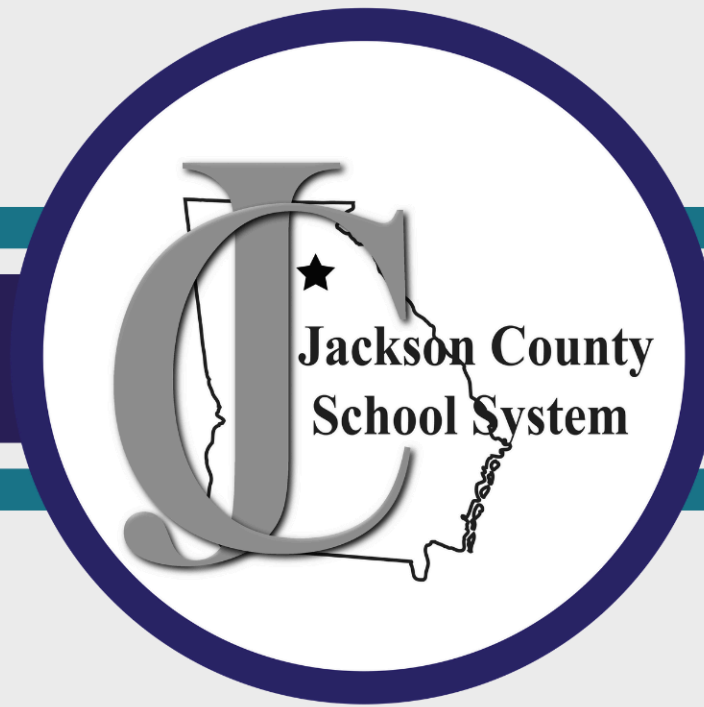


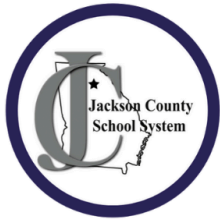
# Jackson County School System



2025 - 26

Code of Conduct

**#SUCCESSLIVESHERE**



# Jackson County School System

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## JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

### STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

2025 - 2026

The purpose of the Board of Education is to establish and support an orderly process of education that will foster a positive learning environment and provide for the proper environment providing for the welfare and safety of all students attending the Jackson County Schools. Education is the primary goal of our system. However, when student behavior comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of all. Students are governed by the policies, regulations, and rules of the Jackson County School System.

### THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Ricky J. Sanders, Chair**  
**Lynne Massey-Wheeler, Vice-Chair**  
**Melissa Mullen**  
**Rob Johnson**  
**Beau Hollett**

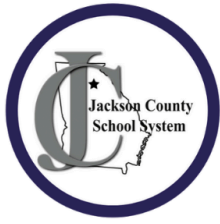
#### Development of the Student Behavior Code

This code was developed in conjunction with Georgia school laws pertaining to student discipline in elementary and secondary public education outlined in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), commonly called the Georgia Code (specifically, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-730 – O.C.G.A. § 20-2-769). Such a code is mandated in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735. The behavior code is reviewed on an annual basis.

#### When the Student Behavior Code Applies

The rules contained in the *Student Behavior Code* apply to students, both during and outside normal school hours, who are:

- On school system property
- Off school system property while attending a school activity, function, or event
- En route to or from school or school-related activities
- Off school system property if: (a) the student's off-campus conduct could result in the student's being charged with a felony and the conduct either makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or disrupts the school environment; or (b) the student's off-campus behavior (including, but not limited to, written communication, internet postings, communication through social media, cyber bullying [threats or harassment], or texting) could reasonably be expected to come to the attention of school officials and create a substantial risk to the safety of students, staff or others and/or a risk of substantial disruption to the school, program, or school environment.
- On a school bus or at school bus stops



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## **Explanation of Consequences**

### ***Detention***

A requirement that the student report to a specific school location and make up work missed or to receive specific instruction in behavior modification. Detention may require the student's attendance before, during, or after school.

