (More than 10 days)

Suspensions exceeding ten days are subject to appeal. To initiate an appeal, the parent/guardian must notify the District's Disciplinary Coordinator in writing within 24 hours of the suspension decision. Pending the appeal, the student may be placed in the Kosciusko Alternative School for temporary placement.

### Extended Placement in Alternative School

For placements in the Kosciusko Alternative School exceeding 45 days, parents/guardians have the right to appeal to the Kosciusko School District Discipline Chairperson. The Discipline Chair for Kosciusko School District is Josh Dodd.

Email: [josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com](mailto:josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com). Phone: 662-289-4771. Address: 229 West Washington Street, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

### Disciplinary Actions Chart

Disciplinary Action	Description
Detention	Students lose free time during school hours.
Corporal Punishment	Students receive paddling. Principal administered only.
In School Reassignment (ISR)	Students are assigned to an area away from the regular classroom, with all privileges suspended, including extracurricular activities.
Out of School Suspension (OSS)	Students are out of school for a designated period.
Expulsion	Student's rights and privileges of attending school are denied until the end of the semester, school year, or calendar year.

### Kosciusko Alternative School

The Alternative School serves various categories of compulsory school-age students. Alternative School students are not permitted to participate in any school programs or activities. If an Alternative School student attempts to attend a school program or extracurricular activity, they will be immediately removed without a refund of any entry fees, and additional days will be added to their Alternative School placement. Alternative School students are required to be present for all assigned times. Alternative School serves students facing felony charges until legal resolutions are determined. Felony charges may also lead to expulsion based on the district's discretion.

### Student Dress and Appearance Policy

The Kosciusko School District believes that personal appearance reflects pride and sets the tone for a respectful, focused, and safe learning environment. Our dress code supports these values by promoting a positive and professional atmosphere for all students. The school administration reserves the right to address any dress or appearance that is considered disruptive or poses a safety risk on an individual basis. Administrators may allow modifications to the dress code for specific school events as needed.

### Clothing Guidelines

1. Headgear, including but not limited to hats, bandanas, "do rags," hair picks, rollers, and other styling devices, is not permitted.
2. Hoods cannot be worn inside the building.
3. Headbands not exceeding 2 inches in width are permissible.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times.

5. Slides are permitted but must be worn with socks.
6. Bedroom slippers and house shoes are not permitted.
7. Clothing with printed messages, words, or phrases must not contain profanity or advertise anything inappropriate.
8. Sunglasses are not allowed.
9. Wallet chains are not allowed.
10. Trench coats or duster-style coats are not allowed.
11. Pants must be free of holes or tears that show skin above the knee and must be worn at the waist.
12. No rubber bands are allowed around the pant legs.
13. Pajama pants, sleepwear, or loungewear are not permitted.
14. Wind pants and sweatpants with a waistband and pockets are permissible.
15. Shorts are allowed but must be limited to 2 inches above the knee.
16. For students in grades 6-12, shorts must be made of either khaki or denim material.
17. Skirts and dresses must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
18. No spaghetti straps, tank tops, racerback, backless, or off-the-shoulder shirts are permitted.
19. Midriff shirts that expose skin on the torso are not allowed.
20. Clothing must cover the chest at all times with appropriate undergarments.
21. Sheer or "see-through" garments must have undershirts worn underneath that meet the dress code.
22. Physically revealing or provocative clothing is not permitted.
23. Clothing that is unfastened or not worn in the proper position is not permitted.
24. Clothing that identifies a student with a gang or any illegal activity is not permissible.
25. Clothing that exposes undergarments or is oversized and exposes undergarments or skin is not permissible.
26. Piercings are allowed only in the ears.
27. Face paint is not allowed.

### **Transportation and Bus Conduct**

The bus is school property; therefore, any actions deemed major infractions will be disciplined according to the handbook's student conduct discipline consequences. School bus rules and regulations:

1. Obey the bus driver.
2. Your right to ride the bus depends on this.
3. Do not use profane language.
4. No eating, drinking, or possessing any tobacco products on the bus.
5. No drinks, plastic, or glass containers allowed on the bus.
6. Do not damage or tamper with the bus or equipment.
7. Stay seated and keep your head, hands, feet, and objects inside the bus.
8. Do not fight, push, or shove.
9. Always cross in front of the bus.
10. Never get on or off the bus while it is in motion.
11. Do not run alongside the bus while it is in motion.

### **Bus Discipline**

First Offense	Suspended from Bus for 5 days.
Second Offense	Suspended from Bus for 10 days.
Third Offense	Suspended from Bus for the remainder of the school year.

### **Three Strike Policy (Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001)**

The Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 includes a rule that if a student aged 13 or older shows disruptive behavior three times in a school year, they must be expelled. Disruptive behavior is when a student acts in a way that is so unruly or abusive it makes it hard for teachers or school leaders to communicate in the classroom, affects other students' ability to learn, or disrupts school operations. This does not include behavior that is already covered by laws about violence, weapons, or drugs at school. Examples of disruptive behavior include using bad language towards teachers or staff, disrespecting or verbally attacking a teacher, and deliberately disobeying a teacher. A student is considered "habitually

disruptive" if they cause trouble in the classroom, on school property, or during school activities more than twice in a year. This means the behavior is intentional and noticeable, and it needs the attention of school staff to manage it.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and should be scheduled in advance if possible. The parent should contact the school office or teacher for an appropriate time for both parties. Communication outside of school hours may not be responded to until the following school day during the hours of 7:55-3:30.

### Student Discipline and Consequences

All discipline decisions including the consequences are ultimately up to the discretion of the school administrator.

1	<b>Defiance, Insubordination, Rude, or Disrespectful Behavior</b>	
	A student shall not deceive, argue, or defy with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, principals, or other school personnel.	
	All Offenses	Based on the severity of the offense. Possible punishments are ISR, Corporal Punishment, OSS, or Alternative School
2	<b>Profanity</b>	
	The use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words or gestures will not be accepted. Profanity directed at an employee shall result in immediate placement at Alternative School.	
	First Offense	One (1) Day ISR
	Second Offense	One (1) Day OSS
Third Offense	OSS with possible recommendation for Alternative School	
3	<b>Gambling</b>	
	Gambling of any type will not be tolerated on school property.	
	First Offense	ISR and Parent Contact
	Second Offense	Three (3) Days OSS
Third Offense	Recommendation for Alternative School	
4	<b>Disruptive Behavior</b>	
	Any type of behavior that disrupts the operation and/or procedures of the school will not be tolerated.	
	First Offense	One (1) Day ISR and Parent Contact
	Second Offense	Three (3) Days ISR or OSS
Third Offense	OSS with possible recommendation for Alternative School	
5	<b>Display of Affection</b>	
	Initiating or participating in any unacceptable physical contact, including, but not limited to, inappropriate display of affection.	
	First Offense	One (1) Day OSS
	Second Offense	Three (3) Days OSS
Third Offense	Alternative School	

6	<b>Tobacco Products, Vaping Products, E-Cigarettes</b>	
	Use of, possession of, transfer of tobacco products, vaping or e-cigarette products will not be permitted on the school campus or any school property. School property means any public-school building, bus, campus or grounds, athletic facility or other school property.	
	First Offense	Three (3) Days OSS
	Second Offense	Five (5) Days OSS
	Third Offense	OSS with Recommendation for Alternative School

