



Brickey McCloud



2025-2026

STUDENT
HANDBOOK



Elementary School





Welcome Brickey Bear Families! We look forward to building a strong school-home partnership to ensure all students thrive. We believe all children can learn and achieve growth at Brickey-McCloud Elementary.

Nobody gets left behind or forgotten at our school! Our community has a strong history and tradition to protect, foster, and embrace education. We encourage family support and strong partnerships to make school a positive experience. There is a lot of pride in being a Brickey Bear, which we will be extending into our House System this year. We want to foster positive relationships across grade levels and a better sense of belonging.

I am excited to continue my principalship in this great school community and partner with you to support high quality education! The home-school partnership is essential to collectively support each student's school experience. Through strong communication and cooperation between home and school we can be successful. Please read this handbook carefully to acquaint yourself with the school's policies/procedures and take time to go over the most important items with your child. Your teacher(s) will provide grade level specifics. Within these pages, you will find the rules, expectations, and procedures for our school services. This is meant to be a guide as you will not find an answer for every question or issue that may arise during a school year. If you have questions, please reach out to the main office or communicate with your child's teacher.

Mr. Adcock is the Assistant Principal, if you have concerns or matters needing resolution, please reach out either to us:

Kind regards,

Susan Hutton, Principal (susan.hutton@knoxschools.org)
Wes Adcock, Assistant Principal (wes.adcock@knoxschools.org)

Our Mission

The mission of Brickey-McCloud Elementary School is to challenge and guide children to reach their fullest potential as responsible, lifelong learners who are considerate, contributing citizens, and respectful of diversity.

Our Vision

Our vision is that every student will become a productive citizen today, tomorrow, and always.

Our Motto

Today, tomorrow, and always, let the learning begin!





WELCOME BRICKLEY BEARS!



House System

A house system is a fun and engaging way to promote community, teamwork, and school spirit among students. Each student will be assigned to a "house", and throughout the year they will participate in various activities, challenges, and events to earn points for their house.

Benefits of House System

Fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie.
Encourages healthy competition and teamwork.
Enhances student engagement and motivation.
Promotes positive behavior and school values.

How does it work?

Students will be placed in one of six houses. Each house has its own name and color! They will work together with their housemates to earn points through actions of our "Big 3" (Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe): attendance, being on time, good behavior, and participation in school events. Throughout the year, the house with the most points will earn rewards.



Resiliente

Forte



Empatia

Honestas



Patientia



Coraggio

"Think of our school like a big family. In our family, we have different groups, or 'houses,' and each house is like a team. Just like in sports or games, we try our best to win when we're playing, but we also want to make sure everyone is having fun and feeling good.

Imagine you're playing a game with your friends at recess. Even if you're on different teams, you still want everyone to play fair, be nice, and feel happy. It's the same with our houses. We compete to do our best, but we also cheer each other on, help each other, and show respect, because at the end of the day, we're all part of the same school family."

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF STRENGTH

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF RESILIENCE

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF HONESTY

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF EMPATHY

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF PATIENCE

**BRICKEY-MCCLLOUD
ELEMENTARY**



HOUSE OF COURAGE

Brickey Bears

Declare:

