SECONDARY STUDENT and PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE PAGE 2025-2026

Please review the following statements before signing:

1. The signature of a student and parent/guardian on this page signifies that you have read the Code of Conduct, as well as have knowledge and an understanding of the Fayette County Public Schools policies and guidelines contained within.
2. The signature of a parent/guardian on this page signifies you have received and reviewed the 2025-2026 School Health Services Information.
3. The signature of a parent/guardian on this page gives your child your permission to access school-based, Internet-capable technology and online, digital learning resources at school. Also, you have read the Cybersafety Use Agreement and are aware of the school's and district's initiatives to maintain a cyber-safety learning environment, including your child's responsibilities. If any parent does NOT wish for his or her child to utilize the Internet while at school, please signify those wishes in the Comment section provided below.
4. The signature of a student and parent/guardian on this page signifies that you have received and understand the consequences and penalties for failing to comply with the State of Georgia's laws regarding Compulsory Education, Student Attendance Protocol Committee and Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA).
5. Within the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-705, schools must provide notification at the beginning of the school year to parents/guardians relative to the various clubs provided at each of their respective schools. (These notifications will specifically exclude interscholastic activities). This notification will be accomplished through each school's website. If any parent/guardian does NOT wish for his or her student to participate in a club or organization designated by him or her, please signify those clubs or organizations in the Comment section below. The signature of a parent/guardian on this page signifies that you understand and agree that you and your student, when engaged in athletics and/or extracurricular activities, may be responsible for getting your student to related activities (practice, game, competition, etc.) at the time designated by the coach/sponsor. You may be responsible for providing your student with the necessary transportation or knowing how he/she will be transported. In the event parents/guardians or students provide their own transportation, the school nor school district are not responsible for any consequences arising during or because of this transportation.

   - ☐ Under current Federal law, all schools **MUST,** if requested, provide student directory information (names, addresses and telephone numbers) of high school students to U.S. military recruiters and institutions of higher learning. If any parent/guardian or eligible student does **NOT** wish for student directory information to be released to the United States military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, please signify your "Opt-out" request by checking the box to the left.
   - ☐ The signature of a parent/guardian on this page identifies your child as having your permission to participate in the Georgia Student Health Survey II for 6th through 12th grade students about substance abuse and violence. The survey is anonymous, and no personal identification is required. If any parent/guardian does **NOT** wish for his or her child to participate in this survey, please signify your "Opt-out" request by checking the box to the left.
   - ☐ The signature of a parent/guardian on this page identifies your child as having your permission to participate in the Fayette Factor and Drug Free Fayette Coalition Surveys. The surveys are anonymous, and no personal identification is required. If any parent/guardian does **NOT** wish for his or her child to participate in this survey, please signify your "Opt-out" request by checking the box on the left.

STUDENT NAME (Please print)

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent Signature Date

Comments:

Please sign and return to your child's Homeroom Teacher during the first week of school.

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

SECONDARY
2025-2026

Foreword

The Fayette County School System aims to run each school in a way that ensures an orderly educational process, safeguarding the welfare and safety of all students within the district. To support this goal, the Board of Education has implemented a policy mandating all schools to establish codes of conduct. These student codes of conduct are accessible at each school and online on the FCBOE website. They outline behavior standards that require students to consistently conduct themselves in a manner that promotes an optimal learning environment for everyone.

We expect students to:

- Respect each other
- Respect school district employees
- Abide by student behavior policies adopted by the Board of Education
- Abide by rules established by individual schools

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in or at the following places:

- At the bus stop
- At school or on school property at any time
- Off school property at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events
- On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school
- While participating in on-line/virtual instruction

In addition, students may be disciplined for 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.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community. We ask for your cooperation in sharing this responsibility for maintaining a proper learning environment. Copies of the Student Code of Conduct in both English and Spanish are available at www.fcboe.org webpage, under the Students and Families tab.

Authority of the Principal
The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures, which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student, and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

Policies
FCBOE Board Policies can be found on the www.fcboe.org website, under the Board of Ed tab.

Students Should:
Participate fully in the learning process. Students need to report to school and class on time, attend all regularly scheduled classes, remain in class until excused or dismissed, pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and ask for help when needed.
Avoid behavior that impairs their own or other students' educational achievement. Students should know and avoid the behaviors prohibited by this Code, take care of books, Chromebooks and other instructional materials, and cooperate with others.
Show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees. Students must obey reasonable directions, use acceptable and courteous language, avoid being rude and follow school rules and procedures.
Recognize and respect the rights of other students and adults. All students should show concern for and encouragement of educational achievements and participation of others in curricular and extracurricular activities. Disciplinary action for violations of expected behaviors will include appropriate hearings and reviews. In all cases, the rights of individuals will be ensured and protected. The Fayette County School System will make every reasonable effort to administer the discipline code consistently in all schools. When applicable, individualized plans, (i.e., IEP, 504 and SST) will be reviewed for appropriate consequences.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the representation by a student of another's ideas or writing as his own. Basically, two types of plagiarism are common. The first, which is more serious, involves a deliberate attempt on the part of a student to pass off as his own the writing or ideas of another person (student, parent/guardian, published or unpublished author, et al.). This type of plagiarism generally consists of the straight copying or slight paraphrasing of a source that the student attempts to conceal. The second, which results from the student's lack of attention to proper procedures for source acknowledgements and use, involves one or more technical errors. The student in this case fails to acknowledge indebtedness to outside material. Both types of plagiarism are serious violations of the principles of academic integrity. Penalties, especially for those involved in deliberate plagiarism, may be quite severe. This also includes using generative artificial intelligence as a substitute for a student's own work.

CHRONIC DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM STUDENT ACT (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-764)

A chronic disciplinary problem student is a student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur (repeat offender). Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and in writing the student's parent/guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent/guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent/guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and in writing, at least one parent/guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.
The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent/guardian to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent/guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent/guardian to participate in such programs and/or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed $500.00, on a parent/guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE)

When it is necessary to impose disciplinary consequences to students, school administrators and teachers will follow an **age appropriate progressive discipline process**. The degree of disciplinary consequences to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior offense of a particular student and will consider the student's discipline history, the age and developmental level of the student and other relevant factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program. Reflective and instructional alternative discipline methods may be used, if appropriate. Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.16 Unsafe School Choice Option. **Parents and police will be notified in every instance where the law is violated**.

The local Board of Education shall observe Georgia Law in developing and implementing disciplinary hearings held by a disciplinary hearing officer, disciplinary panel, or disciplinary tribunal pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751 through 20-2-759 including to honor disciplinary orders of private schools and other public schools/school systems pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.2. Refer to FCBOE Policy JCEB for student disciplinary tribunal hearings. Each local board of education shall make available to all Qualified Student Discipline Hearing Officers and Disciplinary Tribunal or Panel Members the initial and ongoing tribunal training course prior to the individuals serving in such capacity. The local board of education shall ensure initially trained student discipline hearing officers and disciplinary tribunal, or panel members undergo continuing education so as to continue to serve in such capacity.

OFFENSES AND CONSEQUENCES (This list is not all inclusive)

OFFENSE CONSEQUENCE	OFFENSE CONSEQUENCE
1. Absences – Unexcused and/or Truancy (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1) Unexcused absences will be subject to attendance investigation and can result in penalty imposed by the Compulsory Education Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1) and Student Attendance Protocol Committee Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.2) a. Schools will notify by letter the parents/guardians of students ages 6-16 who have accumulated five (5) unexcused absences per semester and will include a copy of the summary of consequences. b. School Operations will notify by letter the parents/ guardians of students ages 6-16 who have accumulated ten (10) unexcused absences per semester and will report violations to the Student Attendance Protocol Committee with the District Attorney's Office to determine if court action will be pursued for formal intervention. With no proof of enrollment in another school, other school district, private school, or home study program, a student will be withdrawn from a school after ten (10) consecutive unexcused absences or when there is documentation validating the student no longer resides in the school's attendance zone. (FCBOE Policy JBC – Withdrawal for Lack of Attendance).	**1.** Consequences may range as follows: Detention/make up time, parent conference, school counseling and suspension with a possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal hearing for repeated violations which could result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Academic work missed due to state board approved absences can be made up when the student returns to school.
2. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism - Misrepresenting self or others, plagiarism, academic inappropriate behavior, stealing tests, altering records, cheating on assignments or exams, etc.	**2.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short- term suspension. Students may receive a zero on the academic assignment and possible loss of course credit.
3. Assault on Faculty or Staff Member – Threatening bodily harm to faculty or staff member. This includes threats that are verbal, written, or implied.	**3.** Consequences may result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
4.a. Battery on Faculty or Staff Member– Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm. A student shall not commit an act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school official or employee either by: (1) Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another, or (2) Intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.6).	**4.a**. Consequences will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
4b. Battery – Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm. A student shall not commit an act of physical violence against another individual by: (1) Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another, or	**4b.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.

(2) Intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.6).	
5. **Breaking and Entering/Burglary** – Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).	**5**. Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
6. **Bullying (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4) (FCBOE Policy JCDAG)** For definition, refer to page 15.	**6**. Consequences may range from short- term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. Consequence for a third offense in a school year will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
7. Bus Misbehavior	7. Consequences may range from a one day bus suspension to suspension from riding the bus for up to a year. The student and parent/guardian may be required to attend the School Bus Behavior Intervention Program before the student is allowed to ride the bus again. Additionally, in-school suspension may be an added consequence .
8. Classroom Disturbance - Behaviors which substantially or repeatedly interfere with the normal operations of the classroom environment.	**8.** Consequences may range from administrative detention to short-term suspension.
9. Computer Trespass - Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network including deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer network, program(s), or data as well as visiting inappropriate websites. This includes logging in as another student or staff member.	**9.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
10. Destruction of Property/Arson - Willful or malicious damage and/or threats to destroy or damage school, public or private property which may include such actions as the use or threat of bombs, explosive devices, setting fires, firecrackers, homemade bombs, and the deliberate and serious destruction or defacement of school property.	**10.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. Arrangements for restitution of damages may be required. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
11. **Disorderly Conduct** - No student shall substantially disrupt the orderly conduct of a school function, the orderly learning environment, or pose a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others. Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts.	**11**. Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
12. Dress Code Violation See page 9 for a list of inappropriate school dress.	**12.** Consequences may range from a warning to short-term suspension.
13.a. Drug Sale/Transmission/Solicitation - No student shall sell/distribute or possess with intent to distribute or attempt to buy legal or illegal drugs in any form whatsoever, including, but not limited to alcoholic beverages, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, marijuana, cannabinoid, edibles, synthetic drugs, vitamin, herbal supplement, any over-the counter pill, medication or similar substance, or any other substance listed on the Georgia Controlled Substance Act, or any substance falsely identified as such, or is believed to be by the purchaser to be one of the above substances. This rule shall be in effect at school or on school property at any time, off the school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event, and en route to and from school. There is no requirement that there be an exchange of money, goods, and/or services to find violation of this rule.	**13.a.** Consequences may result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.