### ***Alternative Placement for Elementary Student***

Temporary removal of a student from the regular classroom and assignment to another classroom or administrative office for a period of time deemed appropriate by school administration.

### ***Short-Term Alternative Placement (In-School Suspension or ISS)***

Removal of a student from the classroom to work in an isolated area staffed with school system personnel. While in this setting, the classroom teacher provides work for the student to complete. This is used sometimes in lieu of out-of-school suspension. The student is excluded from all school-sponsored and extracurricular activities while assigned to this setting.

### ***Suspension (Out of School Suspension or OSS)***

Removal of the student from the school campus and exclusion from scheduled classes, all school-sponsored activities, and all extracurricular activities. Suspension by the school principal or designee shall not exceed 10 consecutive days. The disciplinary hearing officer or the Board of Education may only impose suspensions beyond 10 days after a due process hearing. A student suspended beyond 10 days may be afforded the opportunity to enroll in the alternative program.

### ***Long-Term Alternative Placement***

A setting that a student may be offered when suspended from school for more than 10 days. The student is excluded from all school sponsored and extracurricular activities while assigned to the alternative setting (unless otherwise designated by the superintendent or designee). There are at least four ways a student may gain entry to this program:

- Through a disciplinary hearing process
- Through principal and parent/guardian agreement (proper waivers must be signed)
- By committing a third offense for bullying (applies to middle and high school students)
- By superintendent assignment (only for students in grades K-5)

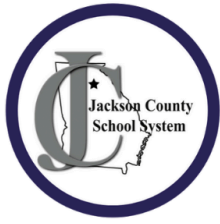
### ***Expulsion***

The removal of a student from the school system for an extended period of time; or permanent removal by the Board of Education or through a disciplinary hearing.

## **Legal and Administrative Requirements**

### ***Due Process***

Due process will include appropriate hearings and reviews and, in all cases, the rights of individuals will be ensured and protected. A meeting for an out-of-school suspension may involve a conference between an administrator, student, parent and any other school personnel required. A hearing for an expulsion or alternative placement will be formally conducted following the procedures mandated by the Jackson County Board of Education. Jackson County School System Procedures for Implementation of IDEA Regulations Related to Student Discipline are followed.



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## ***Student Rights and Responsibilities***

A student has full rights and citizenship as defined by the Constitution of the United States and assumes the responsibility to take actions relative to this Constitution, the laws of the State of Georgia, and the policies, rules, codes and regulations of the Jackson County Board of Education.

## ***Statement of Elementary School Violation***

When an elementary school student is in violation of student discipline procedures and the prescribed disposition cannot be applied, the disposition will be left to the discretion of the principal.

## ***Disciplining for Off-Campus Misconduct***

Students may be disciplined for any off-campus behavior which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

## ***Statement of Non-Discrimination***

It is the policy of the Jackson County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, disability, religion, or national origin in its educational programs, activities, or provision of services. Complaints regarding discrimination can be processed according to guidelines found in the school student handbook or in the principal's office or the office of the Jackson County Board of Education.

## ***Statement of Authority of Principal***

The Principal is the designated leader of the school and, in collaboration with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of discipline violations not covered by specific disposition in this Code of Conduct, the principal may enact corrective measures which he or she feels are in the best interest of the school and the student involved. The authority of the principal extends to students who are on school property, on the way to or from school or a school related activity, at a school bus stop, and at any school function or activity. Based on the circumstances of the incident and/or the disciplinary record of the student involved, the principal may refer any matter under this paragraph (including any violation of the system or school Code of Conduct) to a disciplinary hearing.