7	<b>Leaving School Without Permission</b>	
	Students who are absent from class or leave school without the knowledge and consent of the principal.	
	First Offense	One (1) Day OSS
	Second Offense	Three (3) Days OSS
	Third Offense	OSS with Recommendation for Alternative School

8	<b>Skipping Class (Not leaving Campus)</b>	
	Students who are present on campus but are absent from class without the knowledge or consent of the principal or other school personnel, will be considered skipping.	
	First Offense	Two (2) Days ISR and Parent Contact
	Second Offense	One (1) Day OSS
	Third Offense	Three (3) Days OSS or Alternative School

9	<b>Pornography or Obscene Materials</b>	
	No student shall possess, sell, display, or be responsible for any material, either written, graphic, or electronic that is deemed by school officials to be pornographic in nature.	
	First Offense	One (1) Day OSS
	Second Offense	Three (3) Days OSS
	Third Offense	OSS with Recommendation for Alternative School

10	<b>Sexual Harassment – Misconduct – Indecent Exposure – Blatant Sexual Act</b>	
	Sexual harassment, whether verbal, physical, or electronic is forbidden by law. No person shall speak to, make gestures toward, or touch another person in a manner that is sexually offensive.	
	All Offenses	OSS with Recommendation for Alternative School.

11	<b>Vandalism - Damage, Destruction or Theft of School Property</b>	
	No student shall damage, destroy, deface, steal or vandalize school property including buildings, grounds and/or equipment and supplies.	
	First Offense	OSS and Restitution
	Second Offense	Thirty (30) Days or More at Alternative School, Restitution, and a Report to Law Enforcement for Vandalism over \$500

12	<b>Vandalism - Damage, Destruction or Theft of Private Property</b>	
	No student shall damage, destroy or steal private property while under the jurisdiction of this school district.	
	First Offense	OSS
	Second Offense	Alternative School

13	<b>Fireworks</b>	
	A student shall not possess, discharge or otherwise use fireworks of any kind while under the jurisdiction of the school district.	
	First Offense	Five (5) Days OSS
	Second Offense	OSS with Recommendation to Alternative School

14	<b>Harassment, Intimidation, Threats or Bullying either Physical, Verbal, or Electronically</b>	
	No student shall cause, attempt to cause, threaten to cause, or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause physical harm to any student. This includes all verbal, electronic, and physical threats.	
	First Offense	ISR or OSS
	Second Offense	Five (5) Days OSS
	Third Offense	Thirty (30) Days or More at Alternative School

**Bullying or Harassing Behavior**

SB 2015 bans bullying or harassment on school grounds, during school events, or on school buses. MS Code Ann 37-7-301 allows schools to discipline for off-campus misconduct if it disrupts education or harms the school's welfare, as judged by the superintendent or principal.

**Reporting Harassment, Intimidation, Threats or Bullying**

Offended students must report bullying, harassment, threats, or intimidation to school officials immediately. Both students and their parents are responsible for reporting any mistreatment. Reports can be made in person, by telephone, or in writing. Reported allegations of misconduct will be investigated.

15	<b>Assault, Battery, Harassment, and/or Sexual Harassment on School Employee</b>	
	No student shall cause, attempt to cause, threaten to cause, or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause physical harm to any school employee. This includes all verbal, electronic, and physical threats.	
	Any Offense	Notification of Law Enforcement, Alternative School, and Disciplinary Hearing to determine Final Action.

16	<b>Fighting</b>	
	All fights will be based on the severity and discretion of the school administrator.	
	First Offense	Alternative School up to 90 days.
	Second Offense	Offenses will accumulate over the years. (Example: Student has his/her FIRST fight in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade. The same student does not have any more fights their 6 <sup>th</sup> grade year; however, the student has another fight in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade. This fight will count as the student's SECOND fight.

\*Any student who records or attempts to record a fight will receive Two (2) Days OSS

17	<b>Dress Code Violation</b>	
	All students shall adhere to the dress code set forth by the Kosciusko School Board. Refer to the dress code section of the handbook to see the guidelines for proper dress.	
	First Offense	Parent Contact
	Second Offense	ISR
	Third Offense	OSS with Possible Recommendation for Alternative School
18	<b>Disruptive Items/Materials</b>	
	Students who bring radios, cd/mp3 players, headphones, toys, video games, or other similar items not required by learning are subject to the items being confiscated.	
	Any Offense	Items taken and returned at Principal's discretion
19	<b>Activities Related to Gang, Occults, Witchcraft, or Deviant Groups</b>	
	Any behavior, dress, language, symbols, tattoos, etc. depicting affiliation or association with any gang, the occult, witchcraft or deviant group will not be tolerated.	
	First Offense	OSS up to Five (5) days
	Second Offense	OSS with Recommendation to Alternative School
20	<b>Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices</b>	
	Lack of cooperation will result in an OSS of 2 days, 3 days, alternative school in order of offense	
	First Offense	Confiscated – Parent Contact – Returned in 3 Days
	Second Offense	Confiscated – Parent Contact – Returned in 10 Days
	Third Offense	Confiscated – Parent Contact – Returned at the end of the year
21	<b>Repeated Minor Infractions</b>	
	Habitual disregard for school rules and regulations will not be tolerated. Students who repeatedly disrupt the educational process by breaking minor rules will be disciplined.	
	All Offenses	Disciplinary actions will be determined by the Administrator based on the severity.
22	<b>Counterfeit Money or Materials</b>	
	Any student who possesses or passes off counterfeit money or materials will be disciplined.	
	All Offenses	Contact Law Enforcement and Suspension from School
23	<b>Internet/Electronic Device Misuse</b>	
	Any student who misuses or abuses their internet rights and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy, including but not limited to filming, videoing, recording, posting, and taking pictures without proper authorization	
	All Offenses	Consequences may range from device confiscation and revoked internet privileges to more severe measures such as Corporal Punishment, In-School Restriction (ISR), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), and placement in an Alternative School setting.

### **Unacceptable Network Use**

Transmission or intentional receipt of any inappropriate material or material in violation of law or district policy is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to copyrighted material; threatening or obscene material; the design or detailed information pertaining to explosive devices, criminal activities or terrorist acts; hate speech, limit social network, sexting, sexism or sexual harassment; pornography; gambling; illegal solicitation; racism; and inappropriate language. Illegal or inappropriate activities, including games, use of the network in any way that would disrupt network use by others, or activities of any kind that do not conform to the rules, regulations and policies of the Kosciusko School District, are forbidden.

### **Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior**

Any user who does not comply with these guidelines will be subject to losing the privilege of bringing his/her device for a period of time to be set at the discretion of the school principal and/or administrator. Students who have repeated or severe infractions of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the supervising teacher and/or the administration. Violations of federal and state regulations, such as sending threatening email and accessing or distributing obscene material etc., will be reported to and dealt with by the governing law enforcement agency and the school district's proper personnel.