13.b. Drug Possession/Use/Under the Influence - No student shall possess, store, transmit, consume, use or be under the influence of any legal or illegal drug in any form whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any narcotic drug, inhalants, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana, cannabinoid, synthetic drugs, other controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroids, intoxicant of any kind, vitamins, herbal supplements, over-the-counter pills, medications or similar substances, or any other substance listed on the Georgia Controlled Substance Act, or any substance represented to be or reasonably appearing to be any type of drug, including alcohol. This rule shall be in effect at school or on school property at any time, off the school property at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event and en route to and from school. Possession and use of over-the-counter medications or medications prescribed to the student by a doctor will not be considered a violation of this rule, provided that all school and school district rules and procedures are followed.	**13.b.** First Offense – Consequence may result in a short term suspension and attendance at S.U.P.E.R. Program (see Glossary of Terms), at the discretion of the principal. Consequences may also include a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. Second Offense – Consequence may result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
13.c. Drug-Related Paraphernalia - A student may not possess, transmit, store, buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to sell, or otherwise distribute any drug-related paraphernalia which may include, but is not limited to vaporizers (for electronic cigarettes, see rule 37 Tobacco, E- Cigarettes, and/or Paraphernalia), pipes, needles, rolling papers, baggies, or other packaging materials, prescription bottles, scales, or any device used for ingesting drugs.	**13.c.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short-term suspension.
13.d. Failure to Attend the S.U.P.E.R. Program – When assigned as a consequence for first offender of Code of Conduct offense – 13.b., attendance is mandatory.	**13.d.** Consequence will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing, which may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
14. Electronic Communication Devices - Unauthorized use of any electronic communication device during the school day or failure to follow school procedures regarding use and/or possession. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, electronic game devices, tablets, smart watches, etc.	**14.** Consequences may range from administrative detention to short-term suspension. Devices may be confiscated when in violation of the guidelines and returned to parents.
15. Failure to Accept Administrative Disciplinary Action	**15.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short-term suspension.
16. False Reporting and Statements - Students are prohibited against falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting or erroneously reporting information. This includes instances of false alleged inappropriate behavior by another student, teacher, administrator, or other school employee.	**16.** Consequences may range from a warning, in-school suspension, a short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
17.a. Fighting – Two or more individuals mutually engaged in a physical altercation.	**17.a.** Consequence for first offense may result in short term suspension and attendance at the Fayette County Schools System's Conflict Resolution Course (See Glossary of Terms) at the principal's discretion. Parents are contacted and informed that a second offense may result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that could result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student(s) may also be reported to law enforcement.
17.b. Fighting/Excessive Physical Contact/Group Fight - Two or more individuals engaged in a physical altercation that causes a substantial disruption to school operations. This includes, but is not limited to, fights that are excessive beyond 17.a., that cause a major disruption to school operations, group fights, or fights that cause harm to other individuals not involved in the altercation (students, staff, and others).	17.b. Consequence will result in a disciplinary tribunal that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
18. Gambling - Playing any game of skill or chance for money	**18.** Consequences may range from administrative detention to

or anything of value on school property, at a school function or on property used by the school with permission of the owner.	short-term suspension. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
19. Gang-related Activity – A gang member is a person who is part of an association of people which engages, individually or collectively, in illegal behavior. Gang-related activity includes, but is not limited to, communication of gang affiliation through hand sign flashing, wearing of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme, jewelry, tattoos, gang signs, symbols or graffiti on personal items, vandalism of public or private property, acts of intimidation, threats, fighting or other forms of violence.	**19.** Consequences may range from a warning with parent/guardian notification to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long- term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
20. Harassment – Any act of harassment based upon race, color, religion, national origin, disability and gender. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment as used in connection with Title IX of the education amendments of 1972.	**20.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
21. Inappropriate Behavior/Horseplay	**21.** Consequences may range from a warning to short term suspension.
22. Inappropriate Items	**22.** Consequences may range from a warning and/or conference with student to five (5) days of in-school suspension.
23. Off Campus Misconduct and/or Criminal Law Violations – Any on or off campus behavior of a student 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 which disrupts the educational process. *This includes such conduct on school property and school-related activities*.	**23.** Consequence will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
24. Parking and Traffic Violations on Campus – Students who drive to school are not allowed to park in unauthorized areas and must operate their vehicle in a safe manner.	**24.** Consequences may range from suspension to revocation of parking permit, and/or towing of violator's vehicle from campus **at the owner's expense.**
25. Physical Aggression (Altercation) – Exhibiting any behavior that may lead to any physical harm to another.	**25.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short-term suspension.
26. Profanity – Use of vulgar, or obscene words, gestures, or other actions, which disrupt school system operations or show disrespect to school personnel during and after school hours or show disrespectful conduct toward persons attending school-related functions.	**26.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short- term suspension or a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion if directed at a staff member.
27. Repeated Violations/Misbehavior/Chronic Offender (See Chronic Disciplinary Act on page 2)	**27.** Consequences may range from long-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
28. Rude and/or Disrespectful Behavior and/or Refusal to Carry Out Instructions of Faculty or Staff (Insubordination)	**28.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
29. School Disturbances – Acts which cause substantial disruption of learning opportunities and/or threatens the safety or wellbeing of other students which may include pulling fire alarms, sit-downs, walk-outs, riots, picketing, trespassing, inciting disturbances, threats, or actual violence during a period of disruption.	**29.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
30. Severe Bodily Injury – Acts that cause bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.	**30.** Consequence will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.

31. Sexual Improprieties - Commission of an act of sexual contact, indecent exposure or possession of pornography. Includes the more serious offenses of sexual battery and sexual offenses.	**31.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. 1 st offense – Consequence may result in short-term suspension and completion of an online diversion program, at the discretion of the principal. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
32. Skipping School, Class or Required Activities	**32.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short-term suspension. Consequences for drivers may also result in a loss of parking privileges.
33. Tardiness – Chronic	**33.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short-term suspension.
34. Terroristic Threat/Bomb Threat – Threats to commit any crime or violence or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another or causing the evacuation of a building or otherwise causing serious public inconvenience or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.	**34.** Consequences may result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
35. Theft/Larceny – Unlawful taking, carrying, leading, possession of stolen property, or riding away with property of another person.	**35.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
36.a. Threatening or Intimidating – Words, actions, or implied threats toward any students or individual that causes reasonable fear for one's safety. Threats can be written or verbal but not involve actual physical contact.	**36.a.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
36.b. Threatening or Intimidating Faculty or Staff – Words, actions, or implied threats toward any faculty or staff member that causes reasonable fear for one's safety. Threats can be written or verbal but not involve actual physical contact.	**36.b.** Consequence may result in a disciplinary tribunal that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
37. Tobacco, E-cigarettes and/or Paraphernalia – Possession, use or sale (includes smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff, e-cigarettes, vapes, hookahs, and any other product which produces vapor or smoke, or which contains cannabidiol (CBD) or hemp) is prohibited.	**37.** Consequences may range from in-school suspension to short- term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long term suspension or expulsion. Principal may assign and require completion of theASPIRE program (see Glossary and Terms).
38. Trespassing/Off Limits Area – Entering or remaining on school property in a restricted area without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose.	**38.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
39. Vandalism and Misuse of Equipment – Destruction or defacement of public or private property located on school premises or at a school function or on property used by the school with the permission of the owner, or inciting, advising or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts such as marking, defacing or destroying school property.	**39. C**onsequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Arrangements for restitution of damages may be required. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.
40. Verbal Aggression/Harassment - of employees, students, or other persons, including threatened violence.	**40.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.
41. Violation of a Behavior Plan – Any serious or repeated behaviors by a student which violates a written student behavior plan that has been put in place to guide the student's behavior. (See Glossary – Disciplinary Probation).	**41.** Consequences may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.

42. Violation of the Medication Policy	**42.** Consequences may range from administrative detention to short-term suspension.
43. Weapons (FCBOE Policy JCDAE) – A student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to: a. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11- 121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar or hand grenade. b. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instruction consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun, taser or any object used in a threatening manner. Such terms shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the school administration.	**43.** The consequence for students who possess any weapon described in Paragraph a. will result in a disciplinary tribunal and be subject to a minimum of a one (1) calendar year expulsion. The consequence for students who possess any weapon described in Paragraph b. may range from, in-school suspension to a recommendation for a disciplinary tribunal hearing which may result in long term suspension or expulsion. The consequence for students who brandish, make threats with, or transmit to another person with any weapon described in Paragraph b., including any size knife, will be subject to a penalty which may range from short-term suspension to a disciplinary tribunal hearing with the possibility of long-term suspension or expulsion. The use of firearms or the use of a weapon in an assault will result in a disciplinary tribunal hearing that may result in expulsion. The student may also be reported to law enforcement.