In challenges, we're **STRONG** and true

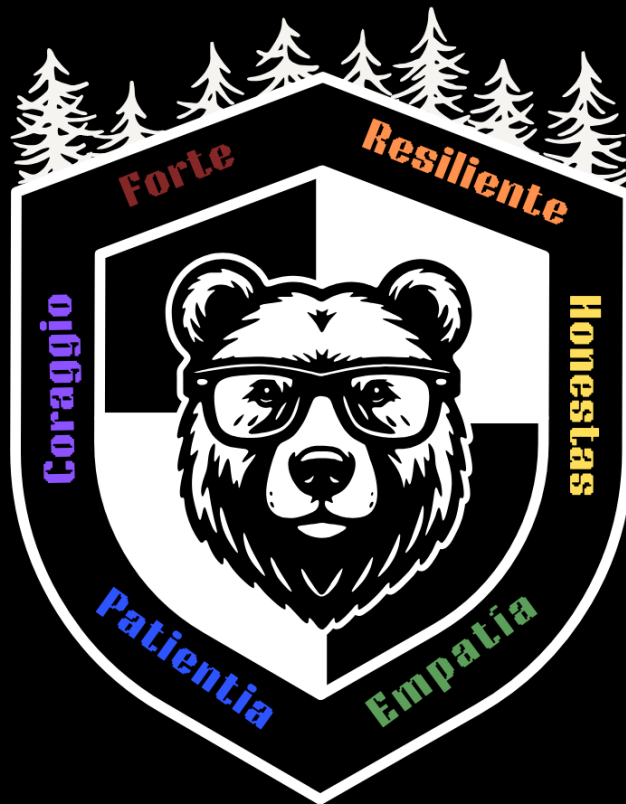
With **RESILIENCE** we rise anew

HONESTY guides our actions fair,

EMPATHY shows we truly care.

PATIENCE teaches that good things take time

COURAGEOUS hearts, in every climb



Arrival Procedures

- School doors open at 7:15 a.m. Please do not drop students off before 7:15 as there will be no supervision available. The school day begins at 7:45 a.m. with the tardy bell ringing at 7:50 a.m. If you are dropping your child off at/after 7:50, you will need to park your vehicle and come sign-in your child at the front office. If tardies become a frequent occurrence, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian and the school social worker.
- Morning Drop Off- All students will enter the building through the main doors on both sides of the building. Bus riders will enter through the back doors and car riders will enter through the front doors. Students arriving after 7:30 may also drop-off in the back. Students who choose to eat breakfast will report to the cafeteria. Students not eating breakfast will report to their classrooms.
- Changes to any arrival procedures (i.e. delayed start time, etc.) will be communicated via ParentSquare.

Dismissal Procedures

- Students are dismissed at 2:45 p.m. Transportation options include parent pick up, daycare pick up, buses, or SHADES of Development after school daycare. We are fortunate to have SHADES of Development here at Brickey-McCloud Elementary School for after school day care. SHADES serves students at the school from 2:45 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in this service, please call 689-2755 or the front office.
- Students are expected to be picked up by 3:00 p.m. (If a student is repeatedly picked up later than 3:00 p.m., you will be invited to a parent conference with the principal or assistant principal to discuss the situation and make a plan for remedying the problem.)
- Please do not park your car and come into the school to get your child during dismissal. Please remain in your car and we will send your child out

to you when you pull up to the cone. They will be supervised during dismissal at all times. This will help us ensure your child's safety during dismissal. Thank you for your cooperation.

- The CURRENT car rider tag with your child/children's assigned number must be displayed until your child is safely placed in your vehicle. Car tags and numbers are new each year, last year's items will not be sufficient to pick your child up. If you do not have a car rider tag/the most current car rider tag, you must come into the office and show photo identification before the child is released. The staff running the carline outside WILL NOT accept IDs to call students for dismissal. If your family needs additional car tags then please come into the office and get them.
- Students will not be called to the office after 2:15 p.m. to be checked out with the exception of a doctor or dental appointment. We ask that you call the secretaries ahead of time and make arrangements for your child to be held in the office until you arrive.

Traffic Patterns

*Front (Dry Gap Pike.) – Car Riders Only

*Back (Emory Road.) – Buses, Daycares, and Car Riders after 7:30 a.m.

- Car rider drop off begins at 7:15 in the front of the building (Dry Gap). Mr. Israel or another staff member will be directing traffic at the intersection of the front and south side of the building. Please follow the traffic rules and procedures to ensure safety and efficiency.
- From 7:15 to 7:30, buses/daycare buses/handicapped students will use the Emory Road entrance until 7:30. No private vehicles will be allowed in the bus loading-unloading area or behind the school for dropping or picking up students until 7:30 a.m.. At 7:30, the back parking lot (Emory Road) will be open for student drop off.
- From 7:30–7:45, cars entering on the Emory Road side will be able to drop off car riders in the back circle. Staff members will be directing traffic

during this time. Please follow the directions to ensure safety and efficiency.

- Visitor parking will be provided in the parking lot in front of the building (Dry Gap Pike) entrance.
- Please refrain from parking and walking your child across the parking lot (except for Pre-K students). This allows traffic to flow continuously and allows children to become more independent. In addition, as in the past, parents will not be allowed to walk students to the classroom.