### **Discipline of Students with Special Education Ruling**

Special education students are responsible for adhering to the same rules of conduct as nondisabled students. State and federal regulations related to students with disabilities will be followed by the IEP committee when implementing discipline procedures. No corporal punishment will be administered for students under IDEA or ADA.

### **In-School Reassignment (ISR)**

The Kosciusko School District provides an in-school reassignment (ISR) program which allows the principal or designee to place students in this program. The students are allowed to maintain attendance and school assignments. This is an isolated environment, and students cannot attend school programs or functions while assigned to this program. In-school reassignment is used as allowed for in this plan or other rule violation or conduct not deemed serious enough for out-of-school suspension, Alternative School, or expulsion. Students must finish assignments and report to the principal's office before being readmitted to regular classes.

### **Out-Of-School Suspension**

Suspension is the loss of the right to attend school, decided by the principal of the student's school. Students suspended are not allowed on any school campus or inside any school building, unless there is a scheduled meeting with the principal. Students with out-of-school suspension (OSS) cannot go to any school events, day or night. If a student's behavior cannot be improved by local school resources, the principal or their designee can suspend the student for any other misconduct or defiance. Suspension is seen as a last attempt to change the student's behavior. A suspension counts as an unexcused absence, and all OSS days are unexcused. It is the student's responsibility to make up the work missed. If a parent/guardian is called to come to school to pick up a child for disciplinary action and is unable to do so, then the child may serve a one-day OSS the following day.

### **Drugs And Alcohol**

Students must not possess or be under the influence of any substance that can be ingested, injected, or inhaled, either at school or during any school-related activities.

### **Drug And Alcohol Discipline**

- Students under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or a school event will be placed in Alternative School for 45 school days. This is for the first offense.
- Students who use, possess, or acknowledge the possession or use of drugs or alcohol at school or during a school event will be placed in Alternative School for 90 school days. This consequence applies to the first offense.
- Seniors violating this rule with less than 90 days left in the school year will be barred from graduation ceremonies.
- A repeat offense of using, possessing, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol leads to expulsion for one calendar year.

- Upon return from punishment, students will be on probation, requiring check-ins at the office during breaks and free periods, allowing the principal to monitor them closely.
- Any student distributing or selling drugs or alcohol at school or school events will be expelled on the first offense.
- The Administration and Board of Education reserve the right to exercise discretion in cases involving over the counter, non-illegal/non-controlled substances (like aspirin, Tylenol), unless abused.
- Unidentifiable substances will be treated as illegal or controlled.
- Abuse of over-the-counter drugs incurs the same penalties as illegal substances.
- Students who use or possess Over-the-Counter drugs without permission from the office will have their parent/guardian contacted and possibly be placed in ISR.
- Students who distribute Over-the-Counter drugs shall be placed in ISR and have their parents contacted.
- Students who sell non-illegal/non-controlled drugs at school or at any school function shall receive a minimum of three (3) days OSS.
- A student is considered to have and be responsible for any items found in their locker, backpack, purse, car (this includes any car they drive to school, whether they own it or not), or jacket, or any place likely to be under their control.
- A student can break the rule against having drugs or alcohol without knowing they have them. It is assumed that students know about any item they have, as described above.

### **Reasonable Suspicion Testing**

The Kosciusko School District may mandate drug and/or alcohol testing for students under certain conditions:

- Cost: The test will be at the expense of the parent/guardian.
- Discretion: Kosciusko School District has the right to require testing based on reasonable suspicion without it being a precondition for disciplinary action.

### **Circumstances for Reasonable Suspicion Include**

- Observation: Direct witnessing of drug/alcohol use or possession by District employees.
- Behavior: Erratic or abnormal behavior suggesting intoxication.
- Physical Symptoms: Signs of intoxication, such as glassy or bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, or poor coordination.
- Reliable Information: Credible reports of drug/alcohol use, possession, or intoxication.
- Sensory Detection: Drugs or alcohol detected by smell or sight on the student.
- Illegal Possession: Holding illegal drugs, unauthorized prescription drugs, alcohol containers, or drug paraphernalia.

### **Procedure Following Reasonable Suspicion (if established)**

- Notify the parent/guardian.
- Remove the student immediately from school.
- Conduct a drug/alcohol test within a two-hour period at an approved medical facility
- If the drug/alcohol test is not taken within the 2-hour window, the school may deem this a failed drug/alcohol test.

### **Possession of Weapons and Violent Conduct**

Any student possessing, displaying, or discharging a gun, a knife, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17 of the Mississippi Code during regular school hours, at school functions, or on school property, or at any school event after school hours or on a school bus shall be expelled for a calendar year, unless the time is modified as allowed by State Law.

### **Toy Definition**

A toy is designed for play and entertainment, typically harmless and intended for enjoyment, while a weapon is created for the purpose of creating fear, causing harm, or defending oneself, often designed with the capability to inflict damage or injury. If a student is in possession of something labeled as a toy but can be characterized by any of the previously mentioned, discipline will be administered as a weapon.

### **Office Phone**

The office phone may only be used in case of an emergency. Permission from the person in charge of the office must be granted to use the phone. Students are not permitted to accept phone calls at school. Any message received for students in the office before 2:30 will be conveyed to the students.

### **Bullying/Harassment**

The Kosciusko School District is committed to a safe environment free from bullying and harassment for all students and employees. Bullying, hazing, or harassing behaviors include, but is not limited to, patterns of gestures, communications (written, electronic, or verbal), physical acts, or threats motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic that causes fear of harm or property damage and/or creates a hostile environment by interfering with educational performance or benefits.

### **Complaints/Reporting/Investigation Procedures**

Victims or witnesses of bullying or harassment should report the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school official within five days of the incident. A Bullying/Harassing Behavior complaint form located on the Kosciusko School District webpage must be completed, detailing the incident, parties involved, and any witnesses. Reports are promptly forwarded to the principal or superintendent for immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal or superintendent are directed to higher authorities. Parents are informed of complaints involving their child. An investigation meeting is arranged within five working days of receiving the complaint, where evidence and witness lists are submitted.

### **Outcome and Appeals**

Investigation findings and disciplinary decisions are communicated in writing to the victim and parents. Unsatisfied victims can appeal to the superintendent within ten working days of the initial decision. A meeting will be arranged, and a written decision provided within ten more working days. Further appeals can be made to the Board within ten working days after the superintendent's decision. The Board will hear the appeal within twenty working days, and a final written decision will be issued within ten working days following the appeal. This policy ensures that all parties involved in a bullying, hazing, or harassment incident understand their rights and responsibilities, including the steps for reporting and resolving complaints, ensuring a respectful and safe school environment.

### **Hazing**

Hazing is banned at all times on school property and during any school-supported activities, whether on or off campus. Hazing includes any action intended to cause physical pain, embarrassment, humiliation, deprivation of rights, or mental discomfort to any student or person associated with the school. This applies to acts done for initiation, affiliation, holding office, or membership in any group, club, or team endorsed by the school, primarily composed of students from the school. Students involved in hazing related to any school-sponsored activity face disciplinary measures including but not limited to a conference with parent(s)/guardian(s), removal from participation in extracurricular activities, suspension from school, long-term assignment to the Kosciusko Alternative School, referral to an appropriate law enforcement agency, and/or expulsion from the school district.