POST INCARCERATION SCHOOL PLACEMENT

Upon notification by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) that a student will be coming or returning from youth detention centers, incarceration, or similar facilities, the student shall be enrolled in his/her home school as opposed to an alternative educational setting unless the Case Management Consultation Team, consisting of the school's case manager, the student and his parent/guardian/foster parent/other person, a DJJ counselor, or a local DJJ Community Service Officer and respective DJJ Juvenile Parole and Probation Specialist, concludes that the best placement for the child would be the alternative setting. Any placement made pursuant to an IEP team shall take precedence. The case manager shall consult the Case Management Consultation Team within five (5) days to determine whether transition or other services are necessary for the student. (GADOE rule 160-4-8.17). This meeting will take place at the student's home school.

DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS

Fayette County School System students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to reflect neatness, modesty, cleanliness, and respect for your school. Students must ensure that their dress does not distract or potentially cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. School administrators will be responsible for determining dress code violations. The principal may interpret these provisions as he/she deems to be in the best interest of the school, students, or the educational process.

The following are the standards for school dress:

1. Students must wear clothing that includes both a shirt with pants or a skirt or the equivalent (ex. dresses, leggings, shorts) and footwear. Undergarments must not be exposed.

2. Garments will cover the waist, shoulders, back, torso, and chest in all situations. No skin may show at the waist.

3. Pants, shorts, slacks, shirts, dresses, and skirts will be of appropriate size and fit. Holes in the pants or shorts must be below the fingertips. Pants, shorts, and skirts must always be worn on the waist. The entire buttocks & upper thigh must be covered.

4. Clothing must not symbolize, suggest, display or reference: tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, profanity, hate, promotion of violence, illegal activities, and/or pornography. Clothing should respect the intent to sustain a positive learning environment.

5. Sleepwear may not be worn.

6. Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that may cause damage to floors (ex.: cleats, skates, etc.) are not allowed.
7. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the buildings.
8. Wallet chains or other types of chains, or any jewelry that may be potentially dangerous or disruptive are not allowed.
9. Hats, caps, non-religious head coverings, visors, or hoods may not be worn inside the building.
10. Gang-related clothing, bandannas, signs, flags, symbols, and tattoos are not allowed.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Interscholastic extracurricular programs are a vital part of the total educational program and a means of developing wholesome attitudes and good human relations, as well as knowledge and skills. The Fayette County School System encourages participation in a variety of extracurricular activities. However, interscholastic sports and other extracurricular activities are not essential curriculum which must be made available to all of Georgia's children.

Code of Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship can be defined in one word: RESPECT. Respect for ourselves, our schools, and guests to our schools helps build a positive image not only with the community, but also with those who participate in competitive activities in our schools.
Responsibilities of participants and parents/guardians:

- Use appropriate language.
- Treat opponents with the respect due to them as guests or hosts.
- Exercise self-control at all times.
- Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules.
- Respect the coach's judgment and authority.
- Accept the responsibility of representing your school in a positive manner.
- Act in a manner that will create a positive attitude in the audience.

Eligibility to Participate in Athletic/Extracurricular Activities

***Contact the school's athletic administrator to clarify questions concerning eligibility**

Middle School (7th and 8th grade)

- Students must pass all four academic subjects the semester preceding participation, or pass all academic subjects for the year.
- A player must not reach his/her 15th birthday prior to May 1 preceding their 8th grade year. A player must not reach his/her 14th birthday prior to May 1 preceding their 7th grade year.
- An eligible student can participate in each sport, once in the 7th grade and once in the 8th grade.
- Students must adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in the FCBOE Secondary Code of Conduct and/or specific written guidelines developed by the coach and/or school administration.
- 8th graders will be eligible to participate in sub-varsity sports at the high school level if that sport is not available at the middle school level. They must meet middle school eligibility requirements.
- The Fayette County Middle School Athletic League governs middle school athletics.

High School (9th through 12th grade)

- All first year, first semester 9th grade students are academically eligible.
- Students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie Units the previous semester.
- A student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May1 preceding the school year.
- Students must be "on track" for graduation:
  - **Second-year students must have accumulated at least 5 Carnegie Units**
  - **Third-year students must have accumulated at least 11 Carnegie Units**
  - **Fourth-year students must have accumulated at least 17 Carnegie Units**
- A student has eight consecutive semesters or four consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition.
- Students must adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in the Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct and/or specific written guidelines developed by the coach and/or school administration.
- The Georgia High School Association governs high school athletics.

Retention for Athletic Purposes

A student will not be retained in any grade for athletic purposes (redshirting).
No person in the Fayette County School System shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any education program or activity receiving financial assistance.

Participation in school athletic and extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a property right. All students, parents/guardians, coaches, and sponsors understand that the top priority is academic achievement. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish high expectations regarding behavior and minimum/consistent consequences when violations occur. However, **coaches/sponsors may establish consequences that are more stringent than the stated code**. Team/organization rules must be in writing and approved by the administration of each school.

Home School Students and Participation in Extracurricular Activities (Dexter Mosley Act SB42)
Home school students will abide by the same code of conduct and disciplinary measures and transportation policies as students enrolled at the school who are participating in the activity.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY TRANSPORTATION

The signature of a parent/guardian on the Signature page signifies that you understand and agree that you and your student, when engaged in athletics and/or extracurricular activities, may be responsible for getting your student to related activities (practice, game, competition, etc.) at the time designated by the coach/sponsor. You may be responsible for providing your student the necessary transportation or knowing how he/she will be transported. In the event parents/guardians or students provide their own transportation, neither the school nor the school district are responsible for any consequences arising during or as a result of this transportation.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENSES AND CONSEQUENCES

OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
1. Students enrolled in the Fayette Horizon Academy/Long Term Suspension	1. Ineligible to attend or participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity.
2. Arrest for Felony (regardless of location or time of the alleged act; in or out of school)	2. Immediately suspended from all participation pending investigation by school officials.

For the offenses that follow, a school administrator must have valid evidence and/or verification of the offense as defined in the following:

1. Self-admitted involvement by the student.
2. Witnessed student involvement by the sponsor, coach, or any staff member.
3. Parent/guardian admission of their student's involvement in tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
4. Verified by the official police report given to the school.
5. Evidence of offenses through investigation by school officials.

If this offense occurs at school or on school property at any time, off the school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event, and en route to and from school, the student will be subject to the actions of the Fayette County School System Code of Conduct.

OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
1. Alcohol/Drugs – In Season The Athletic Director will meet with the student parent/guardian.	1. **1st Offense** – Suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 25% of the current season (to be served consecutively). **2nd Offense** – One (1) calendar year suspension from all athletic/extracurricular activities.
2. Criminal Law Violations(Non-Felony Away from School)	2. Disposition determined by the coach and school administration based on the severity of the charge(s).
3. Hazing Coach/Sponsor will meet with the student and parent/guardian.	3. **1st Offense** – Suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for a minimum of 25% of the season (to be served consecutively) **2nd Offense** – One (1) calendar year suspension from all athletic/extracurricular activities

4. Tobacco/Nicotine (any form) – In Season	4. **1st Offense** – Minimum of one (1) game suspension **2nd Offense** – Suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 25% of the current season (to be served consecutively) **3rd Offense** – Dismissed from the team/activity but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic/extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season.
5. Violations of School Rules that Result in In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension	**5. Participation may resume when:** **ISS** All assignments are completed and released from in-school suspension. **OSS (Short-Term – Two (2) or more days)** The student returns to school on the next school day upon completion of out-of-school suspension. *1st Offense* Minimum of one (1) game/activity suspension. *2nd Offense* Suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 25% of the season (to be served consecutively). *3rd Offense* Dismissed from team/activity but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic/extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Disruption of Public Schools (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181)

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public-school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Emergency Preparedness: Plans/Emergency Drills/Security Systems

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency and local law enforcement agencies review and approve the school system's comprehensive School Safety Plan and each school's Emergency Preparedness Plan. These plans are coordinated with county, state, and federal emergency plans. Fire/evacuation drills will be held on a monthly basis. Also, drills for severe weather, lockdown of the school, parent-student reunification and bus evacuation will be held at least once each semester during the school year. In the event that a school must be evacuated, students will be reunified with their parents/guardians at an off-campus site. Parents/guardians will be notified by the Infinite Campus Messenger of the time and place of that reunification event. Parents/guardians should remind their children that during an emergency drill, students must respond quietly and quickly and must follow the direction given by their teachers and administrators. All our schools have security cameras and access control systems installed and these systems are monitored.

Student Relocation

In the event of a student emergency/crisis in a classroom, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the student(s) to another location to ensure continued learning.

Failure to Leave Campus (O.C.G.A. § 16-11-35)

Any person who fails to leave the premises when requested to leave any school property and/or returns to any school property after instructed by school staff or law enforcement to leave the property is considered trespassing and faces criminal prosecution of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Loitering on School Property (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1180)

It is unlawful for any person to remain within the school safety zone when that person does not have a legitimate cause or need to be present thereon. Students are not allowed to enter the premises of a school other than his/her school unless prior permission is received from an administrator of the school to be visited or unless the school is hosting a school-related function, such as an academic or athletic activity. A student may not enter or remain in any school building on weekends or after school hours without authorization or permission.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

The Fayette County Board of Education and enforcement agencies within the county employ school resource officers jointly. Their main purpose is to assist in providing a safe and secure learning environment for students, teachers, and staff. They are an excellent resource for teachers, parents/guardians, and students in dealing with individual problems or questions with respect to delinquency prevention and the law. Consistent with board policy and legal requirements, school resources officers also provide law enforcement support when needed. School crossing guards are also jointly employed by the Fayette County Board of Education and enforcement agencies within the county.

As mandated by state law in Georgia, **students may be charged and arrested for possession of weapons**, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1, **for possession of drugs**, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-13-24 through O.C.G.A. § 16-13-32, **for any felony or designated felony**, as described in Title 16 of the Criminal Code of Georgia Annotated, and **for causing bodily injury to others, damage to public or private property, and/or causing a major school disturbance, including but not limited to making terrorist threats**. The final decision for arresting a student is made by law enforcement. In all cases involving a School Resource Officer (SRO) or a law enforcement officer, as in all other serious situations at the school, the parents/guardians are notified in a timely manner.