School Visitors & Procedures for Entering the Building

- Visitors are welcome in the building. When visiting the school, please enter through the front entrance using the buzzer system. Please have your ID ready as you will need that to sign-in with our security system. You will then need to enter the front office to sign in and receive your visitors badge. All visitors must sign in and out in the front office.
- All doors will be locked during the school day.
- Visitors are welcome during the school day to help with various tasks at school, for parent conferences, and/or to eat lunch with a student. When coming to volunteer, please sign in with your ID at the office and get a visitors badge. The office staff will instruct you where to go.
- When coming to eat lunch with a student, please sign-in with the office and obtain a visitor badge during the student's scheduled lunch time. Students may get their lunch from the cafeteria, but visitors will not be permitted inside the cafeteria. Visitors may eat at the table(s) in the area beside the office and the clinic or outside the front of the building. No additional students other than your own child will be permitted to eat outside of the cafeteria. If you are taking your student out of the building to eat, you must sign them out with the office. When lunchtime is over, you are expected to sign students back in with the office.



SCHOOL SAFETY



Attendance Policy

- Attendance is a major factor in determining the academic success of students. Arriving on time and remaining at school for the entire school day provides students with full academic instruction. Acceptable reasons for being tardy or being dismissed early would include medical or dental appointments (doctors' excuses required) or a death in the family.
- All students, K – 5th grade, must attend at least three hours and sixteen minutes per day in order to be counted present.
- State law in Tennessee excuses absences caused by sickness, death in the family, recognized religious holidays, and genuine family emergencies (documentation required).
- The Knox County Board of Education requires that excuses for absences be presented to the school upon the child's return to school. Once you are notified through ParentSquare of your child's absence, you can hit reply and state the reason of the student's absence. That will then be used as a parent note. If you have a medical note, it can be sent to the teacher or emailed to lisa.cardwell@knoxschools.org. All absences are considered unexcused until documentation is provided. If notes are not sent to the school within five (5) school days, the absences will remain unexcused. Notes signed by anyone other than the parent/guardian will not be accepted. Acceptable (excusable) conditions for students being absent from school include the following:

- Personal illness – a student may be absent, due to illness, no more than ten (10) days per school year supported by parent notes. Any illness that results in an absence beyond the 10 days requires a doctor's note.
 - Illness in the family temporarily requiring help from the child (documentation is required)
 - Death in the family (obituary is required)
 - Recognized religious holidays regularly observed by persons of the student's faith
 - Verifiable family emergency (documentation is required)
- If your child is absent for an extended period and you wish to pick up school assignments, please call the school office to leave a message for the teacher. A teacher has 24 hours to get the assignments together. You may pick it up from the office 24 hours after making the call to the school office.
- Any absence not complying with the above reasons for excused absences will be considered as unexcused. Examples of unexcused absences are family vacations taken during the school year, sports events/tournaments, missing the bus, oversleeping, etc....

Cafeteria

- Hot lunches are prepared daily by our cafeteria staff. Weekly menus are available on the website, <http://knoxschools.org>. The KCS Nutrition Department uses a new online payment system for school meals, and a new website to apply for free / reduced-price meals.
- The new portal is LINQ Connect, and users can register for an account at linqconnect.com. Paper applications are also available by calling the KCS Food and Nutrition Services Department at (865) 594-9563.
- Students who bring their lunches may purchase milk and/or ice cream. We highly discourage soft drinks in lunch boxes. Quite often they leak and cause

problems when opened after being jostled around in the lunchboxes. Thank you!

Breakfast Prices:

- Student \$2.25
- Reduced Student \$.30
- Adult KCS Personnel \$3.00
- Adult Visitor \$3.00

Lunch Prices:

- K-5 student \$3.25
- Reduced Student \$.40
- Adult KCS Personnel \$5.00
- Adult Visitor \$5.00

School Fees

- The Brickey-McCloud Elementary School fees list for the 25-26 school year will be sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. This money will be used for supplies such as special paper, art materials, agendas, etc. These materials will be given to your child as they are needed. All checks must be made payable to Brickey-McCloud Elementary School. In addition, payments may be made online by going to <https://knoxschools.schoolcashonline.com/>

Discipline

For the 2025-2026 school year, we will continue to use PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) as our school-wide discipline system as an addition to our PBIS system we are continuing the House System. The PBIS system provides school-wide expectations and procedures for all areas within our school. Students will earn house points for demonstrating positive behaviors and can earn incentives through house points. These incentives can be used to earn rewards. The school reserves the right to remove/not allow students to participate in school-wide or house activities due to a student's

behavior. Each grade level will provide parents with their grade level behavior systems on parent information nights.