## **TITLE I SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

### **Schoolwide Title I Program**

Kosciusko School District in its entirety operates under Title I, together with other federal, state and local funds, to upgrade the entire educational program in schools in which not less than 40% of the children enrolled are from low-income families. Parents are encouraged to be involved in school activities and your child's education. Parents will receive notices and information throughout the school year to keep you informed about the progress of your child and the status of the school in making progress toward helping all children meet high academic standards. Parents will be invited to attend school meetings when school staff will discuss the development, revision and implementation of the Schoolwide Program Plan.

## Compliance with Federal Regulations

Director of Title I, II, IV, V, IX, X	Josh Dodd
Director of School Improvement	Josh Dodd
Director of Special Populations (EL - Foster Care - Migrant - Homeless)	Josh Dodd

### Right To Request Teacher Qualifications

Parents of children who attend a School Wide Title School have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, the district or school will provide you with the following as soon as possible: If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction, if state licensing requirements have been waived for the teacher on a temporary basis, if the type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degree or certification, and/or if your child is receiving Title I services from paraprofessionals and, if so, his/her qualifications.

### English Learners (ELs)

According to the ESEA, an English Learner (EL) is an individual who is between the ages of 3 and 21, is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary or secondary school, and either was not born in the United States or has a native language other than English. This individual may experience difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language that may deny them the ability to meet the state's proficient level of achievement on academic assessments, limit their success in classrooms where English is the language of instruction, or hinder their opportunity to fully participate in society. The Kosciusko School District Homeless Point of Contact is Josh Dodd at [josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com](mailto:josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com).

### Homeless

All school districts are required to maintain compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act which provides specific rights for homeless students. Every school district must designate a McKinney-Vento Liaison to assist in identifying, supporting, and ensuring the rights of homeless students and families. These rights include waiving certain requirements, such as proof of residency, when students are enrolling and allowing categorical eligibility for certain services, such as free lunch. Students who are homeless may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing. Parents or guardians of homeless students must be informed of educational and related opportunities. Students who are homeless may enroll without school, medical, or similar records. Students who are homeless and their families receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, substance abuse housing, and other needed services. Students who are homeless have a right to transportation to school. Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied any service or enrollment. Students must be enrolled in school and receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled. Students are automatically eligible for Title I services. School district must reserve a portion of Title I-A funds to serve homeless students. School districts must review and revise policies that serve as barriers to homeless students. Schools must post information in the community regarding the rights of homeless students and unaccompanied youth in schools, and other places where homeless families may frequent and written in a language they can understand. The Kosciusko School District Homeless Point of contact is Josh Dodd: [josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com](mailto:josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com)

### Migrant

A migratory child is defined as one who, along with their parent, spouse, or guardian, is engaged in migratory agricultural or fishing work. This includes children who have moved from one school district to another in the last 36 months to join their parent, spouse, or guardian. The move is driven by the need for temporary or seasonal employment in agriculture or fishing, which serves as the primary source of income. The Kosciusko School District Migrant Education Program POC is Josh Dodd: [josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com](mailto:josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com)

### Foster Care

On June 23, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. The Department of Health and Human Services released joint guidance to states, school districts, and child welfare agencies on the new provisions in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for supporting children and youth in foster care. The guidance aims to assist state and local partners in understanding and implementing the new law, and to inform state and local collaboration between educational and child welfare agencies across the nation for the well-being of children in foster care. All Foster Care enrollment and/or withdrawals should go through the school district POC. The Kosciusko School District Foster Care POC is Josh Dodd: [josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com](mailto:josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com)

### **Equal Education Opportunities**

Every pupil of the district will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion, or marital status. No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, and extracurricular activities.

### **Education of Students with Disabilities**

The Kosciusko School District has in place a "Kosciusko School District Special Services Guide". The information may be viewed on the Kosciusko School District website. [www.kosciuskoschools.com](http://www.kosciuskoschools.com)

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints**

The school district shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

### **Religious Expression in Class Assignments**

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the students' submission. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of religious content. If a teacher's assignment involves writing a poem, the work of the student who submits a poem in the form of a prayer (for example, a psalm) should be judged based on academic standards, including literary quality, and not penalized or rewarded on account of its religious content.

### **Freedom To Organize Religious Groups and Activities**

Students are allowed to form religious clubs and hold gatherings like prayer groups and "see you at the pole" events, with the same rights as other non-curricular activities. Religious groups must have equal access to school facilities as other non-curricular groups, without bias against their religious expression. If nonreligious student groups can advertise their meetings (e.g., through student newspapers, posters, announcements, or leaflets), religious groups must be allowed the same opportunity without discrimination. School authorities can state they do not sponsor non-curricular groups and events, but this must be done impartially, not favoring or disfavoring religious groups.

### **Secret Societies**

It shall be unlawful for any pupil attending the public schools of this state to become a member of or belong to or participate in the activities of any high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society. Any student violating this policy shall be subject to expulsion.

### **Personal Property**

Students are responsible for their wallets or purses and other personal property. The district and/or school is not responsible for replacing any personal property lost/stolen on school property or during school-sponsored trips/events.

### **Responsibilities of Parents, Guardians, and Custodians for School-Age Children**

Parents or guardians are financially responsible for any damage their child causes to school property, individuals, or themselves. They might be called for mandatory meetings called by school officials to discuss their child's misbehavior. Failure to attend these meetings, when summoned, can lead to legal action enforced by the superintendent. Parents are liable for any legal fines due to their child's unlawful actions on school grounds. Parents failing to attend discipline conferences or neglecting their responsibilities risk a misdemeanor charge, with fines up to \$250. The school district can claim damages up to \$20,000 from parents for a child's intentional property damage, excluding cases where parental rights have been legally removed. Schools have the right to pursue further legal action for any damages caused by the child or the parent. These guidelines are based on Mississippi Code Section 37-11-53, emphasizing the legal and financial responsibilities of parents for their school-age children's actions.

## **Technology**

The Kosciusko School District is pleased to offer student access to computer usage to enhance academic development and skills in using media that are commonly found in all aspects of our daily lives. The district policy shall be that all computers with Internet access will be filtered to restrict the access of minors to harmful materials. The Kosciusko School District uses the filtering solution approved by the Mississippi Department of Education with an additional solution managed by the Kosciusko School District Technology Department. A Technology Fee (\$25.00 per student) will be charged at the beginning of the school year. The monies from this fee will be used for damage or repairs of technology devices and for software updates. The money not used for these purposes will be used to purchase additional technology devices. Unpaid fees for students will result in exams and/or report cards being held until the fee is paid.