Student Emergency Safety Information

It is critical for the school to be able to contact parents/guardians at any time students are at school. The school must have the parents'/guardians' current address and home, cellular, and business telephone numbers. Emergency contact persons and their telephone numbers are needed in case a parent/guardian cannot be reached. This information is required at the time of registration and whenever a change occurs with the parents'/guardians' address, telephone, or emergency contact information.

Ride Sharing

Ride sharing drivers (i.e., Uber, Lyft, taxi) are not permitted to check out students from school unless they are on the student's emergency contact list.

Security Recordings

Students, parents/guardians, and visitors are informed that networked security cameras are used in all facilities, in both interior and exterior locations and on school buses. Video recordings are maintained temporarily on local servers and DVRs.

Tobacco-Free Schools

School policy prohibits the use of all tobacco products including e-cigarettes, vapes and similar items, anywhere, by everyone, 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week on any school property.

Visitor Sign-In Procedures (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1180)

Georgia law requires that visitors, except for students, school system employees, law enforcement officers or other public safety officials in the performance of an emergency call, shall sign in at the designated location, as stated on posted signs of any school building, between the official starting and dismissal times, and provide a reason for their presence at the school. The school administrator or designee shall have the authority to ask any visitor to explain his or her presence in the school at any time when the school is in official session. Any person who does not have legitimate need or cause to be on the premises or on school property and/or who fails to sign-in at the designated location may be in violation of Georgia law and upon investigation may face criminal prosecution of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Visitors will be asked to show a photo ID card and will be asked to use the Visitor Management System to sign in and out of the school building. Visitors must wear a Visitors Badge issued by the front office while present in the school.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Searches will be conducted using the following guidelines:

1. Searches may be conducted by school employees when there is reason to suspect that school rules have been violated or that the health, safety or welfare of students may be in danger. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities that occur outside normal hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators. Searches of individual students may be conducted at any time when school employees have a reasonable suspicion that the student may have violated a law or school rule. A search of personal items may be made without the student being present. A student who refuses to submit to a lawful individual person search may be charged with insubordination.
2. Illegal items (firearms, weapons, and drugs) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety and security of others, or that might possibly interfere with school purposes, may be seized by school employees. **Students are advised not to pick up or handle any illegal items**. Touching or handling any contraband constitutes possession, even though the student does not own the item and did not bring it on school property.
3. Items That are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be removed from a student's person.
4. Student book bags and school lockers, desks and other school property may be subject to search without further notice to students or parents/guardians. Such searches may be conducted using "drug-sniffing" dogs or metal detectors. **Students are responsible for all items found in their book bags, lockers and desks. Students may not share lockers unless directed to do so by an administrator.** Where applicable, students are required to submit to the school office a key or combination for locks on their lockers.
5. **A student is responsible for all items found in his/her vehicle.** Student vehicles are subject to be searched without notice and may be conducted using "drug-sniffing" dogs.
6. Breathalyzers or passive alcohol sensors may be used to determine if a student is under the influence of alcohol when reasonable suspicion exists.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Absence – A student is considered absent when missing more than one-half of the regular school day.

Bullying (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4) (FCBOE Policy JCDAG)

An act, that is:

a. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
b. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
c. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
   (1) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1; or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
   (2) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
   (3) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
   (4) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.
d. 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 the use of data or software that is accused through a computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system.
e. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such 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 this 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.
f. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectric or photo optical system

Attendance Policy – (High School Only) A student must apply for credit if he/she misses more than 10 days (excused or unexcused) in any one semester. Attendance is compiled period-by-period. Missing more than 15 minutes in any one period is considered an absence.

ASPIRE (A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience) – An interactive tobacco/vaping prevention and cessation for teens (grades 6 – 12).

Bus Suspension – The local school administrator suspends the student from the bus for a specified period of time. The student is expected to attend school, but the parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from school.

Cease and Desist – Notification to student(s) from the school administration to immediately cease all activity which may be construed as bullying, threatening, intimidating or harassing. This behavior may be written, verbal or implied.

Chronic Disciplinary Student (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-764)
A chronic disciplinary problem student is a student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

Class Relocation - In the event of a student emergency/crisis in a classroom, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the student(s) to another location to ensure continued learning.

Clubs and Organizations – Are composed of students who wish to organize and meet for common goals, objectives, or purposes and which are directly under the supervision, direction, and control of the school.

Conflict Resolution Course – A Fayette County School System developed course designed to help students understand how to solve conflict without having to resort to physical violence.

Detention – A requirement that the student report to a specific school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed, complete assignments, or to receive specific instruction in behavior modification. The minimum of one (1) day notice will be given. (Detention may require the student's attendance before school, after school or on Saturday.)

Disciplinary Probation – A student who has violated certain provisions of this code may be placed on probation by the local school administration. Probation is a trial period during which a student violating school and/or school system rules is subject to further disciplinary action. A Behavior Plan may be put into place to guide the student's school behavior.

Disciplinary Tribunal Panel – A three-member panel composed of an administrator, teacher, counselor, or school official. The Panel hears evidence presented by the school system, the student, and parents when a student is referred by the local school principal or his/her designee. The Panel has the authority to make decisions ranging from returning the student to the local school to recommending permanent expulsion of the student.

Due Process – A student is afforded oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and is given an opportunity for a review, hearing and or other procedural rights in accordance with state and federal laws.

Expulsion – Removal of a student from the school system for an extended period of time beyond the current semester ranging from a semester, a year or permanently by a Disciplinary Tribunal Panel. Those expelled will not be allowed on school board property or allowed to attend school sponsored activities.

Harassment and Intimidation – Harassment and intimidation means any gesture or written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic including race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability or disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristics, that takes place on school property, at any school-related functions or activities or on a school bus and that:

1. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstance, will have the effect of harming a student or school employee or damaging his or her property;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, or school employee's work performance, or either's opportunities, or benefits;
3. Has the effect of having a substantial negative impact on a student's or a school employee's emotional or psychological well-being; or
4. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or school employee in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, or the orderly operation of the school.

"Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which may include use of cell phones or the internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school" (See FCBOE Policy JAA and/or JCAC)

Hazing – To subject a student to an activity that endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity.

Horizon Academy – A program within the Fayette LIFE Academy intended to provide a structured alternative learning environment for Fayette County students in grades 6-12 who have been expelled, placed on long-term suspension from their base school program for disciplinary reasons, or have been assigned on a voluntary basis. This program is designed to ensure the success of students who may be unlikely, for a variety of reasons, to reach their potential in a traditional setting. The program is also designed to focus on remediation of behavioral issues that frequently interfere with the learning process. The goal at Horizon Academy is to prepare each student for a successful return to the base school and ultimately, to graduate. Horizon Academy students will receive academic instruction in core subjects and a limited number of electives while the negative behaviors are being confronted and addressed. The student and parent/guardian must attend orientation prior to attending Horizon Academy and will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to comply with the rules and regulations. Parents must provide transportation for students enrolled in the Horizon Academy. Secondary students also have the opportunity to apply to attend the Horizon Academy on a voluntary basis, based on space availability. Students enrolled at the Horizon Academy due to discipline concerns are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. It is preferred that when disruptive students are long term suspended or expelled, that these students are allowed to attend an alternative placement (Horizon's Academy)
Individualized Educational Program (IEP) - A written record of an eligible student's special education and related services. The IEP must be reviewed at least once annually and describes the unique educational needs of the student and the manner in which those educational needs will be met.
In-School Suspension (ISS) – The student is removed from regular classes for a specified period at the local school. Class work assignments are sent to the student by the teachers. Students are excluded from all school-sponsored activities until completion of the assigned days.
Long-Term Suspension – (Out-of-School Suspension OSS) – The suspension of a student from the school system for more than ten (10) school days but not beyond the current semester. (GA Code § 20-2-751).
Pre-Arranged Absence – A written request made by the parents to the principal requesting permission for their child to be absent from school in order to take an educational related trip. A pre-arranged absence form must be completed and approved three (3) days prior to being absent. Approval does not make the absence excused.
Restitution – Full payment for damages or replacement cost.
Saturday School – An instructional activity held on Saturday which allows a student to make up work that was assigned while they were absent during the regular school day or an optional discipline strategy that may be assigned by building level administrators to address certain school discipline infractions.
Short-Term Suspension (Out-of-School Suspension – OSS) – The student is suspended out-of-school up to ten (10) days by the local school administrator. The student may be suspended for accumulation of offenses, as well as a major offense. During the term of suspension, the student is not allowed on the school property or any Board of Education property, or at any school activity or school-sponsored event.
Substance Use Prevention and Education Resource Program (SUPER) – Family-based drug education program available in four two-hour sessions designed to provide substance abuse information for students and their parents. S.U.P.E.R. is used as a positive counseling resource.
Transmission – The passing of or receiving any substance, article, or weapon to or from another person.
Truancy – The student stays out of school without permission or valid excuse.
Waiver of Right to Student Disciplinary Tribunal – Parents may sign a waiver if they choose not to contest the charges. By signing this waiver, the student and parent neither denies or admits to the charges outlined in the superintendent's letter, and voluntarily accept the assigned consequences. The waiver eliminates the tribunal process. In the event a parent or student does not attend the hearing, it will proceed as scheduled.
"504" – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. This law applies to public elementary and secondary schools, among other entities.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

SECONDARY
2025-2026

STUDENT HANDBOOK

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Age Requirements

- Students who are five years of age on or before September 1 are eligible for entrance to kindergarten.
- Students who are six years of age on or before September 1 are eligible for entrance to first grade.

Attendance Areas

Students must attend the school which lies within the attendance area where their parent/guardian resides. Students may not attend other schools in the system except with the permission of the Fayette County Board of Education. If the parent/guardian moves to another attendance area within the county after the start of the school year, the parents/guardians have the option of allowing their children to remain at their current school for the remainder of the school year. In such cases, the parents/guardians must receive written approval from School Operations for their children to attend school out of their assigned area. Acceptable behavior and attendance, including on time arrival and pick up, academic achievement, and maintaining a cooperative relationship with the school are required for this permission to remain valid. Bus transportation will not be provided. At the beginning of the next school year, the parents/guardians are required to enroll their children in the school they are assigned to attend based on the location of their residence. For information on your school attendance zone go to the School Zone Search tab on the www.fcboe.org website.