Classroom Discipline Plans

Specific classroom discipline policies will be discussed thoroughly on parent night and information will be sent home with students after that date.

Office Referrals

Teachers are expected to deal with their students in an orderly and constructive manner. When a child is sent to the office for severe behavior problems, it is regarded as a serious matter. There will be a discipline referral sent by the teacher with the student to the school's administration. Depending on the seriousness of the situation and/or the number of previous referrals to the office, the administrator will choose to conference with the students, contact parent(s) by telephone or in writing, make a home visit, conference with the classroom teacher and/or place the student in PAC. Students may be suspended out of school based on continuous behavior problems.

Playground Expectations

Many children use the playground daily. In order to ensure safety for all, please follow the rules below:

- Use the bathroom before going out to the playground.
- Use equipment properly.
- Practice safety on the playground.
- Play in assigned areas only.
- Closed-toe shoes are preferred.

Cafeteria Expectations

The cafeteria is a place where students may enjoy their lunch with their friends. We want it to be pleasant for everyone. It is also a place where we

can help the children learn about being responsible by using good table manners, cleaning up after themselves, and keeping an appropriate noise level so that the attendants can ensure everyone's safety. We will expect the students to follow these guidelines:

- Walk at all times. Running presents safety issues.
- Remain seated appropriately facing your assigned table. It becomes a safety issue when your feet and/or body are turned around in your seat.
- Please do not get out of your seat without permission. If you need something, please raise your hand.
- Always use your "inside" voice with appropriate conversation.
- Keep food in its proper place.
- Always follow the assistants' direction and listen to be dismissed one table at a time. We ask that children clean up after themselves.
- Be sure to walk to the trashcan after being dismissed and then walk to either the door or the bench as directed by the assistant.

Bus Safety Guidelines/Expectations

In order to ensure students' safety, all students being transported by bus are under the authority of their bus driver and must obey his/her requests. Knox County Board of Education policy states that the school bus is an extension of school activity; therefore, students shall conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior. More specifically, students must follow the official Knox County bus rules as listed below:

- Obey the bus driver.
- Follow the bus driver's first request.
- Driver is authorized to assign seats.
- No loud, rude, abusive, or profane language.
- No eating or drinking allowed.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Keep hands and head inside the bus.
- Never throw objects inside or out of the bus windows.

- Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs are prohibited.
- Parents will be financially responsible for any act of vandalism.

Administration shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary.

A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that their behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if the child disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation. The suspension of a student from riding the school bus shall follow the same procedures as for any other school suspension.

Emergency/ Safety Information

In case of emergency, each student is required to have current emergency information on file in the office. This emergency form is kept on file in the office and in the clinic in order for us to contact you in case of emergency. These are issued to students the first school day and should be returned the next day. It is vital that we always have correct phone numbers for parents, both at home and at work. Neighbors' or friends' numbers are also very important so we can act if we are unable to reach you. Please help us by providing several numbers and by keeping them up to date. Do not be afraid to give us unlisted numbers. We regard all phone numbers and addresses as private.

Please understand that under no circumstances will a child be released to someone who is not listed on the emergency information sheet. Nor will anyone be allowed to visit with your child unless they are on the emergency card. Please, do not ask us to add people to the card for you by phone or FAX. If you want to add or delete a person with whom your child can be released, you must make these changes in person. We reserve the right to ask for identification at any time.

Safety is a prime concern at Brickey-McCloud Elementary School. The school safety plan is updated annually and addresses everyday safety as well as



GENERAL INFORMATION

emergencies. We ask parents to support our efforts to provide a safe environment by reinforcing school rules with their children regarding behavior at school, on buses, and walking to and from school. We require parents to follow safe driving practices around our school and demonstrate good character by conducting themselves in a civil manner.