## ***Drug/Alcohol Policy for Students***

Student use and unlawful possession of illicit drugs or alcohol is prohibited. Violations of the drug/alcohol policy for students can result in serious disciplinary consequences, up to and including expulsion and referral to legal authorities for prosecution. Each Jackson County School is designated as a Drug Free School Zone. Violators may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

## ***Threats of Violence***

It is the policy of the Jackson County Board of Education to take all reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for students and staff. To that end, any threat by any individual directed toward another which if carried out would pose a potential danger to the life or safety of students and/or staff will be regarded as a serious matter. All threats of violence will be taken seriously, will subject the offender to disciplinary action, and will be reported to law enforcement officials.



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## ***Lockers, Facilities, Campuses Subject to Search***

All lockers, desks, book bags, school facilities, and school campuses are subject to inspection and search by school officials at any time. Detection technology or dogs specifically trained to detect prohibited or illegal items such as weapons or drugs may be used at school or any school function, including activities that occur outside of normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators. Searches of individual students may also be conducted at any time when school employees have reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or may present a danger to the school and/or are a violation of the Code of Conduct.

## ***Vehicles Subject to Search***

Vehicles driven to school by students and parked on campus are subject to search by school authorities and/or the school's designees without any further notice to, or the consent of, the owners or operators of such vehicles. Such searches may be conducted without warrant. Search of the vehicle includes all compartments and components thereof. Once search begins, the person in control of the vehicle will not be permitted to remove it from the premises during the duration of the search.

## ***Behavior Support Process***

The behavior support process is a mechanism for identifying and encouraging those behaviors and environmental factors that promote the positive emotional, mental, social, and educational needs of students. This process is designed primarily to provide services to chronically disruptive students or to students who have committed a single disciplinary infraction of a serious or severe nature; however, it may be used for any student at the discretion of school administrators.

The multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) team serves as the core component of the behavior support process. The MTSS team utilizes an interdisciplinary team approach, and provides support and services that are customized to meet the individual needs of students. The composition of the behavior support team will vary based on the needs of the referred student, but typical representation would include the parents, teachers, school counselor and/or social worker, an administrator, and representatives from other agencies as deemed appropriate.

The process seeks to organize the school, school system, parents, and applicable community efforts into a comprehensive framework for providing support for students. A major aspect of the process is a prevention orientation, aimed at providing proactive steps to help students avoid initial negative behaviors and helping troubled students minimize future difficulties.

As part of the behavior support process and in compliance with the Chronic Disciplinary Problem Students Act, the assistance of parents will be actively sought in cases where students have exhibited continually disruptive or inappropriate conduct in school. In such instances, parents may be invited to observe the student in a classroom situation and/or requested to attend a conference with school officials to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

A major purpose of the process is to provide support strategies that emphasize and build on strengths of students rather than those that focus solely on behavioral problems. Support strategies could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- helping students establish individual goals, relevant benchmarks, and a timeframe for attainment;
- service learning projects;
- development of problem-solving skills;
- leadership development;
- mentoring/peer mentoring;
- conflict management.
-



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Finally, the behavior support process seeks to integrate school-based and community-based resources in order to meet the needs of students. Potential sources for support may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- individual or group sessions with school counselor/social worker;
- testing and support services through school psychologist and/or school psychometrist;
- access to peer mediation at the middle and high school levels;
- access to assistance from school resource officers;
- involvement with appropriate community resources such as DFACS, law enforcement, juvenile court services, and mental health agencies.

## ***Progressive Discipline Process***

Students are governed by the policies, rules, and regulations of the Jackson County School System. These are applicable at school or on school property at any time, on the way to and from school, on the school bus and at school bus stops, and at any school-related function or activity on or off school premises. Students who choose not to conduct themselves within appropriate and expected guidelines should understand that they are subjecting themselves to possible disciplinary action.

Each incident of inappropriate behavior in the school setting is unique, and the disciplinary consequences imposed will reflect consideration of the nature of the incident and a number of factors specific to the student involved. When considering the discipline to be imposed, teachers and administrators will take into account any and all relevant factors to assure that the degree of disciplinary action is in proportion to the severity of the misbehavior. When appropriate and applicable, such factors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the student's prior discipline history
- seriousness of the offense
- degree of premeditation, impulse, or self-defense
- age and/or disability of the student
- strength of evidence
- remorse
- the student's attitude and willingness to cooperate

Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed in the disposition of all disciplinary cases.