## **Cafeteria**

The school cafeteria is operated on a non-profit plan in cooperation with the State and Federal Food Service Program. The meal served each day will be nutritious and well balanced. Each pupil will receive a plate lunch and one (1) carton of milk. It is not the intent of the school district to prohibit school functions or programs, whereby individual teachers may allow pizzas or other fast foods to be brought on school premises in conjunction with school functions or programs with the approval of the building Principals. State policy states that no food is to be sold on campus for one (1) hour before breakfast or one (1) hour before lunch and until the end of either serving period. Applications for free and reduced meals will be completed online through the district website [www.kosciuskoschools.com](http://www.kosciuskoschools.com). A form can be sent home at the parent's request. These forms are to be completed, signed by the parent and sent back to school ASAP. Any child who does not have an application on file from the previous year will have to pay until they have an approved application on file. Parents of the Kosciusko School District have available a secure online prepayment service to deposit money into their child's school meal account. This system is called MyNutrikids. The service will provide parents the ability to view their child's account balance along with an eating history report. Directions for signing up for this meal banking system can be obtained on the district web site [www.kosciuskoschools.com](http://www.kosciuskoschools.com) or in the school office.

## **Financial Hardship Waiver**

The following fee waiver applies to valid instructional activities. No extracurricular activities or supply fees apply for the use of this waiver. The fee waiver form is listed at the end of this handbook.

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

Kosciusko School District follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act as outlined in this document. The document is a part of the Kosciusko School District Personnel Handbook in which all personnel are required to sign a statement indicating they have read this document. In addition, the Federal Programs Director conducts annual training concerning FERPA. Kosciusko School District will only disclose personal identifiable information to agencies as specified by federal, state or local statutes or guidelines. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents or eligible students have the right to request that the records which they believe to be inaccurate, or misleading be corrected. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions: School officials with legitimate educational interest. Other schools to which a student is transferring. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school. Accrediting organizations. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to State law. Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. Schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

## **Library Books**

Students should take care of his/her library book. If the book is lost or damaged beyond repair there will be a fine. The fine will be the replacement cost of the book not to exceed \$20.00. The child will not be given his/her report card until the fine is paid, or the book is returned.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are intended to provide students with experiences and insights that cannot be fully gained through regular classroom instruction. All field trip requests must first be approved by the school principal, then forwarded to the superintendent or designee for final approval. Teachers must include the following information in their request: the funding source, method of transportation, start and end times/dates, number of school personnel and chaperones, curriculum connections, and any other relevant details. The safety and welfare of students is primary considerations. A letter detailing the trip must be sent home to parents, requesting written permission for their child's participation. No student will be permitted to attend without signed parental consent, which must be kept on file at the school for one calendar year. Field trips are not permitted during state testing, the month prior to statewide assessments, or the week before and during school exams. Students who do not attend a scheduled field trip must report to school or be marked absent for the day. Students with multiple discipline infractions (unless reviewed and provided with additional supervision) will not be permitted to attend field trips. Violations of school policies during trips will result in disciplinary actions consistent with the student handbook and Kosciusko School District Board Policy.

### **Delivery Policy**

The delivery of balloons, flowers, food from commercial establishments, etc., to students causes disruption of the school day and loss of instructional time in the classroom and is prohibited. The office will not accept any of these items.

### **Personal Property**

Students are responsible for their wallets or purses or other personal belongings such as any electronic devices. The district and/or school ARE NOT responsible for replacing any personal property lost/stolen or damaged on school property or during school-sponsored trips/events.

### **Insurance**

Students participating in athletics or cheerleading or enrolling in shop or lab (chemistry lab) classes must have school insurance or must have a written statement from the parents/guardian stating that they have sufficient coverage.

### **Disclaimer**

Kosciusko School District is not responsible for any damages suffered including loss of data resulting from delay, non-deliveries, service interruptions, or inaccurate information. The person operating the device accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained via the Internet or other electronic sources. The person operating the device accepts personal responsibility for actions on the Internet.

### **Non-Discrimination**

The Kosciusko School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and to the provision of equity in its educational programs, services, and activities for all students and employees. The district shall not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or military status regarding any policy, procedure, or program operation.

## **ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES**

### **Sports**

KSD offers competitive teams at Kosciusko High School and Kosciusko Junior High in the following sports: Cross Country, Volleyball, Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, Basketball, Powerlifting, Baseball, Fastpitch Softball, Archery, Golf, Tennis, and Track.

### **School Attendance Requirements on Gameday**

To be eligible to participate in a competition on a school day, an athlete must attend school at least sixty percent (60%) on the day of the competition. A school-related absence will not affect this rule. Any other absence or partial absence must be approved by the principal to participate in any competition on the day in question.

## **KSD Random Drug Testing Policy**

To support a wholesome school environment, in which there is abstinence from the use of illegal drugs. The purpose of the program is threefold: To provide for the health and safety of all students, to undermine the efforts of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs and to encourage students who use drugs to participate in treatment programs.

### **Student Athletes/Activity Participants**

Kosciusko School District will conduct a drug-testing program for all students participating in athletics, cheerleading, or band. Students who participate in athletics/activities will be randomly selected to be tested throughout the school year and students will be tested at random throughout their sports career. Each student wishing to participate in any interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, or band and the student's custodial parent or guardian shall consent in writing to the district's drug testing program. The forms and a complete copy of the Student Drug Testing policy are available in the principal's office. Students shall not participate in these activities without participation in the Student Drug Testing Program. The school district shall pay for the test. When the initial test indicates the presence of illegal drugs, the same sample will be re-tested to verify the results. If the second test is negative, no further action will be taken. If the second test is positive, disciplinary action will be taken. Any refusal to participate in the test or attempt to tamper with the test results will be treated as a positive test.

**1st Positive:** The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **10 days**.

**2nd Positive:** The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **60 days**.

**3rd Positive:** The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **180 days**.

### **Eligibility**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Eligibility
  - A seventh grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1.
  - An eighth grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1.
  - A ninth grader must not have reached 16 years of age prior to August 1.
- To be eligible to participate in inter-school Junior High activities, the athlete must:
  - Pass their grade level by achieving at least an average of 70 in four highest grade courses the previous year to be eligible the present year.
  - Be promoted.
  - Meet the requirements at the end of the first semester to be eligible for the second semester.
  - A student who is not eligible at the beginning of the year may become eligible for the second semester only once during the student's junior high career by passing the four basic courses with a 70 overall average.
  - All athletes must show proof of a physical exam before participation in sports.
- The district will comply with all rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

### **High School**

- All coaches must be knowledgeable of and comply with the MHSAA rules and governing eligibility of student athletes, which requires that a participant must:
- Have enrolled no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of any semester of participation and be on track to graduate by Kosciusko High School requirements with an overall "C" or 2.0 average in all subjects taken.
  - The year-end average of all courses will be used to determine eligibility for the fall semester.
  - The first semester average of all courses will be used to determine eligibility for the spring semester.
- Not have become 19 years old prior to August 1 of his/her senior year.
- Not be a graduate from another four-year high school.
- Not have enrolled in college or junior college or participated in athletics beyond the high school level.
- Be a student (1) whose parent(s) are bona fide residents of the Kosciusko School District or (2) is a student of a certified personnel of the district.
  - All other cases will follow the MHSAA eligibility regulations that pertain to each.
- Have a certified copy of his/her birth certificate on file with the school.
- All transfer students or foreign exchange students are not eligible until the proper paperwork has been completed, and the MHSAA has made a ruling on the case.