Crisis Planning

The safety of your child is our greatest concern. The school holds regular safety drills to teach pupils to respond calmly in the event of an emergency. Emergency drills are conducted regularly and detailed evacuation plans are posted inside the door of each classroom. Each class has an escape route to an outside area and away from the building. Our school crisis plan covers the following potential emergencies: armed intruder, student with firearm, class hostage, arson, bomb threat, disruptive student, missing student, life-threatening crisis, death of a student/staff member, bus accident, and weather related emergencies.

Student Illness

We are very fortunate to have 2 full time nurses on staff. Throughout the school day, students may visit our school clinic for a variety of reasons. Sometimes these visits require us to call parents or guardians to pick up their sick child. Having updated emergency information will help us contact you should this be the situation.

As always, we ask that you please keep your child at home if they are running a fever or vomiting.

Medication Policy

If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, a medical form signed by a doctor must be presented to the office. All medication will be kept in and dispensed through the main office or clinic. Medical forms are available in the school office.

Prescriptions or over-the-counter medicine is never to be sent to school with a student. Parents must fill out a special form issued by the school nurse and completed by the child's doctor for medicine to be administered at school. If students do bring medication to school, his/her parents will be called to come to school and pick it up. They will not be allowed to keep it in their possession for their safety and the safety of others.

School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

Decisions to close school because of inclement weather or disaster are made by the Knox County School System. Please do not call school to find out if school is to be closed or dismissed early due to snow, ice, or other disasters. Local television and radio stations will broadcast school closing or early dismissal information just as soon as the decisions are made. We will always let you know of any closings or delays as soon as we are handed that information from the district.

Civility Policy

It is the intent of Brickey-McCloud Elementary School to promote mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among employees, parents, and the public. The policy provides rules of conduct that both permit and encourage participation in school activities and communication between parents, community members and school district personnel. This policy also identifies those behaviors that are considered inappropriate and disruptive to the operation of a school or other school district facility.

It is not the intent of the Board of Education to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression.

Any individual who: (1) disrupts, threatens or attempts to do or does physical harm to school personnel, students, others lawfully on school premises; (2) intentionally causes damage to school property; (3) uses loud, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language; or enters a part of the school not open to the public, may be directed to leave the school property by the school administrator or designee. If the person refuses to leave the premises as directed, the administrator or designee shall seek the assistance of law enforcement and request that law enforcement take action as necessary. If the offender threatens personal harm, the administrator or designee shall contact law enforcement officers. If any school employee receives written communication, an email, or a voice message which is abusive, threatening, or obscene, the employee is not obligated to respond to the e-mail or return the telephone call.

Unsafe School Choice Policy

Under the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who is the victim of a violent crime as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 40-38-11(g), or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 39-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district. Contact Brian Hartsell for additional information at 594-1502.

Personal Property

The school is not responsible for any loss or damage of personal property. Personal belongings should be clearly marked with the students' name. Lost items are usually placed in a lost and found container located outside the office. At the end of each semester, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity. Please have your child check the lost and found box as soon as you realize an item has been lost at school.

Students are not allowed to bring electronic devices for the purpose of playing video games, texting, etc. If you choose to allow your child to bring a book

reader, such as a Kindle, or an iPad, they will be expected to follow the teacher's guidelines in terms of the use of those devices. Brickey McCloud Elementary School staff will not be responsible if they become damaged or stolen.

Backpacks: In order to help support student movement safety around the building we ask that students refrain from using a backpack with wheels. These backpacks take up significantly more space in the classroom as well as make movement in halls more difficult during times of heavy traffic.

Wireless Communication Devices: If you choose to send a wireless communication device (smart watch, cellphone, etc.) to school with your child, it must remain turned off and stored in his/her backpack at all times. Please note that Brickey McCloud Elementary School staff will not be responsible if they become damaged or stolen.

Student Transfer

If a student transfers to another school, parents should notify the teacher or the secretary at least two weeks in advance. Students should not leave with debts to the school. Library books and textbooks must be returned before leaving.