## ***Parental Involvement Process***

In order to provide the best educational experience for your child, parents are encouraged and expected to support the district's behavioral expectations. Parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators must work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance, thereby ensuring positive, orderly, and productive learning environments in all Jackson County Schools. In an effort to achieve that goal, parental involvement will be requested and encouraged in the student discipline process including but not limited to the following:

(1) The assistance of parents will be actively sought in cases where students have consistently exhibited disruptive or inappropriate conduct in school and where called for in the code of conduct when students have committed a single disciplinary infraction of a serious nature.

(2) When a student desires to withdraw from school, he/she must have written permission of his/her parents or legal guardian if under the age of eighteen prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator will have a



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conference with the student and parents/legal guardian within two school days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw. The purpose of the conference is to share with the student and parents/legal guardian educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma.

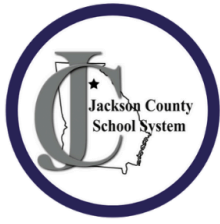
(3) The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this Code of Conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

## ***Bus Behavior***

Riding a school bus is a privilege for students in Jackson County Schools, afforded only to those who demonstrate appropriate bus behavior. The privilege may be revoked for those who choose not to abide by the standards of bus behavior established by the Board of Education. The bus driver is charged with maintaining order on the school bus. The driver may assign specific seating arrangements at any time. The bus driver may take up items or devices that interfere with the safe operation of the school bus and will return such items to parents. Students violating bus rules will be reported to school administration for appropriate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, alternative seating arrangements, ongoing parental involvement and suspension from the bus or school.

In addition to all rules related to the JCSS Code of Student Conduct, students shall be prohibited from the following on the school bus:

- Physical Violence
- Bullying
- Physical assault or battery of others
- Verbal assault of others
- Disrespectful conduct toward the driver or others
- Using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones, or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the driver's operation of the school bus
- Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras or any other lights or reflective devices that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
- Throwing objects on the bus or out a bus window or door
- Using tobacco products in any form
- Damaging seats or any part of the school bus
- Using loud, profane or abusive language
- Using obscene gestures
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum or littering
- Extending arms, hands or head outside of a bus window or door
- Moving from seat to seat while the bus is in motion
- Transporting inflated balloons, large bouquets in glass containers, or any
- Other items which might create visual restrictions to the driver
- Other unruly behavior



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## **Discipline Incident Rules**

### **RULE 01: ALCOHOL**

*Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol during the school year.*

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, consume, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind or any substance represented as such.

### **RULE 02: ARSON**

*Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Examples include firecrackers, fireworks, and trash can fires (if they are contributing factors to a damaging fire.)*

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to any real or personal property by fire or any incendiary device. Violation of this rule does not include the simple act of lighting a match or lighter.

### **RULE 03: BATTERY**

*Intentional physical harm or visible bodily harm to another.*

Battery may or may not include an attack with a weapon that causes serious bodily harm to the victim. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to another person.

### **RULE 04: BURGLARY**

*Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).*

*(Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building).*

### **RULE 05: COMPUTER TRESPASS**

*The unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intent of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s), or data.*

Students may not cause or attempt to cause damage to any computer or system hardware or software.