School Reassignment/Student Transfers

Parents/guardians may choose for their child to attend another school within the Fayette County School System if the request meets certain criteria (curriculum difference, family relocation, medical, emotional, social, or family adjustment) and the school has classroom space available. The reassignment request window deadline for the coming year (SY 2026-27) is tentative February 27, 2026. Check the www.fcboe.org website Announcements for exact dates and on-line request forms. Additionally, transfers under Georgia Public School Choice Laws allow all students to transfer to non-overcrowded schools. This transfer window tentatively opens June 1, 2026 and is open for two (2) weeks. Additional information regarding student transfers can be obtained by contacting the Operations Department School Safety, Discipline and Athletics office located at the Fayette Intermediate Building, 440 Hood Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214. Phone: 770-460-3535, Ext 1133.

Student Enrollment/Proof of Residency

To enroll in Fayette County Public Schools, a student must reside within the boundaries of Fayette County. A student must reside with a natural parent or a person who has been granted legal guardianship, a grandparent, a kinship caregiver with an affidavit, a person with a military power of attorney or the student must be under the care of a state agency with placement in Fayette County.

Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in the school district and whenever a change of residence occurs. The Enrollment & Records Center will accept the following records as proof of residency:

1. **"Homeowner":**
   - A current residential property tax statement or the purchasing/closing documents for property recently purchased. The record/document must include the name of the parent/guardian.
   - A current electric bill or initiation of utility service, with the name and service location, and your Photo ID.
2. **"Renters":**
   - Must submit a current and complete signed lease or rental agreement, which includes terms, dates, with all occupants listed. Month-to-month leases are not accepted. The lease must include the name of the parent/guardian, a current electric bill or initiation of utility service, with the name and service location, and your Photo ID.

To enroll students in the Fayette County School System in Fayette County, Georgia, on-line registration must be completed. Go to www.fcboe.org to start the enrollment process. Once the enrollment form is submitted, copies of required documents (above) need to be taken to the Enrollment & Records Center, located at 205 LaFayette Avenue, Building B, Fayetteville, GA 30214, 770-460-3535, Ext 1106. At that time the Enrollment & Records Center will verify the documents and issue a receipt to be taken to the school for placement. Enrollment is NOT complete until the parent or legal guardian goes to the Enrollment & Records Center and gets the receipt needed for school.

Proof of residence is subject to verification and investigation. Students enrolled under false information are illegally enrolled and will be withdrawn from school. Knowingly and willfully providing false information regarding proof of residence violates state law and may subject one to fine and/or imprisonment (O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20).

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

School Attendance

Compulsory Education Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1) requires that every parent/guardian or other person who has control of any child between the ages of 6 and 16 shall enroll and send such child to school. All children enrolled for 20 calendar days or more in the public schools of this state prior to the seventh birthday shall become subject to the provisions of the compulsory school attendance law. State Board of Education policy defines the school year as 180 attendance days or its instructional equivalent.

Full Day Attendance

Students are expected to be in attendance for the full school day. Students who check-in late or check-out early should submit a written note from their parent/guardian explaining their absence. Disciplinary action may be taken against students not in attendance for the full school day for reasons that cannot be excused.

Student Absences

Whenever students are absent, for any reason, their parent/guardian must send a signed and dated written explanation for the absence to their child's teacher no later than the **third day** following the student's return to school after their absence. After five (5) personal notes written by the parent/guardian for excused absences, the school administration may request appropriate medical documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating the absences. Academic work missed due to an absence should be made up when a student returns to school.

Excused Absences

As permitted under the state law and State Board of Education policies, students may be excused lawfully for the following reasons (GABOE Rule 160-5-1-.10):

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety as determined by the Fayette County School System.
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, not to exceed one (1) day.
7. A student whose parent/legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent/legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent/legal guardian prior to such parent's/legal guardians leave. A student whose parent/legal guardian is currently or previously served on active duty in the U. S. armed forces or in the Reserves or National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, not to exceed two (2) school years to participate in military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to the absence. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.1)
8. Any other absence not explicitly defined herein but deemed by the Fayette County Board of Education to have merit based on circumstances.

Local boards of education shall count students present when they:

1. Are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
2. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school.
3. A student who successfully participates in the Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program shall be counted as present and given full credit for the school day during which he or she served in the STEP program. No student shall be permitted to be absent from school or participate in the STEP program for more than two school days per school year.
4. Participates In a 4-H sponsored activity or program.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences will be subject to attendance investigation and can result in penalty as imposed by the Compulsory Education Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1) and Student Attendance Protocol Committee Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.2);

1. School will notify by mail parents/guardians of students ages 6-16 who have accumulated five (5) unexcused absences per semester and will include a copy of the summary of consequences.
2. School Operations will notify by letter parents/guardians of students ages 6-16 who have accumulated ten (10) unexcused absences per semester and will report violations to the Student Attendance Protocol Committee with the District Attorney's Office to determine if court action will be pursued for formal intervention.

3. State law requires an unemancipated minor over sixteen (16) years of age to have written permission from his or her parent/guardian prior to withdrawing from school.
4. With no proof or enrollment in another school, other school district, private school, or home study program, a student will be withdrawn from a school after ten (10) consecutive unexcused absences or when there is documentation validating the student no longer resides in the school's attendance zone. (FCBOE Policy JBC – Withdrawal for lack of attendance).

Pre-Arranged Absence

A written request made by the parents/legal guardians to the principal requesting permission for their child to be absent from school to take an educational related trip. A Pre-Arranged Absence Form must be completed and approved three (3) days prior to being absent. Approval does not make the absence excused but does give the student the opportunity to make up missed work. Requests are limited to one per semester.

Reporting Students with Unexcused Absences
Consequences for Unexcused Absences

1. Any parent/guardian, or other person who has control of any child who on the tenth unexcused day of absence per semester, and after the child's school system has notified the parent/guardian or other person who has control of any child, of each day's absence from school, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and court action may be pursued for formal Intervention.
2. Penalties:
   a. Fine – not less than $25.00 and not greater than $100.00
   b. Imprisonment – not to exceed thirty (30) days
   c. Community Service or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court.

Tardiness

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classroom/homeroom when the tardy bell/tone sounds. Students who are tardy for school must go to the office to sign-in before going to class. Schools will notify by letter the parents/guardians of students ages 6-16 who have accumulated five (5) unexcused tardies per semester.

Release of a Student

Prior to the end of the school day, students shall be released only to the parents/legal guardians or to persons properly identified to school office personnel by the parents/legal guardians, or upon written request by the parents/legal guardians confirmed by telephone or in person.

Teenage & Adult Driver Responsibility (TAADRA)

Schools must certify that a student is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school to be eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. Schools will use a Certificate of School Enrollment form to certify that a student is eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. A student who intends to get their learner's permit or driver's license over the summer months must request a Certificate of School Enrollment form from their school administration prior to the end of May. An administrative charge for notarizing this certificate may be charged by the school.

Exam Exemption - Applies to High School Students Only

Academic Final Exam Exemption

Each semester, as a reward for academic excellence, a student may choose to exempt up to three (3) final exams(if the student is enrolled in seven (7) classes at the home school) or two (2) final exams (if the student is enrolled in six (6) or fewer classes at the home school) provided the student has a grade of 95 or higher in the selected course(s).

Attendance Exam Exemption

Each semester, a student may exempt one (1) final exam provided the student has seven (7) or less attendance occurrences that semester and has a grade of 70 or above in the class he/she wants to exempt. Attendance occurrences include full day absences, check ins or check outs, and tardy to school.

Senior Final Exam Exemption

A high school senior who will be graduating at the end of the second semester may exempt the final exam in any course(s) provided the senior has a grade of 80 or higher in that course and provided the student has five (5) or less unexcused attendance occurrences.

For All Final Exam Exemptions

- If a student qualifies for both attendance and academic final exam exemptions, the student must choose only one type of exemption (academic or attendance). A student may not combine the two types of exemption**s.**

- A student may not exempt the first or second semester final exams for courses with an End of Course Milestones assessment, AP courses, and IB courses.

Final Exams in Dual Enrollment Courses are under the jurisdiction of the post-secondary institution. Fayette County final exam exemption procedures do not apply to dual enrollment courses.

CIVILITY POLICY

Members of the Fayette County School District staff should treat parents/guardians and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The district is committed to keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and to preventing unauthorized persons from entering schools or school board property.

Accordingly, employees are expected to follow practices that promote mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among district employees, parents/guardians, and the public in an effort to maintain a safe, harassment free workplace for our students and staff. It is not intended to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression. In the interest of presenting teachers, other employees, parents/guardians, and other adults as positive role models, the school system encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile, or aggressive actions. The school district seeks public cooperation with this endeavor. (FCBOE Policy KD: Staff-Community Relations)

Disruptive Individuals Must Leave School Property.

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt school or office operations, threatens the health and safety of students or staff, willfully causes property damage, uses loud and/or offensive language that could provoke a violent reaction, or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school district property, should be directed to leave school or school district property promptly by the school's principal or other chief administrative officer.

Directions to Staff in Dealing with Abusive Individuals.

If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the administrator or employee to whom the remarks are directed should calmly and politely warn the speaker to communicate civilly and, where appropriate, remind the speaker of the presence of students. If the abusive individual does not stop the behavior, the district employee may verbally notify the abusing individual that the meeting, conference, or telephone conversation is terminated; and, if the meeting or conference is on district premises, the employee shall direct the abusive individual to leave promptly. If necessary, the assistance of administrators or school resource officers should be sought. School administrators may issue a Civility Warning Letter to any member of the public who violates this policy. The employee may be asked to provide a written report of the incident.

This policy is based on Georgia Laws (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181 – Disrupting Public School)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR STUDENTS

All student clubs and organizations must follow guidelines and procedures governing the creation and operation of such clubs, organizations, and groups in accordance with the policies of Fayette County Board of Education. State law requires that parents/guardians receive information regarding school clubs and organizations, such information must include the name of the club or organization, mission or purpose, name of the club's faculty advisor, and a description of past or planned activities. Your child's school will provide this information through the school's website. On the parent/guardian signature page, the parent/guardian will have an opportunity to decline permission for his or her student to participate in a club or organization designated by him or her. This notification should also be communicated directly to the school.

COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Fayette County School District does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or sex in employment decisions or educational programs and activities, including its athletic programs (FCBOE Policies GAAA and JAA). Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon any of the factors previously listed should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor.

Allegations of inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel: (a) The Professional Standards Commission has established a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student which shall not prohibit the ability of a student to report the incident to law enforcement authorities. Our school system has implemented and followed this state mandated process. (b) If it is determined through the state mandated process that a complaint against a teacher, administrator, or other school employee is unsubstantiated

23 and without merit, the school system shall, at the request of the aggrieved party, submit a written statement to that effect to all local print and television media outlets that published any articles or reported any news relating to such complaint against the teacher, administrator, or employee (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.7)

Title VI & IX Coordinator – Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Audrey Toney – 770-460-3535, Ext 1030
Title VI & IX Coordinator for student complaints – Executive Director of Student Services, Yolanda Briggs-Johnson, 770-460-3535, Ext 1109
Title VI & IX Coordinator for employee complaints – Executive Director of Human Resources, Buffy Blodgett, 770-460-3535, Ext 1021
Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator – Executive Director of Student Services, Yolanda Briggs-Johnson, 770-460- 3535, Ext 1109
Sports Equity Coordinator – Executive Director for Athletics, Oatha Mann – 770-460-3535, Ext 1134
Exceptional Children's Services – Executive Director of Exceptional Children's Services, Dr. Kay Fannin, 770-460-3990, Ext 1224

Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. A copy of the discriminatory complaints procedure under Fayette County Board of Education Policy JAA/GAAA (Equal Opportunity/Discriminatory Complaints Procedure) or under Policy IDFA (Gender Equity in Sports) is located on the Fayette County Board of Education Website at www.fcboe.org.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age or emancipated minors under State Law ("eligible students") certain rights with the respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review, within 45 days of a request, the educational records of a student who is your child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen (18) or older, or those who are emancipated, your own educational records.
2. Procedures for Obtaining Access to Student Records: Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the principal a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. Generally, a parent will be permitted to obtain a copy of the education records of his or her child upon reasonable notice and payment of reasonable copying costs. The principal will plan for access and provide notice of such arrangements. Refer to FCBOE Policy JR – Student Records.
3. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. To request the school district to amend a record, parents/guardians or eligible students should write to the school principal, specify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents/guardians or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right of hearing.
4. The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning the alleged failures by the Fayette County Board of Education to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.
5. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act authorize disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member, including school nurses and school resource officers; a member of the school board; a person with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, volunteer or to the party to whom the district has outsourced services, such as electronic data storage); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district forwards educational records without prior consent to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. In addition, attendance and disciplinary information will be shared with the Georgia Department of Driver Services, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22.
6. At times the school system is served subpoenas for student's records, including academic, attendance and behavior records. Parents will receive written notification of such requests.

Release of Student Directory Information

1. The Fayette County School District has designated the following student-based information as "directory information" under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and may disclose that information upon request by appropriate institutions/agencies:

a. Student's name, address, and telephone number;
b. Student's photo;
c. Student's date and place of birth;
d. Student's participation in official school clubs and sports;
e. Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team;
f. Dates of attendance at the Fayette County School System;
g. Awards received during the time enrolled in Fayette County School System;
h. Grade Level; and
i. E-mail address.

2. Unless you as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and not be disclosed to the public upon request. **If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing within five (5) days after enrolling in school.**
3. You are also notified that from time-to-time students may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed by the news media at school or at some school activity. **If you as a parent/guardian object to your student being photographed, videotaped, or interviewed, you must notify your student's principal, in writing, of your objection within five (5) days after enrolling in school.** For more information, refer to FCBOE Policy JR – Student Records, which is available on the www.fcboe.org website.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (IDEA) PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 34 C.F.R.§ 300 et seq. (IDEA), the federal law concerning the education of students with disabilities, requires schools to provide parents of a child with a disability with notice containing a full explanation of the procedural safeguards available under the IDEA and U.S. Department of Education regulations.

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) regulations, the Fayette County School System seeks to ensure that all students with disabilities (ages 3 - 21) who need special education services within its jurisdiction are identified, located, and evaluated. The "child find" process may include provision of appropriate interventions, referral for a comprehensive evaluation, and determination of eligibility for special education and related services. Parents and educational providers play key roles in this process. If you are concerned that your child may have a disability and should be considered for eligibility for special education and related services, you can contact the Assistant Principal at your child's school, the Exceptional Children's Services (ECS) Department Lead Teacher at your child's school, or the Exceptional Children's Services (ECS) Department for more information.

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENT OF RIGHTS UNDER PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

1. Parents/guardians and eligible students (18 or older or emancipated minors) shall be notified at the beginning of the school year of the approximate dates during the school year when any of the activities listed below are expected to be scheduled. The Board of Education has developed and adopted policies, in conjunction with parents, regarding the activities described in paragraph (1). In accordance with Board policies, prior written consent must be obtained from parents/guardians before students are required to submit to any survey that contains questions about one (1) or more of the areas listed in subparagraph (1)(a). You have the right to inspect any survey or instrument used in the collection of information under subparagraphs (1)(a) and (1)(b) before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student and to opt your student out of participation in any activities described in paragraph (1) in accordance with regulations developed by the Superintendent. (FCBOE Policy JR – Student Records).

a. The administration of any survey containing one (1) or more of the following items:
- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, antisocial,self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

b. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

c. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, 25 administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students, but not including hearing, vision or scoliosis screening.

2. You may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for your student.
3. The school system is required by federal law to give this notice to parents/guardians. However, the school system does not have scheduled activities as are described in paragraph 1. If any such activities are initiated during the school year, you will be notified accordingly and will be afforded all the rights as described herein.
4. The Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) is an anonymous and statewide survey instrument that covers various topics such as school climate and safety, peer and adult social support, bullying, mental health, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation. The dates that the GSHS will be administered will be provided on the www.fcboe.org webpage. Parents can view the questions and receive more information about this survey by going to the following webpage: https://www.gadoe.org/wholechild/GSHS-II/Pages/Georgia-Student-Health-Survey-II.aspx.
Parents/Guardians have the right to opt-out of their student taking this survey by providing written notice to their student's school.

GRADUATION EXERCISE PRACTICE

Participation in the graduation ceremonies is a privilege. The student must have completed all state and local requirements for a diploma to be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. In addition, the student must maintain good conduct and be in good standing with the school by not having any outstanding obligations. Studentssuspended or expelled through the second semester of their senior year will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activities, including the prom, baccalaureate, or graduation ceremonies.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents/guardians, teachers, and school administrators will work together to improve student behavior and academic performance. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contacts is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents/guardians as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents'/guardians' concerns and comments. Parents/guardians and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct. Parents/guardians are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity in developing and updating the Code of Conduct by providing input online when the Code of Conduct survey is posted during the 2nd semester.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to become actively involved in their student's education experience. Some examples of ways to participate are:

- Parent/Guardian volunteers at the school site
- Parent/Guardian Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)
- Booster Club membership (academic and athletic)
- Committee and/or School Council participation
- Chaperones(field trips and extracurricular activities)
- Parent/Guardian/Teacher conferences
- Mentoring

Georgia Law O.C.G.A. § 35-3-34.2 states that volunteers who may have unsupervised access to children will submit to a fingerprint screening which includes a query through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) of their criminal history. All volunteers who work with students in an unsupervised capacity, including all chaperones for overnight field trips, must make an appointment with the Human Resources Department. The Human Resources Department will make every effort to conduct background checks in a reasonable fashion; however, results may take up to two (2) weeks. Only upon clearance from the Human Resources Department may the volunteers commence their volunteer duties. Volunteers must undergo a background check every five (5) years and a criminal history check each year.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code, which may result in a school staff member's request for a parent/guardian to come to the school for a conference. Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be involved in the behavior support process designed to promote positive choices and behavior. Please refer to your school's visitation policy.

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

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

School Health Services is proud to be part of the team effort that supports student success in our county. As your school nurse works with you this year, we need your assistance and cooperation in preparing for the possibility that your student might need to take medication, become ill, or have an injury during school hours. The parent letter, Immunization Information, the School

Medication Policy, School Medication Authorization and Health Care Plans are available on the Fayette County Board of Education website at www.fcboe.org under Departments, "School Health Services."

Student Emergency/Safety Information

Please make corrections, sign and return your student's Emergency Safety Card by the deadline established by your child's school. This information must be updated annually to enable us to contact you in case of an emergency. If any phone numbers or contact information changes, please notify the school or make changes on the Infinite Campus' Parent Portal.

School Medication Administration

The Fayette County Schools Medication Policy is available on the website e-Board under Policies and will be followed for all medications given at school.

1. **The parent/guardian must complete and sign the School Medication Authorization for ALL medications given at school. For prescription, homeopathic or supplement medications, a duly licensed, Georgia physician must also complete and sign the School Medication Authorization or Health Care Plan** available on the website or from your school nurse. CBD (cannabidiol) medications are not administered at school due to the Safe and Drug Free Legislation.
2. A parent/guardian or other designated adult must bring all medication, accompanied by the School Medication Authorization or Health Care Plan, to the school clinic unless special permission is given by the principal or school nurse.
3. All over the counter, prescription, homeopathic and supplement medications must be in their original containers with unexpired dates and labeled in English. Prescription medications must be clearly labeled with the physician's name, medication's name, strength, dosage, date, time for administration, and dispensing pharmacy. Parent/Guardian must provide over-the-counter medications to the clinic.
4. **If your student has a serious condition** (i.e., asthma, diabetes, or severe allergy), **permission may be granted to carry the medication on his/her person from the student's physician and parent/guardian on a completed and signed School Medication Authorization or Health Care Plan.**
5. Basic first aid supplies are routinely used in the school unless instructed differently by the parent/guardian.