Library Services

The library is part of the school curriculum and is open daily for our students. Our library provides a great source of information and facts. It also has many great books to read. Students and parents are encouraged to use the library as much as possible. Library books are part of the school property. Students who check out books must return the books in a timely manner or they must pay for the book.

Communication

Communication to and from school is extremely important and will be provided in the following ways: Brickey McCloud ParentSquare newsletters, phone calls,

and parent conferences. Our school website is currently under construction, updates will be sent out regarding this when it is complete.

Additionally, the school will utilize the Parent Square system for upcoming events and points of interest. In addition, the Brickey-McCloud Facebook page and Brickey-McCloud PTO page will be updated with announcements and happenings around school.

Teachers have a 24-hour school/work window to respond to parent emails, phone calls, and/or ParentSquare messages. Please respect their time and wait the 24 hours before contacting again. If you haven't heard within 24 work/school hours, please contact the office.

Field Trips

When a field trip is to be taken, your child will bring home a permission slip giving the destination and date. This form must be signed and returned to the teacher before your child will be allowed to go on the trip. No child will attend a field trip without parent permission. The school cannot accept permission over the telephone or by FAX. Only parents who are approved chaperones will be able to go on school field trips. In being an approved chaperone, you understand that you may be responsible for a group of students other than just your child. To be an approved chaperone you will have to have a background check on file with the school. If you wish to dismiss your child from the field trip, you must notify, in writing, to the teacher 24-hours in advance. In addition, students may only leave a field trip with their parent/legal guardian.

Dress Code

The appearance of a student is primarily the responsibility of the student and the parent(s). We expect students to maintain an appearance that is not distracting to teachers or other students or in any way that disrupts the instructional program of the school.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire and appearance are within the acceptable limits. The principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities.

Water Bottles

We are requesting if you choose to send a water bottle with your child it must be SPILL PROOF!

Please no open straws or open spouts. A good rule to follow is if it gets knocked over or dropped, water should not come out. This is a safety issue across the school, and this helps keep everyone safe.

Also, please remember that only water is allowed in water bottles (e.g., no soda, juice, flavored drinks).

Thank you for your attention and support.

ENCORE GRADING SYSTEM

We are excited to welcome you back for another year! Your students will attend one ENCORE class each day, on an 8- day rotation. Art & P. E. classes are team taught, while STEM and Library have the same teacher throughout the school year. Music is taught by two teachers on rotating schedules.

For our grading system - At the beginning of each nine weeks, we enter 300 points for participation and 300 points for behavior for your student. Our expectation will be that all students will successfully participate and follow class rules for the grading period. We want every student to finish the nine weeks with 300 points in both categories!

If your student does not have complete success, you will be notified by a note sent home letting you know about the problem in class, whether it be participation or behavior. These comments will also be placed online in the parent portal (Aspen). Each incident will deduct 15 points. The first note does not drop the grade a letter, but each time a student drops 15 points, it will continue to affect the overall grade.

As always, you may call the school to speak to the ENCORE teacher or email the teacher if you have further questions.

Thank you for your support as we work together to make learning fun for the children.

Library does not give nine weeks grades.

*Also to inform you, occasionally ENCORE teachers show videos that correlate with the curriculum.



Art



Library



STEM



Physical
Education



Music

<u>Section I:</u> Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy			
	Wellness Policy	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
			I-440	4/06
			Reviewed:	Revised:
	5/25	7/25		