### **VIOLATION OF COMPUTER ETHICS**

*Stealing or copying software that is the property of the Jackson County Schools is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to fully comply with all components of the school system's technology usage agreement. Students who abuse computer privileges may be subject to disciplinary consequences. Any violation of the district network usage agreement is considered a violation of this code.*



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## **RULE 06: DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

*Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function; substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment; or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff, or others.*  
(Includes disruptive behaviors on school buses)

Includes, but is not limited to, a student threatening to or intentionally engaging in the following conduct:

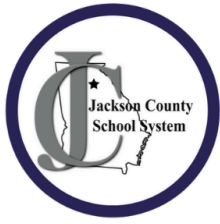
- Occupying any school building, gymnasium, school grounds/properties or part thereof, with intent to deprive others of its use or where the effect thereof is to deprive others of its use; block the entrance or exit of any building or property (including any corridor or room thereof) so as to deprive others of access thereto; or block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a school campus except under the direct instruction and approval of the principal
- Preventing the convening of or forcing the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school by the use of any manner of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment of the school.
- Making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct his/her class
- Refusing to identify oneself upon request of any teacher, principal, superintendent, school bus driver, or other authorized school personnel
- Making, or encouraging others to make, prank phone calls; activating a fire alarm without justification; or falsely reporting a fire, bomb, or terroristic act

## **RULE 07: DRUGS** (except alcohol or tobacco)

*The unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, substance represented as drugs, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. Includes being under the influence of drugs, including over-the-counter medications if abused by the student.*

- A student shall not possess, sell, or transmit (or attempt to sell or transmit) any substance under the pretense that it is, in fact, a prohibited substance as described in this rule.
- A student shall not possess, use, sell, or transmit (or attempt to sell or transmit) any illegal drug or substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics, including synthetic narcotics.
- Any unauthorized possession, sale, transfer, or use of prescription or non-prescription drugs is a violation of this rule. Misuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs shall be considered a violation of this rule.

Each school is assigned a nurse or clinic aide to oversee the clinic. All prescription and non-prescription drugs must be checked in and administered through the clinic. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician and taken in accordance with system guidelines shall not be considered a violation of this rule. Any student who has asthma will be permitted to carry asthma medication prescribed by a physician on his/her person and self administer it during school or at school-related activities as long as the school nurse or clinic aide has been notified and the appropriate paperwork has been filed as specified in Board policy.



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## **RULE 08: FIGHTING**

*Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to do harm*

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause bodily injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause bodily injury to any person. Any physical confrontation between two or more students may be considered under this rule.

## **RULE 09: HOMICIDE**

*Killing of one human being by another.*

## **RULE 10: KIDNAPPING**

*The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will.*

## **RULE 11: LARCENY/THEFT**

*The illegal taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g. school) without freely-given consent by taking, by deception, by conversion, by taking lost or mislaid property, or by receiving stolen property. Included are pocket-picking, taking a purse or backpack, theft from a building, motor vehicle, coin-operated machine, and/or all other types of larcenies.*

A student shall not steal the property of another (or attempt to do so) and shall not possess, sell, use, or transmit (or attempt to possess, sell, use, or transmit) stolen property.

## **RULE 12: MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT**

*Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle. Includes but not limited to cars, trucks, ATVs, golf carts, etc.*

## **RULE 13: ROBBERY**

*The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force, threat of force or violence, or by putting the victim in fear.*

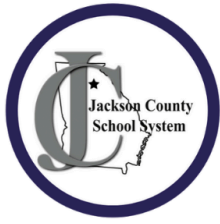
## **RULE 14: SEXUAL BATTERY**

*Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent.*

## **RULE 15: SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

*Non-physical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment*

*The deliberate, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal/written comments (including statements posted on or contained in internet postings, email, texts, social media, or other electronic communication) of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. Examples include behaviors such as leering, pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments or jokes, or pressure to engage in sexual activity.*



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Harassment of any nature is not tolerated by the Jackson County School System and is a violation of this code and Board policy. Any student or staff member who feels they are the victim of harassment should follow the systematic steps for reporting a case of harassment as outlined in Board policy. All reports will be fully investigated and dealt with according to policy.

## **RULE 16: SEX OFFENSES**

*Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual.*

- Sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or other unlawful behavior/contact intended to result in sexual gratification without force or threat of force and where the victim is capable of giving consent.
- This includes indecent exposure and obscenity.
- Examples include possession or sharing of pornographic materials.