- See MHSAA handbook for any recognized exceptions.
- Any student who is not a bona fide resident of the school district or who is not living with his/her natural parents within the district must obtain approval from the MHSAA prior to competing.
  - All forms for these cases will be submitted by the athletic director.
- Students who are absent (including more than 63% of the instructional school day) are not allowed to participate in any athletic event (practice and/or games) on that day unless they have a doctor's excuse or prior permission from the principal.
- Athletes that are absent more than 63% on Friday will not be allowed to participate in a Saturday event.

### **MHSAA Age Requirements**

A 9th grader, who becomes sixteen (16) years of age prior to August 1, is ineligible for interscholastic competition. Any student, who becomes 19 years of age prior to August 1, shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition.

### **Athletic Awards, Letter Jackets, Sports Banquet**

The KSD will hold one all-sports banquet at the end of the year. It will be the Monday of final exam week unless circumstances will not allow it. At this banquet all sports will present their team's individual awards for that particular year. Each head coach is required to submit a list of their sport's individual winners to the athletic director at least 3 weeks, if possible, prior to the banquet. It is recommended that this list be submitted at the end of each sports season. Letter jacket orders will be taken in late April for that athletic year. Each head coach is required to submit a list of requirements to letter for that sport to the athletic director. These requirements must be on file with the athletic director. Only athletes that have lettered will be allowed to order a jacket.

## **KJHS SPECIFICS**

### **Compacted Math 7th Grade**

All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have a 90 or above final average in Math Grade 6, have parent consent, and who meet one of the two (2) requirements listed below will be eligible for Compacted Math Grade 7: Score PL4 or higher on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment and score PL5 for the end of year Benchmark assessment

### **Compacted Math (with Algebra I) 8th Grade**

All incoming 8th grade students will be eligible for Compacted Math (with Algebra 1) Grade 8 with parent consent and who meet the requirements listed below: Any student who completes and passes Compacted Math Grade 7 with a grade of 85 or higher and transfer student who completed 7th grade math with a 95 or higher and a score of PL5 on the end of the year assessment

### **9<sup>TH</sup> Grade Biology Requirements**

Students who have an 85 or above end of the year average in 8th Grade Science and score a Proficient on the Eighth Grade State Science Assessment will be eligible for Biology I as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at KHS.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> Grade Algebra I Requirements**

Students who have an 85 or above end of the year average in Math Grade 8 and score PL4 or higher will be eligible for Algebra I as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at KHS.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> ELA Honors Requirements**

Students who have an 85 or above end of the year average in ELA Grade 8 will be eligible for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Honors.

### **Carnegie Unit Courses Offered**

- Compacted Math (7th Grade)
- MS Studies/World Geography (8th Grade)
- Cyber Foundations (7th Grade)
- Math (8th Grade)
- Algebra I (8th Grade)
- Computer Sci & Engineering (8th Grade)

### **Promotion/Retention**

To be promoted to the next grade (6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>), a student must pass 3 of the 4 major courses - The major courses are Math, English Language Arts, Science, and History. Any student who has been retained in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be reviewed by a committee composed of the principal, counselor, and MTSS school chairman – This committee will meet with the parent to set a plan of action in place for the upcoming year. A student who is deemed not on track to graduate by the committee will be reviewed by the said committee and considered for alternative placement.

### **WHO's WHO**

#### **6th Grade Representatives (1 male, 1 female)**

- Promoted to 6th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko School District for all of 5th grade
- Zero suspensions the previous year to elections

#### **7th Grade Representatives (1 male, 1 female)**

- Promoted to 7th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko School District for all of 6th grade
- Zero suspensions the previous year to elections

#### **KJHS Representatives (1 male, 1 female)**

- Promoted to 8th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko Junior High School for all of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades
- Zero suspensions during all their junior high years May 28 professional development

## **KHS SPECIFICS – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, HONORS & PATHWAYS**

### **Subject Area Graduation Requirements**

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, students shall be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the student earns or receives credit in a Mississippi public school as a requirement for graduation. Student performance on the end-of-course Subject Area Test shall be considered, along with the overall course grade based on the State Board of Education approved Concordance Table. All students enrolled in one of the four end-of-course Subject Area Test courses must participate in the applicable Subject Area Test to earn the Carnegie Unit.

Students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting one of the following options:

- Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test.
- Using one of the options outlined in State Board Policy 3804
- ACT Score; or
- Using the end-of-course Subject Area Test score with the overall grade based on the State Board of Education approved Concordance Table for each of the four end-of-course Subject Area Tests as provided to the school district by the Mississippi Department of Education.

### **NOTE: Students must be enrolled in school to utilize this option.**

Beginning with school year 2015-2016, in addition to number 2, all students enrolled may achieve a combined minimum score from the end-of-course Subject Area Tests to meet the requirement for graduation in lieu of passing the end-of-course Subject Area Test. Beginning with the school year 2016-2017, all students enrolled in an end-of-course Subject Area test course for the first time must participate in the assessment. Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required end-of-course Subject Area Test, prior to school year 2016-2017, will be offered opportunities to retake the test.

### **Valedictorian/Salutatorian/Honor Graduate Requirements**

To qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, graduating seniors must have attended school for four consecutive semesters. To be considered an honor graduate, all seniors need to have been at the school for two consecutive semesters, have a final grade point average of 85 or higher, and must have passed 3 units each in Honors Math, Honors English, and Honors Science. Students from Kosciusko School District who spend their junior year at the MS School for Math and Science or the MS School for the Arts and return for their senior year can still qualify for valedictorian, salutatorian, or honor graduate status. Grades will be reviewed at the end of the third 9-week period, and the two students with the highest averages will be named valedictorian and salutatorian. The following courses will be considered Honors courses and will

be given a weight of 1.05 in the cumulative average.

- **Math:** Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra III, Calculus, and DC College Algebra
- **English:** Honors English I, II, III, or IV, AP English, DC English Comp I or II, DC Lit I or II
- **Science:** Chemistry, Physics, DC Biology I or II, Microbiology, Zoology I or II, Anatomy and Physiology, and Allied Health.
- **Additional Courses:** DC Music, DC Music Appreciation, DC American History, AP US History, AP Gov./Econ, or any Dual Enrollment Course if the course is not deemed a remediation course.

### Dual Credit/Enrollment

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school juniors and seniors to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public college that may or may not also count as credit toward a high school diploma through Kosciusko School District Dual Credit program and Holmes Community College Campus Dual Enrollment. Admission Requirements for Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Students must: Have earned a minimum ACT subscore as established by Holmes Community College or a SAT Combined Score of 990, and an overall GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, have earned a minimum of 14 credits and be classified as a junior or senior. Passed a minimum of 5 credits from courses taken in the preceding school year, complete appropriate forms indicating if a student will take a course for dual enrollment only or dual enrollment/dual high school credit, obtained an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor prior to enrollment in course, and not have any disciplinary infractions resulting in expulsion or placement at the Alternative School during the preceding semester. Note: Dual Credit classes are not allowed exemption from exams per Holmes Community College policies. All other classes are eligible for students to be exempt in.