1 The Board of Education recognizes the link between student wellness and academic achievement. In order
2 to implement overall wellness for students, the plan below shall be followed by all schools in the district.
3 Teachers, school health professionals, parents, administrators, and interested citizens can participate in
4 the development of wellness policies.
5
6
7 **COMMITMENT TO ENSURING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**
8
9 Knox County Schools strives to ensure that all schools offer a healthy, safe and supportive environment
10 for students, staff, parents and visitors. To further this goal, Knox County Schools shall implement all
11 state and federal laws and regulations related to the development, curriculum, services, standards,
12 staffing, and assessment of wellness programs.
13
14 All schools shall implement the CDC’s Coordinated School Health (CSH) approach to managing new
15 and existing wellness-related programs and services in schools based on State Law, State Board of
16 Education CSH Standards and Guidelines. The district Coordinated School Health Coordinator shall be
17 responsible for overseeing compliance with the State Board of Education CSH Standards and Guidelines
18 in the school district.
19
20 **I. School Health Advisory Council**
21 The advisory council will consist of a group of individuals representing the school and community,
22 including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, school board members, health professionals,
23 school food service representatives, and members of the public. The council will serve as a resource to
24 school health committees for implementing the local wellness policy as a part of the school improvement
25 plan. The primary responsibilities of the council include, but are not limited to:
26
27 • developing, monitoring, reviewing, and, as necessary, revising physical activity and nutrition
28 policies;
29
30 • ensuring that all schools within KCS create and implement an action plan related to modules from
31 the *School Health Index*;
32
33 • ensuring that the results of the action plan are annually reported to the School Health Advisory
34 Council;
35
36 • ensuring that school level results include measures of progress on each indicator of the *School*
37 *Health Index*.
38
39 KCS will consider the recommendations of the School Health Advisory Council in making any policy
40 changes that affect the healthy learning environment.
41
42

II. Commitment to Nutrition

A. Nutrition Standards Goals for foods and beverages sold on campus:

Knox County Schools is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while providing options within menu offerings for cultural food preferences and accommodating special dietary needs.

Menus are written to meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. Knox County Schools offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.

The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards are developed for foods and beverages sold or offered for sale during the school day in schools that include students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. The school day will be defined as starting at midnight before the beginning of the official school day and continuing until 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

These standards apply to food items sold or offered for sale during the school day including but not limited to school store items, a la carte items, vending machine items, and snack bar items. The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards do not apply to foods served as a federally reimbursable meal to students.

Schools may choose to conduct infrequent school-sponsored fundraisers that include the sale of foods or beverages that do not meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards; however, these specially exempted fundraisers must not exceed the allowed number of exemptions granted by the state agency. All school principals must document the dates of their exempt fundraisers and items sold.

B. Foods and Beverages Provided but Not Sold to Students:

School Nutrition and Coordinated School Health will encourage snacks offered as part of classroom celebrations, parties, and student birthdays to follow Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards and include fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, water, low-fat milk, and other foods low in fat, sugar, sodium, and caffeine.

School principals should consult with school cafeteria managers on any questions pertaining to the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

C. Nutrition Education Goals

Knox County Schools shall ensure the following: (1) Tennessee State Nutrition Standards are included in middle school health and high school wellness instruction. Nutrition education will be integrated into all areas of curriculum such as math, science, language arts, and social studies as appropriate, (2) Students will have an awareness to eat a variety of foods (i.e. fruits, grains, vegetables, lower fat food items) and be physically active, (3) Nutrition education will involve sharing information with families and the community to positively impact students and the health of the community, and (4) the District will provide information to families that promote the benefits of proper nutrition and how to provide nutritious meals for their families.

D. Nutrition and Student Wellness Promotion Goals

In-school marketing for food and beverage items must only be for items meeting the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

Activities for promoting nutrition will also include:

1. Taste test opportunities for students;
2. Student survey groups;
3. Posting nutrition and health posters in school cafeterias;
4. Access to fresh drinking water throughout the school day; and
5. Adequate time to enjoy healthy meals in a pleasant environment.

III. Commitment to Physical Activity

Knox County Schools recognizes that physical activity is extremely important to the overall health of a child. Schools shall support and promote physical activity. Physical activity may include moderate to vigorous activity such as walking, jumping rope, playing volleyball, or other forms of physical activity that promote fitness and well-being.

Students in kindergarten through grade five shall receive a minimum of 40 minutes of physical activity each full day of school. Supervised physical activity should be offered daily to all elementary (K-5) school children. For elementary school, physical activity must include unstructured play outside, unless weather conditions negatively impact the reasonable execution of physical activity outside. Physical activity shall not be withheld from, nor imposed upon, a student as punishment, and should not include the following: a) time during which a student is permitted to use an electronic device; or b) time spent by a student in a physical education class; or c) time spent walking to and from class.

Students in middle and high schools shall receive 90 minutes of physical activity each full school week. For grades 6-12, physical activity may include time spent by students in a physical education class but may not include time spent walking to and from class.