## **RULE 17: THREAT/INTIMIDATION**

*Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack (including statements posted on or contained in internet postings, email, texts, social media, or other electronic communication).*

## **RULE 18: TOBACCO**

*Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored event. Does not include electronic smoking devices; See Rule 42 Electronic Smoking Device*

A student shall not possess, transmit, or use tobacco products of any type, including but not limited to; smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, smoking paraphernalia, or individual nicotine delivery items. Such items found in a car, locker, purse, book bag or any other container belonging to the student or in the student's possession will be considered to be in the possession of the student.

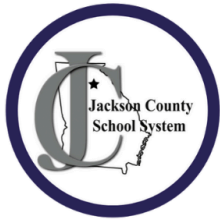
## **RULE 19: TRESPASSING**

*Entering or remaining on a public school campus or school facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Includes students under suspension or expulsion and unauthorized students who enter school property without permission and/or who remain on campus after being directed to leave by school personnel.*

## **RULE 20: VANDALISM**

*The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner and/or the person having custody or control of it. Examples include but not limited to: graffiti, carving initials or words in desktops, or spray painting walls of buildings.*

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to property.



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## **RULE 22: WEAPONS – KNIFE**

*The possession, or use, of any type of knife (including a pocket or pen knife), including use to inflict harm on another person or to intimidate any person.*

A student shall not possess, handle, supply to another, use, or threaten to use a weapon. The term *weapon* in this case includes, but is not limited to: a knife of any type, box cutter, sword, machete, or other bladed tool or device used to inflict harm, or any other object that reasonably can be considered a knife.

## **RULE 23: WEAPONS – OTHER**

*The possession, use, or intention to use any instrument or object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm on another person or to intimidate any person. Included in this code are chains, pipes, razor blades, ice picks, dirks, nunchucks, brass knuckles, Chinese stars, billy clubs, tear gas guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns: “any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind.” Electrical weapons or devices, explosives, or propellants. Firecrackers and other fireworks are also included.*

A student shall not possess, handle, supply to another, use, or threaten to use a weapon. The term *weapon* in this case includes, but is not limited to: any gas repellent, mace, stun gun, chemical spray, pellet or bb gun: “any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind.” Any martial arts devices, sword, machete, or other tool or device used to inflict harm or other object that can reasonably be considered as a weapon. *(It is a violation of this section to possess or threaten to use a toy gun, antique, replica, or other object which looks like or is represented to be a gun or weapon.)*

A student shall not falsely claim to have a weapon or explosive device in their possession; falsely claim that another person has a weapon or explosive device in their possession; or falsely claim that another person is bringing a weapon or explosive device onto school system property or to a school-related function.

## **RULE 24: OTHER DISCIPLINE INCIDENT**

### **OTHER CONDUCT SUBVERSIVE TO GOOD ORDER**

*A student shall not perform any other act that is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools. This includes but is not limited to: Violation of local school rules, violation of state and federal law, providing false information to school personnel, actions that are ethnically and racially inflammatory, or community misconduct that would be so serious as to pose a threat to the school community, or student being criminally charged with a felony (which makes the student’s continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property of the school or disrupts the educational process).*

### **CHRONICALLY DISRUPTIVE STUDENT**

*A student who continually disrupts or repeatedly violates other school rules may be charged with repeated violations of school rules or behavior. This code applies after remediation attempts (including consideration of the behavior support process) have been utilized.*



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## **RULE 25: WEAPONS - HANDGUN**

*Possession of a firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand, and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled.*

A student may not possess, transmit, sell, or attempt to sell, discharge, or threaten to discharge any firearm while on school grounds or while attending any school function. This rule deals specifically with handguns and any paraphernalia associated with them or their use.