### Important Facts

Prior to enrollment, the student must receive written permission from the high school principal for participation. A specific form will be provided for that purpose. The student will register online and will attach a copy of the official student class schedule to the form, indicating days and time for the class. This must be turned in to the school counselor prior to the college classes beginning. It is the responsibility of the student to meet admissions requirements of the college and pay all fees required by Holmes Community College for credit. The student will be expected to follow the attendance policy at the college and will suffer all financial and academic penalties that accrue for tardiness, absence and/or withdrawal. Textbook costs for the college course are the responsibility of the parent and/or student. If the student wants to drop out of a dual enrollment/dual credit course, the student must electronically submit the official college Withdrawal Request Form. If the student chooses to earn dual credit, the letter grade earned at the college will be the grade assigned the corresponding numeric value set by Kosciusko School Board. The numeric grade will be calculated as a part of the grade point average and affect class ranking. Course weight will be assigned based on school board policy for courses earning dual credit at the high school. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent and/or student. If a numerical grade cannot be provided by the college, the following conversion chart will be used. Dual Credit/High School Grade Translation for online courses or courses taught at a college.

A	B	C	D	F	W
99	89	79	69	64	NC

### District Graduation Requirements

Students may not enroll in the next level of English until the previous course has been successfully completed (i.e. a student may not be enrolled in English I and English II, English II and English III, or English III and English IV during the same semester). Exceptions to this policy would be a Junior or Senior needing the course for graduation or a student who meets all requirements per the Early Graduation Policy. For requirements for college bound students entering one of the eight major universities as a freshman, see your school counselor for any questions concerning entrance requirements or visit one of the suggested websites below: <http://www.mississippi.edu> <http://www.ihl.state.ms.us>

### MS Scholars Program or Techmasters Program

Students may graduate from high school as a Mississippi Scholar or TechMaster by meeting the requirements of the Mississippi Scholars/TechMasters Course of Study Program. Students will need to speak with the counselors or visit the Kosciusko School District website for the course requirements.

**Classification****Kosciusko High School Promotion Policy Entering 9th Graders of 2019-2020 and Beyond**

Promotion from 9th Grade to 10th Grade	8
Promotion from 10th Grade to 11th Grade	14
Promotion from 11th Grade to 12th Grade	20

**Biology I**

Students who have an 80 or above end of the year average in 8th grade science, score a Level 4 or higher on the Eighth Grade State Science Assessment, and are recommended by their 8th grade Science teacher will qualify for Biology I as a 9th Grader.

**US History**

Students who have an 80 or above end of the year average in World History and are recommended by their World History teacher will qualify for U S History as a 10th Grader.

**Algebra I**

Students who have an 80 or above end of the year average in Grade 8 Math and score a Level 4 or higher on the Eighth Grade State Math Assessment or a Level 4 or higher on the End of the Year Benchmark will qualify for Algebra I as a 9th Grader.

**Honors English**

Students who have an 85 or above end of the year average in English from grades 8-12 are eligible for placement in Honors English beginning their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students must maintain an 85 average in Honors English each year.

**Accreditation Standard 14**

The Kosciusko School District provides graduation options to accommodate every student's goal for a successful life after graduation. Every student and parent have access to a full explanation of these options in the High School office. A student who does not meet the graduation requirements (completing the Subject Area Test Program as well as the local graduation requirements) is not permitted to participate in the graduation exercises.

**Kosciusko Traditional District Pathway  
26 Credit Minimum**

<b>Graduation Requirements</b>		<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Recommended Courses</b>
<b>English</b>	4	CCRS English I or Honors English I  CCRS English II or Honors English II	CCRS English III or Honors English III or Advanced Placement or CCRS English IV or Honors English IV or Dual Credit Comp. I or Dual Credit Comp. II
<b>Math</b>	4	CCRS Algebra I CCRS Geometry CCRS Algebra II	CCRS Algebra III or one other higher math
<b>Science</b>	4	Biology I	Chemistry, Physics, Zoology I&II, Physical Science, Anatomy & Physiology, DC Principles of Bio I&II
<b>Social Studies</b>	4	1 US History 1 World History 0.5 US Government 0.5 MS Studies	0.5 Geography 0.5 Economics
<b>Health</b>	0.5	0.5 Comprehensive Health	
<b>Physical Education</b>	0.5	0.5 PE	
<b>Business &amp; Technology</b>	1	Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th Grade STEM, or Computer Applications & Keyboarding	
<b>Art</b>	1	Art, Band, Music, or any other approved Fine Arts	
<b>Electives</b>	7		

**Kosciusko District Pathway  
24 Credit Minimum**

<b>Graduation Requirements</b>		<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Recommended Courses</b>
<b>English</b>	4	CCRS English I or Honors English I CCRS English II or Honors English II	CCRS English III or Honors English III or Advanced Placement or CCRS English IV or Honors English IV or Dual Credit Comp. I or Dual Credit Comp. II
<b>Math</b>	4	CCRS Algebra I CCRS Geometry or higher CCRS Algebra II	CCRS Algebra III or one other higher math
<b>Science</b>	4	Biology I	Chemistry, Physics, Zoology I&II, Physical Science, Anatomy & Physiology, DC Principles of Bio I&II
<b>Social Studies</b>	4	1 US History 1 World History 0.5 US Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies	0.5 Geography 0.5 Economics
<b>Health</b>	0.5	0.5 Comprehensive Health	
<b>Physical Education</b>	0.5	0.5 PE	
<b>Business &amp; Technology</b>	1	Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th Grade STEM, or Computer Applications & Keyboarding	
<b>Art</b>	1	Art, Band, Music, or any other approved Fine Arts	
<b>Electives</b>	5		

**Kosciusko District Career Pathway  
21 Credit Minimum**

<b>Graduation Requirements</b>		<b>Required Courses</b>
<b>English</b>	4	CCRS English I CCRS English II
<b>Math</b>	3	CCRS Algebra I
<b>Science</b>	3	Biology I
<b>Social Studies</b>	3	1 US History 0.5 Mississippi Studies 0.5 US Government
<b>Health /Physical Education</b>	0.5	0.5 Comprehensive Health 0.5 Physical Education
<b>Integrated Technology</b>	1	Technology Foundations, ICT, or Computer Applications & Keyboarding
<b>Career/Technical Education</b>	4	From Student's Program of Study
<b>Electives</b>	2.5	

**Individual Success Plan (ISP)**

Each student in Mississippi schools must have an ISP that is personalized to meet his or her educational plans and career goals. Students who choose the Career Pathway Option must complete 4 career and technical education units and 2.5 elective units specified in the student's ISP. Career and Technical Pathway Options are State Board required.

**Graduation Policy**

Participation in Kosciusko School District Graduation is limited to those students who have completed all graduation requirements, as specified by the Board of Education and Mississippi State Board of Education. In addition, students participating in graduation shall comply with all rules and regulations regarding attendance at practice for graduation exercises, proper dress and/or attire, and any other regulation deemed appropriate. The Kosciusko School District reserves the right to hold diplomas and or impose disciplinary action for disruptive incidents or misconduct at the graduation ceremony.