Student Illness/Injury

The main reasons for keeping your student home from school are he/she is too sick to participate comfortably at school or might spread a contagious disease to other students. If your student has been diagnosed with a contagious disease, please contact the clinic so other student's parents and school staff may be alerted of the symptoms.

Students will be sent home from school when he/she has a fever >100.4° F or 38.0° C, vomiting or diarrhea, drainage from a wound, rash, eyes or nose, head lice or scabies, and/or an unexplained rash.

Your student may not return to school until they have been fever-free and symptom-free for 24 hours (i.e., If your child goes home sick anytime during the school day on Monday, your child may not return to school until Wednesday.) When there is doubt in your mind about sending your student to school, consult your healthcare provider. Your school nurse or principal may ask for a "Release to Return to School" from your doctor before returning to school.

Certificates of Immunization

All students entering or attending Grades Pre-KG through 12th grade in the Fayette County School System are required to have a complete Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) and issued by a licensed Georgia physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant or qualified employee of a local Health Department or the State Immunization Office in accordance with Georgia State Law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-771 and Regulations, Chapter 290-5-4. **All students must be immunized against disease as specified by the Georgia Department of Public Health or have medical or religious exemption on file at the school.** To avoid student withdrawal, the parent/guardian is responsible to submit a complete Form 3231 within thirty (30) calendar days of a new enrollment and within thirty (30) calendar days of the start of Kindergarten year, the start of 7th grade year, and the start of 11th grade year as required by state law and board policy (JBC).

Immunization information, Religious Exemption Form, and flyers for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 7 th, and 11th grade students are available on the website. **All students enrolled in a Georgia Public School for the first time are required to file a completed Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutrition Screening (Form 3300) in accordance with Georgia Regulations, Chapter 290-5- 31.**

Health Care Plans

If your student has a severe allergy, asthma, cardiac condition, diabetes, seizures, or other health condition which may require medication or special care during school hours, we recommend you and your healthcare provider complete and sign a Health Care Plan which is available on the website or from your school nurse. Any student returning to school after surgery, or a hospitalization is required to present from their healthcare provider a “Release to Return to School” and instructions for care (such as Discharge Instructions) including PE modifications and the use of crutches or a wheelchair and/or other medical devices or supplies (i.e., gloves, masks) provided by the parent/guardian.

SECTION 504 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Overview: Any student, parent, or guardian (“grievant”) may request an impartial hearing due to the school system’s actions or inactions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Request or an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system’s obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator. The school system’s Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator can be contacted through the school’s central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents under Section 504 may be found at the system website or picked up at the central office or at any of the school offices.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Fayette County Board of Education provides a variety of resources which may be available at most schools within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. The following is a list of student support resources/programs that may be available to parents/guardians and students in the Fayette County School System. This is not a comprehensive listing:

ASPIRE – Tobacco/Vaping Diversion Program – An online, bilingual multimedia program developed by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. It is an interactive tobacco/vaping prevention and cessation curriculum for teens (grades 6-12). The program is free and self-paced.
Behavior Support Teacher – Specializesin identifying and implementing interventions to increase appropriate student behavior and model effective interventions for school staff.
Character Education Programs – The process of shaping long-standing habits that reflect positive character traits.
Children at Risk in Education (CARE) – A program that is a committed system of reaching out to students who are experiencing social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties which prevent them from achieving academic success.
Community Mentors – Individualsrecruited and trained by the Community Schools mentoring program called FRIENDS. Mentors must meet with students regularly and work to develop a supportive, nurturing relationship.
Literacy Action – A group of trained individuals to assist new students with developing reading skills.
Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)/ Student Support Team (SST) – A systematic, collaborative problem-solving framework used to generate recommendations to address academic and behavioral needs of students. Students can be referred to the SST by parents, teachers, or other staff members. Upon referral, all available information regarding the student should be reviewed and considered when exploring additional educational support. Students demonstrating a pattern of behavior referrals or suspensions should be referred to the school level MTSS team and/or SST to create a behavior support plan.
New Student Club – A peer program which assists new students in making the necessary adjustments to transition into a new school setting.
Parent Resource Center – Books, audiotapes, videotapes, etc. that are purchased by CARE and managed by the school CARE Team.
Parent Tutors – Parents who volunteer to tutor students in a supervised school setting.
Peer Mediation – Conflict resolution program where students are trained to help other students resolve their problems. The emphasis is on “I” messages and reflective listening skills. Problems may include name-calling, rumors, teasing, etc.
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – PBIS is an evidence-based, data-driven framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school’s sense of safety and support improved academic outcomes.
Rainbows/Spectrum – Twelve-week small group program for grief and loss issues. Teachers and staff are trained as facilitators. Multiple groups are conducted simultaneously.
School Counselors, Psychologists, and Social Workers – These individuals provide student assistance at the school level.
Student Advocacy Specialist – Mentorship program that assists students with concerns that impact learning and social interactions with others with a focus on crisis prevention.
Student Mentors – High school students share time with elementary students. Activities may include reading, board games, talking, etc.

Substance Use Prevention and Education Resource Program (SUPER) – Family-based drug education program available in four two hour sessions designed to provide substance abuse information for students and their parents. S.U.P.E.R. is used as a positive counseling resource.
Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) – A ten-week course offered at night with a focus on praise versus encouragement, punishment versus discipline, goals of misbehavior and ownership of problems.
Teacher Mentors – Teachers who volunteer to mentor a student by agreeing to see the student, at least briefly, every day, and to spend 30 minutes with the student in a supportive activity once a week.
The Leader in Me – Franklin Covey's whole school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.
Thinking for a Change: Juveniles – This four-hour online student behavior diversion program will teach a student how to use critical thinking and decision making to figure things out and make good decisions that direct their destiny and fulfill their goals and dreams. The student will discover the steps necessary to achieve their goals, as well as learn about the power that ordinary, everyday decisions can have over the quality of their life.

TEACHER AUTHORITY TO REMOVE DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS FROM THE CLASSROOM

(O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738) The board of education, superintendent and local school principals fully support the authority of a teacher to remove from his or her class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. In addition, if the teacher determines that the behavior of the student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher, the student can be removed. The school administration will follow the procedures outlined by state law and local board of education policy in determining the consequences and/or placement of the student.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Within the provisions of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) statute, parents/guardians may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The following information may be requested: whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction, is teaching under an emergency or provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived, is teaching in the field of discipline of the teacher's certification, and qualifications of paraprofessionals, if paraprofessional services are provided. Parents/guardians wishing to request this information must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled or the Executive Director of Human Resources at 770-460-3535.

TECHNOLOGY

Fayette County Public Schools Is a 1:1 school district. This program provides teachers and students with technology tools to enhance daily instruction. This initiative creates a learning environment that is personalized and student-directed, while providing a relevant and authentic learning experience which aligns with Fayette County's Portrait of a Graduate.

Internet Acceptable Use (Fayette County Board Policy IFBG)

The Fayette County Board of Education believes that the use of technology for information acquisition, retrieval, manipulation, distribution, and storage is an important part of preparing students for the future. The Board further believes that technology enriches the experience in the classroom and can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. Refer to Fayette County Board Policy IFBG (Internet Acceptable Use Policy) for more information.

Refer to the Device Use and Cybersafety Use Agreements at https://fcboe.org/techagreements.

Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to, those uses that violate the law, that are specifically named as violations in this document, that violate the rules of network etiquette, or that hamper the integrity or security of this computer/network/Internet system or any components that are connected to it.

Consequences for inappropriate use of technology may result in disciplinary action according to the progressive discipline guidelines. Depending on the severity of an incident, school administration may also revoke access to technology resources.

Violations of Law

Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. Any attempt to break the law using a District computer/network/Internet account may result in prosecution against the offender by the proper authorities. If such an event should occur, the District will fully comply with the authorities to provide any information necessary for legal action.

Circumventing Content Filters

It is strictly prohibited for students to circumvent the school system's content filters. This includes, but is not limited to, accessing blocked websites, downloading prohibited content, or sending spam. Only the Internet gateway provided by the school district within

the school may be accessed while on campus. Personal Internet connected devices, such as but not limited to personal hotspots or VPN's, are not permitted.

Impersonation
Attempts to log on to the computer/network/Internet impersonating a system administrator or District employee, student, or individual other than oneself is prohibited.

Reporting Security Issues
If knowledge of inappropriate material or bypassing network safeguards (filters and firewalls) on the computer/network/Internet is identified, the student should immediately notify a staff member. Any issues discovered should never be shared with other students.

Privacy Issues and Cell Phones/Cameras/Recorders
Students are permitted to use personal electronic communication devices, including cell phones, during the school day for instructional purposes only, and only with the permission and knowledge of a staff member or administrator, as governed by individual school rules.

The Fayette County School District will not be responsible for the electronic devices owned by, and brought to school, by students. The use of cell phones, cameras, recorders, or other electronic devices that might violate the privacy rights of students and/or school staff or are used to commit academic fraud will result in appropriate consequences. **Please remind your children of the harmful effects of texting inappropriate videos, pictures, or information. This practice can have serious educational and criminal repercussions with respect to minors. For more information and resources on keeping your child safe online, please visit** www.commonsensemedia.org/

Security and Damages/Loss or Theft
Responsibility to keep personal devices secure rests with the individual owner. The Fayette County School System is not liable for any personal device lost, stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is lost, stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office like other personal artifacts that are impacted in similar situations.

For school-issued devices, the student is responsible for any damage or loss incurred. It is recommended that protective cases are used, and optional insurance is purchased. For insurance information, please contact your child's school. If for any reason the device is lost, stolen or damaged during the time it is issued to the student, whether intentionally or due to negligence, the student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for the following fees:
Student Device

Accidental Damage
Accidental Damage and Warranty Coverage for 4 year

Loss/Theft/Non-Accidental Damage
Lost / Stolen - Full replacement cost of device, charges and case ($300)*
Non-Accidental Damage - Repair cost up to full replacement cost of device, charger and case ($300)
Lost or Damage Charger - $40 each

*Full replacement cost for devices include the device and case. (Chromebook = $240; Charger = $40; Case = $20). Checks should be made out to FCBOE and returned to your student's school.