IV. Physical Education

Physical activity is separate and distinct from physical education. Physical Education classes shall be offered with moderate to vigorous physical activity being an integral part of the class. Students shall be encouraged by staff whenever possible to be physically active.

Elementary school students shall participate in a physical education class that meets at least two times per full school week. The total physical education class time each full school week shall be no less than 60 minutes.

V. Assessment of Wellness Policy

To evaluate compliance with this policy, the Executive Director of School Nutrition and the Coordinated School Health Coordinator will develop an assessment tool. This assessment will be conducted triennially

1 and will be made available to the public. The Knox County School Health Advisory Council will also
2 monitor progress made toward attaining policy goals.
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42 Legal References:

- 43 1. T.C.A. § 49-6-2307.
- 44 2. Public Law 111-296.
- 45 3. State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-06-.04.
- 46 4. State Board of Education Policy 4.206.
- 47 5. T.C.A. § 49-6-1021.
- 48 6. T.C.A. § 49-6-1022.
- 49 7. 7 CFR § 210.11.

RESTRICTIONS ON CELL PHONES & WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Beginning this school year, students will **not** be allowed to use cell phones or other wireless communication devices during the school day, unless:

- A teacher is authorized to allow use for explicit educational purposes;
- A student needs the device for an emergency or to manage a health condition; or
- A student is authorized through an IEP or 504 plan.

At all other times, devices must be **stored out of sight**. *This includes during lunch or class transitions.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a *wireless communication device*?

State law defines wireless communication devices as any “portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties.” This includes cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, personal laptops, smart glasses, gaming devices, etc.

2. Why are device restrictions changing?

In spring 2025, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a law restricting device usage during instructional time. The law also called for local Boards of Education to create a policy defining appropriate usage in their district.

This summer, the Knox County Board of Education approved changes to Policy J-240, which also prohibits students from using devices during non-instructional time, such as lunch or class changes.

3. Can students have devices while they are on campus?

Yes. Students are allowed to have devices while on school campuses, but they must be stored out of sight during the school day unless an approved exception applies.

4. Where will students store their devices while they're at school?

Each school will share guidance with families about approved storage options. Storage may vary by school but could include backpacks, purses, or cubbies.

5. Can students use wireless communication devices before or after school?

Policy J-240 does not apply to before or after school hours. Families should refer to guidance from their school or before/after-school care providers for expectations during those times.

6. Can students use wireless communication devices on the bus?

No changes have been made to bus transportation rules.

7. Can students wear a smartwatch if it's in airplane mode?

No. The law applies to any device capable of two-way communication, regardless of its mode or setting. Unless the student has an IEP, 504 Plan, or ILP requiring the use of a smartwatch, it must be stored out of sight during the school day.

8. What about Chromebooks?

KCS is a 1:1 district, meaning every student is issued a Chromebook for instructional use. Students may continue using their district-issued Chromebook during the school day as directed by their teachers.

9. How will families be notified if there is an emergency on campus?

In the event of an emergency or potential emergency, schools will communicate with families through ParentSquare.

10. What will happen if students use their devices during the school day?

Students who violate Policy J-240 may be subject to a range of consequences, depending on the frequency or severity of the violation. Initial consequences may include a warning or device confiscation. Repeated infractions may result in office referrals or additional disciplinary actions.

Serious misuse, such as using a device to bully, harass, or intimidate others, may result in more significant consequences, including suspension.

Confiscated devices may be returned to the student or, if necessary, may need to be picked up by a parent or guardian.



DO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY AND SUPPORT THEIR SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME?!

THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO POST A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FOR YOUR STUDENT ON OUR ELECTRONIC SIGN FOR \$25. THE MESSAGE WILL RUN FOR 2 DAYS FROM THE DATE IT IS PLACED ON THE SIGN. FORM AND PAYMENT (SCHOOL CASH ONLINE) MUST BE SUBMITTED AND PAID 3 DAYS BEFORE THE START DATE. FORMS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO LISA.CARDWELL@KNOXSCHOOLS.ORG OR TO THE FRONT OFFICE. THE MESSAGE MUST BE APPROVED BY THE BRICKEY ADMINISTRATION AND CANNOT BE POLITICAL IN NATURE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF THE SPECIAL MESSAGES TO CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING BRICKEY STUDENTS!