## **Early Graduation Policy**

The Kosciusko School District believes the entire senior year is an important period during which the student should be able to enjoy many experiences providing academic growth and enrichment, exploration of new areas, and social growth and maturity. Only in unusual or extenuating circumstances should a student forgo the opportunities available during the senior year. But for those who may have special needs or goals and who would benefit from early graduation, the following policy is established. Students considering early graduation or completion of graduation requirements at the end of first semester should review the following criteria and consult with their principal and/or Counselor.

### **Requirements**

- Satisfied all the requirements of a four-year graduate.
- They must have taken and passed all state tests (Algebra I, Biology I, U S History, and English II) prior to entering their senior year.
- Completed all State and Local graduation requirements.
- Met the maximum point total in the College and Career Readiness Standards.
- Met the minimum point total in the College and Career Readiness Acceleration.
- Submitted the early graduation request to the principal and/or Counselor prior to December 1.
- All required courses must be taken in regular school sessions, through online courses through Mississippi Virtual Public School, or Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment classes.
- Any student who has met all the above requirements and been approved for early graduation by the KSD School Board will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies if they so choose. All those who choose to participate must meet all graduation requirements (fees paid, attire, attendance at practice, etc.) The student must assume the responsibility for contacting the school regarding graduation ceremony requirements.
- The last year of attendance is considered the senior year, and all senior requirements must be met.
- Students who choose to participate in this program will be ineligible for all traditional senior honors (with the exception of a student who is on track to graduate in December of their senior year).
- Selections will be based upon completing requirements listed above or other extenuating circumstances.
- If there is an emergency and a request is made after December 1st, a district committee will review the request to determine if submission to the school board is warranted.

### **Procedures**

If the applicant meets the above requirements, the student will submit a written request for early graduation to the high school principal and counselor. The request must contain a statement of endorsement and the signatures of the parents or legal guardian and must clearly express the reasons for the request. After a complete evaluation of the request, the principal will forward recommendations to the Superintendent for approval. The ultimate decision would be by the School Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. If approval is given, the student will be scheduled to allow him/her to accumulate sufficient credits to fulfill graduation requirements to graduate early or at the end of the first semester. He/she will not receive a diploma until after commencement. The student may participate in the commencement ceremony but should advise the principal of the intent to participate or not to participate. Also, students fulfilling graduation requirements after the first semester are not eligible to compete in any sports, clubs, or extracurricular activities once they have completed them.

### **College Days**

Students who are classified as seniors will be permitted two excused college days during their senior year. Students who are classified as juniors will be permitted one excused college day during their junior year. These visits should be used during the months of September through April. Students wishing to make a college visit should submit a request in writing to the counselor one week prior to the scheduled visit. For the absence to be excused, the student must present a signed college visitation form upon his return to school. (Visitation forms are generally available on all college campuses). A college day absence will not count against exam exemption.

### **Digital Credit Recovery**

Digital Credit Recovery will be offered to students in grades 9 – 12 who did not successfully complete a course during the most recent school year. Digital Credit Recovery is not for students who are taking a class for the first time. Students will complete coursework through a digital platform, then report to class to take proctored tests and exams. Students will receive individualized instruction as needed. Students will be required to attend an established number of class meetings

until they have successfully completed all requirements to recover credit. To participate in Digital Credit Recovery, the student must have earned a final grade of at least 60 in the course. Digital Credit Recovery courses may include: English I, II, III, IV, Foundations of Algebra, Algebra I, II, Geometry, Foundations of Biology, Biology I, US History, and/or US Government/Economic.

A form will be completed by each student's regular teacher that details the objectives not mastered during the regular school year. A pre-test will be given on the first day of class to determine the objectives the student has not mastered. A maximum of one Carnegie unit may be obtained through Digital Credit Recovery per year. If a student is successful in Digital Credit Recovery, the final grade for the course will be no higher than the minimum passing grade of 65. A diploma will not be awarded until the student passes all SATP exams.

### **Sale of Merchandise at School**

Students may not sell any products for any reason or school-sponsored activities without prior approval from the principal. Products are not to be brought on campus. Any student that violates this policy will face disciplinary action.

### **Automobiles and Student Parking**

Parking is a privilege on the high school campus. Parking permits cost \$5.00 and can be revoked for disciplinary reasons. The schools are not responsible for any theft, damage, or vandalism to a vehicle while on school property. A student parks at his/her own risk and parents hereby agree that the use of the parking lot is at the student's and parent's own risk. Drivers must always exercise caution. Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks.

### **Parking Rules**

No student may park on school grounds until he/she has provided proof of insurance, a copy of his/her driver license and purchased an authorized parking permit from the KHS office. Report lost or stolen permits, a replacement permit will cost \$3.00, and the student will not be allowed to park on campus until a replacement is purchased. Parking permits must be displayed as instructed, in the designated location on the vehicle always. Parking along curbs, in posted handicapped spaces, or in other than lined parking spaces is prohibited.

For Safety and Security Purposes the Following Will Apply:

- Student cannot give or resell his/her parking permit to another student.
- No refunds will be given to students who lose their parking privilege for disciplinary reasons.
- A parking permit cannot be transferred from the vehicle which is registered to any other vehicle without administrative approval.
- Any student who is in possession of a stolen or counterfeit permit will lose all campus parking privileges.
- Students are not to congregate in the parking lot, sit in or on their vehicles, or play loud music while on school grounds.
- Reckless driving of any type by a student while on school grounds is not permitted and the consequence for this action could possibly lead to the student forfeiting their privilege to drive or park on campus.
- Unauthorized transport of other students off campus is prohibited.
- Leaving campus without permission and not signing out in the office is not permitted.

### **Violations**

Violation of one or more of the parking rules or failure to comply with the safety and security procedures listed here or in the school district handbook will result in disciplinary action and could result in temporary or permanent loss of the parking permit.

**To register your vehicle, you must have the following:**

- Valid Mississippi Driver's license
- Copy of Vehicle Registration (Temporary Tags are Not Acceptable)
- Proof of automobile insurance
- Signed parking affidavit from parent/guardian stating that the student meets the above criteria.

### **Candidates for Mr. KHS and Miss KHS**

- Must be enrolled and in attendance for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained an 85 or above overall average for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the elections.
- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as 1 unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least two (2) extracurricular\* activities over the past two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the elections.
- No out of school suspensions or Alternative School placements for the current or prior semester.
- \*Extracurricular Activities: Athletics, Band, Club Organizations and/or Offices.

### **Selection of Who's Who**

- Be enrolled for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained an 85 or above overall average in each course for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as 1 unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least 1 extracurricular activity over the past 2 semesters.
- All honors are for seniors except for class beauties/beaus and class favorites.

### **Selection of Homecoming Maids**

- Be enrolled for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained an 85 or above overall average in each course for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as 1 unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least one (1) extracurricular activity over the past two (2) semesters.
- Two (2) maids will be selected from each grade by popular vote.
- Grade 12 seniors will select five (5) girls by popular vote.
- The Homecoming Queen will be selected by all students in grades 9–12 from the five (5) senior maids.
- No Out of School Suspensions or Alternative School Placements for the current or prior semester.
- Campaigning for Homecoming Maid or Homecoming Queen will not be permitted on school grounds.
- \*Extracurricular Activities: athletics, band, club organizations and offices.



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