## **RULE 26: WEAPONS – RIFLE/SHOTGUN**

*Rifle - a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder; or designed or redesigned, made or remade, to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.*

*Shotgun - a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder; or designed or redesigned, made or remade, to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.*

A student may not possess, transmit, sell, or attempt to sell, discharge, or threaten to discharge any firearm while on school grounds or while attending any school function. This rule deals specifically with *rifles* or *shotguns* and any paraphernalia associated with them or their use.

## **RULE 27: SERIOUS BODILY INJURY**

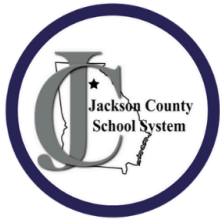
*Bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.*

A student shall not cause (or attempt to cause) serious bodily injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause serious bodily injury to any person. A student shall not cause (or attempt to cause) an injury that involves substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

## **RULE 28: OTHER FIREARMS**

*Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns. This includes any weapon (including starter gun) which will (or is designed to or may readily be converted to) expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device;) any weapon which will (or which may be readily converted to) expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant; any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.*

A student may not possess, transmit, sell, or attempt to sell, discharge, or threaten to discharge any firearm while on school grounds, during transportation to or from school, or while traveling to or from or attending any school function. This rule deals with all firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns and any paraphernalia associated with them or their use.



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## **RULE 29: BULLYING**

*Behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or acts or communication through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm.*

*Repeated acts, as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student's education; so severe and pervasive that victim is intimidated; or threatens the victim's educational environment.*

### **Bullying Prohibited**

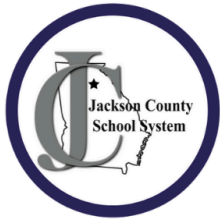
The Jackson County Board of Education believes in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student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

State law defines "bullying" as:

- Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
- Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily injury or harm; or
- Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate that:
  - Causes substantial physical harm or visible harm;
  - Substantially interferes with a student's education;
  - Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating/threatening educational environment;
  - Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Upon finding that a student in grades 6 - 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751).

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751. The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system.

The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.



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## **RACIAL HARASSMENT**

A student shall not make deliberate, repeated, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal/written comments of a racial nature, when such conduct has the purpose of affecting or interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. A student shall not encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule. Harassment of any nature is not tolerated by the Jackson County Schools and is a violation of this code and Board policy. Any student or staff member who feels they are the victim of harassment should follow the systematic steps for reporting a case of harassment as outlined in Board policy. All reports will be fully investigated and dealt with according to policy.

## **RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT**

A student shall not make deliberate, repeated, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal/written comments about a student's religious beliefs/preferences when such conduct has the purpose of affecting or interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. A student shall not encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule. Harassment of any nature is not tolerated by the Jackson County Schools and is a violation of this code and Board policy. Any student or staff member who feels they are the victim of harassment should follow the systematic steps for reporting a case of harassment as outlined in Board policy. All reports will be fully investigated and dealt with according to policy.

## **DISABILITY HARASSMENT**

A student shall not make deliberate, repeated, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal/written comments about a student who has a disability when such conduct has the purpose of affecting or interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. A student shall not encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule. Harassment of any nature is not tolerated by the Jackson County Schools and is a violation of this code and Board policy. Any student or staff member who feels they are the victim of harassment should follow the systematic steps for reporting a case of harassment as outlined in Board policy. All reports will be fully investigated and dealt with according to policy.