If the device is stolen during the time that it is issued to the student, the student and the student's parent/guardian will be responsible for filing a police report and submitting a copy to the school administration.

YouTube Opt-Out
Content from YouTube is filtered using the restriction level "strict" for elementary and "moderate" for secondary schools. If you choose to not allow your student to view educational content on YouTube on district-issued or owned devices, please download the opt-out page from the following link: https://www.fcboe.org/youtubeoptout. Sign and date this page along with the signature page for the Code of Conduct and return to your child's school.

Google Workspace for Education Notice to Parents and Guardians

In addition to the core services provided, we also allow students to access certain other Google services with their Google Workspace for Education accounts. Specifically, your child has access to educational content on YouTube,Google Maps, and Google Earth. For more information, visit: https://www.fcboe.org/googlenotice

Privacy

There is no expectation of privacy for anything done on district issued devices nor any personal electronic device connected to the district-owned network. District staff may, at any point, confiscate and search the contents of any district-issued electronic device. The Fayette County School District recognizes all aspects of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Failure to Return a Device or Accessories upon Withdrawal from the School

Students who transfer, withdraw, are expelled, or terminate enrollment at the school for any reason must return their device on the date of withdrawal/termination. Parents and students who fail to return the device agree to pay for the full replacement cost of the device and any accessories, and further agree that the District may take other administrative steps until such payment is made. A student who fails to return a device or any accessories without reporting them lost or stolen will be responsible for the full replacement cost of the items that were not returned.

Expectations for Virtual Learning

While using an FCBOE account, students can communicate with one another via Google resources. All communications are archived for review by the district and can be referenced indefinitely. Students using these tools, or any other virtual classroom-type tools should adhere to all discipline guidelines. Mute microphone when you are not speaking; refrain from using profanity; be respectful towards your teacher and classmates; and dress appropriately.

TRANSPORTATION

The Fayette County School System offers transportation for eligible students enrolled in Fayette County schools.

Eligibility

- School bus transportation will be provided for students who do not live in non-transport zones and live more than one-half (1/2) mile from their school of attendance.
- Any exception to this eligibility (non-transport zones) for students shall be based on the existence of hazardous conditions. The existence of such conditions shall be determined by the Fayette County Department of Transportation (Transportation).
- The minimum distances are measured, at the discretion of Transportation, based on the following: Travel distance made along the commonly traveled road(s) or path from the nearest entrance of the school of attendance to the driveway curb at the student's residence or the primary entrance curb of multi-family residential complexes.
- Students and their parents/guardians are reminded that riding the bus is a service that may be withdrawn at the discretion of school administration under certain circumstances, such as student behavior.
- Transportation for students with disabilities will be provided to one specific address for eligible students whose transportation has been identified as a related service necessary to enable the student to receive the educational services outlined in the student's individualized education program (IEP). The routing of school buses shall be planned and operated with consideration of bus mileage and allowing for servicing multiple program assignments. Routes should not be altered except for:
    - o Permanent changes authorized by Transportation
    - o Emergencies as determined by the principal or designee and Transportation
- Parents/Guardians of students approved to attend a school outside of their home school attendance zone are responsible for their student's transportation.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing transportation for students suspended from riding the bus.
- Transportation for gatherings, meetings, parties, and childcare is the responsibility of parents/guardians.
- Transportation may be provided for family emergencies at the discretion of the Director of Transportation in conjunction with school administration. Requests should be submitted in writing in a timely manner to the school principal (or his/her designee). The request must include the student's name, the bus number with bus stop information, parent/guardian's phone number, and parent/guardian signature. School personnel will complete a bus pass which the student will present to the bus driver prior to boarding the bus. Approval is contingent upon:
    - o A bus pass approved and provided by a school administrator.
    - o Confirmation that seating is available and will not overcrowd the bus.
    - o The student has no prior disciplinary action taken regarding behavior on a bus.
- Transportation to or from daycare centers and the school is the responsibility of the daycare center or parent/guardian.

- Unauthorized persons are not permitted to ride district school buses.

Registering for School Bus Transportation

- Parents requesting school bus transportation for their students must register upon enrollment and each school year in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Parents/Guardians can change their students' riding status by contacting Transportation at businfo@fcboe.org.
- Parents must re-register their students for transportation prior to 6th, 9th, 10th 11th and 12th grades. Registration requests for all other grades will be continued to the next year.

Routing

- Transportation Supervisors establish bus routes and bus stops and resolve problems that arise in routing and operation of buses.
- The routing of school buses shall be planned considering student safety, the use of minimal mileage, avoiding traveling empty and making excessive bus stops. Every effort shall be made to avoid routing buses across railroads and expressways.
- Every effort will be made to keep bus stops on main arterial roads in subdivisions. Students living in subdivisions or multifamily complexes less than one-half (1/2) mile distance from the trunk route will be picked up at the main entrance of the subdivision of a multi-family complex.
- Distance between bus stops shall not be closer than one-tenth mile unless deemed necessary by Transportation.
- Students will be routed to the stop closest to their home address as listed in Infinite Campus.
- The enrolling parent of a student with two home addresses within the attendance zone of their school listed in Infinite Campus should contact businfo@fcboe.org with their student's name or ID number and their school of attendance to request bus service to both addresses.

Safety

Safety Guidelines have been developed and will be enforced to ensure the safety of all students. Parental support is requested for bus drivers in their efforts to safely transport students. Parents/Guardians can help students develop a positive attitude toward school bus safety. The bus and the bus stop are extensions of the student's school day. All rules contained within the Code of Conduct are in effect on the bus and bus stop.
School bus discipline and school bus safety are intertwined and inseparable. Students must properly ride the bus to ensure everyone's safety including that of other students, motorists, and pedestrians. Disruptive or distracting conduct will not be tolerated. All bus safety rules apply to regular bus routes, field trips, academic trips, and athletic trips.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus or public school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181).

School buses are equipped with Global Position System (GPS) for increased safety and security. The device records bus location and time. Parents/Guardians and students can track their school bus by using the transportation parent app (see the Transportation home page on the fcboe.org website for information). Accurate tracking is subject to the availability of adequate cell service.

Safety Rules at the Bus Stop

- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the safety of students traveling to, returning from, and at the bus stop.
- Students should be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the assigned stop time; ready to board the bus.
- Wait a safe distance (at least 12 feet) from the road, be prepared to quickly board the bus.
- Respect the property of other people.
- Refrain from pushing, fighting, or any other unsafe activity at the bus stop.
- Students may only use their assigned bus stop.
- It is not permissible for a student to travel to another bus stop to ride the school bus. If a student misses their bus at their stop, the parent assumes the responsibility of transporting their child to school.

Safety Rules for Loading and Unloading

- The "Danger Zone" is a twelve (12) foot perimeter around the bus where most accidents happen. Do not linger in the "Danger Zone."
- When crossing, be sure all traffic has stopped both ways and wait for the bus driver's signal. (Stop, Look, Listen), walk twelve (12) feet in front of the bus to stay in the driver's view. When unloading, stop at the centerline of the road and again wait for the bus driver's signal, walk toward the edge of the bus, and look both ways before crossing.
- Never cross the road behind a school bus.
- Never go back for items dropped in the "Danger Zone". Get the driver's attention.

- Never stop in the “Danger Zone” to get mail from the mailbox.
- Put away cell phones, remove headphones and earbuds, during loading and unloading.
- Never bring objects such as weapons, flammable materials, glass, skateboards, animals, flowers, balloons or large projects on the bus. Do not bring items on the bus that cannot fit in the student’s lap.

Safety Rules on the Bus

- Cooperate with the bus driver.
- The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
- Remain seated, facing the front of the bus, holding your belongings in your lap.
- Refrain from using loud voices, profanity and/or obscene gestures.
- Maintain silence at railroad crossings.
- Do not engage the driver in conversation or distract the driver during loading and unloading.
- Do not eat on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Do not vape or use tobacco products.
- Keep your head, hands and feet inside the bus.
- Do not fight, push, or shove.
- Do not tamper with or damage the bus equipment.

Student Management

Procedures have been developed to assist students in changing inappropriate or unsafe behavior on the school bus. This program was developed to assist students who may be in danger of losing their bus riding privilege.

- The driver may conduct a brief and private discussion with the student requesting a change in the inappropriate behavior.
- The driver may communicate with the parent/guardian concerning the inappropriate student behavior and corrective actions.
- The driver may contact school administration to assist in encouraging appropriate student behavior. School administration may assign school based discipline or suspend the student from the bus.
- Students may be assigned to the School Bus Intervention Program, a safety program designed for students with inappropriate or unsafe behavior. A parent/guardian must attend the program with the student. Assignments to the program will be by a school administrator.

Additional Guidelines

- A student/students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones, audible radios, audio players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver’s operation of the school bus; and (B) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver’s operation of the school bus. Code Section 20-2-751.4.
- Conversation with the driver or behavior distracting the driver by students during loading and unloading of buses should be avoided. During this critical time complete concentration by the driver is required.
- Parents/guardians with concerns that need to be addressed by the bus driver should schedule a conference with the driver through the Transportation Department. Under no circumstances should parents distract the driver by boarding the bus at the bus stop. Student safety must be the top priority during this time.
- Students and other passengers on school buses may be videotaped for the purpose of promoting a safe environment for students, personnel, passengers, and drivers.
- Any action or disturbance that endangers the wellbeing of any student will be handled in accordance with the student discipline section of this handbook.
- All carry-on items such as band instruments, book bags and projects must be small enough to be held in the student’s lap. The student must be able to board the bus with the item safely and without assistance.
- Books, lunch boxes, musical instruments or other items should not be placed in the aisle of the bus or in front of the emergency door.

Anonymous Alerts
Send a Report Online:
https://tips.anonymousalerts.com/fayettecps

Report drugs, weapons, bullying, threats, or other safety issues.
Or

Safe Schools Hotline

(Anonymous/Confidential)

Toll-Free 1-877-SAY-STOP
(1-887-729-7867)

24 hours a day\7 days a week