## **RULE 30: OTHER - ATTENDANCE RELATED**

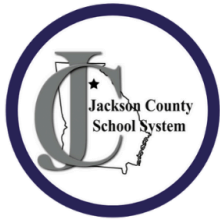
*Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions*

### **TARDY TO SCHOOL OR CLASS**

*A student shall not be absent from or tardy to school or any class or other required school function during school hours except for illness or other providential cause, except with the permission of the teacher, principal, or other duly authorized school official; nor shall a student encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule.*

### **ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE (AWOL)**

*A student shall not leave school grounds prior to the end of the day (after his/her initial arrival on campus) without the permission of a teacher, principal, or other duly authorized school official; nor shall a student encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule.*



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## **RULE 31: OTHER – DRESS CODE VIOLATION**

*Violation of school dress code that includes standards for appropriate school attire.*

The school administration is authorized to determine appropriate dress for the school setting. The specific dress code for each school is outlined in the student handbook (or by whatever means the school chooses to convey important student information). The school administration is responsible for enforcement of the school dress code and has, at their discretion, the right to assign the appropriate disposition for those students who violate the school dress code.

## **RULE 32: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

*Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams*

Any student who cheats (which includes both accepting information from, and giving information to, others), utilizes any form of unauthorized academic aid during testing or on assignments, or changes answers/grades is in violation of academic ethics and is subject to disciplinary consequences. Plagiarism is considered a violation of this rule.

## **RULE 33: OTHER – STUDENT INCIVILITY**

*Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth*

### **REFUSAL TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS**

*A student shall comply with all lawful instruction and/or directions from authorized school personnel. This includes, but is not limited to, a student complying with any directions or requests made by authorized school personnel to search a student's vehicle, locker, bookbag, pockets, or any other possession after reasonable suspicion has been determined and stated to the student.*

### **DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR**

#### **AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AND/OR PROFANITY OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE/GESTURES**

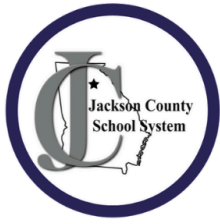
*A student shall not make threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks, gestures, or posturing toward any person, which threatens the safety or well-being of that person or engage in any behavior that encourages others to violate the Code of Conduct or has the likelihood of provoking a fight. This includes but is not limited to: Horseplay, threatening gestures, use of profanity, or derogatory comments of an ethnic, racial, sexual, or religious nature, or encouraging others to engage in prohibited behavior.*

#### **PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION/FORGERY**

*A student shall not forge another person's signature, present a document with a forged signature, or give false identification/information to any school official or representative for any purpose including falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.*

#### **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ASSIGNED DISCIPLINE**

*A student shall comply with directions, commands, or assigned discipline of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, school bus drivers, and other authorized school personnel.*



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## **RULE 34: OTHER – POSSESSION OF UNAPPROVED ITEMS**

*The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; Includes the possession of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks.*

A student shall not possess any form of toys, mobile devices, gadgets, or personal items during the school day. Cell phones and other electronic devices may only be used in accordance with state law and school expectations. Cell phones or other recording devices may not be used to photograph or record students or staff without written permission from school officials and all students recorded.

## **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

In accordance with Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.8), the following applies to student usage in school.

- *K-8 Students: No student in Kindergarten through grade 8 shall be permitted to access personal electronic devices during the school day, except as otherwise provided in the code section or required by law*
- *9-12 Students: Personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored in bookbags during instructional time.*
- *Personal Electronic device means any portable electronic device capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media. Includes but is not limited to: smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.*

## **RULE 35: GANG - RELATED ACTIVITY**

*Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in criminal gang activity (O.C.G.A. § 16-15-3). The solicitation of others for gang membership, the defacing of school or personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang.*

## **RULE 36: REPEATED OFFENSES**

*Collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action.*

## **RULE 42: ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICE**

*Any device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device.*

Such devices include those manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, electronic nicotine delivery system or any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.

## **RULE 44 - VIOLENCE AGAINST A TEACHER**

*Intentional physical attack against a teacher or other school employee, including but not limited to those resulting in*



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*physical injury to the teacher or other school employee.*

Questions regarding the *JCS Student Behavior Code* should be directed to the Office of Student Services, 706-367-5151. All major offenses including but not limited to drugs and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named an unsafe school according to SBOE Rule 160-4-8-16.