



TO: Members, Calcasieu Parish School Board
FROM: Robert Barrentine, Chief Operations Officer
DATE: September 24, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.
SUBJECT: Administrative and Personnel Committee Meeting

AGENDA

A & P Committee Meeting Items

- 1. Policy Updates and Revisions:**
 - A. Instructional Materials
 - B. Expulsion
 - C. Child Abuse
 - D. Behavioral Health Support for Students
 - E. Absences and Excuses
 - F. Computer Access and Use
 - G. Bulling and Hazing

A & P Committee Members:

Dean Roberts, Chair
Shawn Baumgarten
Russell Castille
Billy Breaux
Patrick Pichon

Karen Hardy McReynolds, Vice Chair
Tony O'Banion
Rev. Desmond Wallace
Dr. Betty Washington
Phyllis Ayo

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Calcasieu Parish School Board strongly encourages the utilization of a wide variety of materials and equipment in the instructional program. The selection of media should be determined by the objectives of the course and the experiences and activities to be provided to meet such objectives. Instructional personnel are encouraged to keep abreast of the types of materials and equipment which can contribute toward meeting the goals and objectives of courses. Instructional personnel are further encouraged to assist the administration in the selection and purchase of such materials and equipment for the school.

Available system resources, including personnel, materials, and supplies, shall be allocated to schools on an equitable basis, recognizing system policies and local school needs.

PARENTAL ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school shall be entitled to access to instructional materials as provided by law. A parent shall be entitled to:

1. Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child.
2. Review any survey before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student.

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall develop and maintain pertinent administrative regulations and procedures governing parental access to instructional materials. At a minimum, such regulations and procedures shall specify reasonable hours for in-person review and that access to instructional materials, including online access, shall be provided upon reasonable request of the parent. ~~and reasonable and customary fees for copying of material(s) requested.~~ If a parent requests a paper copy of material that can be readily copied using school equipment, such copy shall be provided. The rules shall establish reasonable and customary fees to be collected by the school to cover the cost of providing such copies.

No fee shall be charged to a parent for in-person viewing of their child's instructional materials if the parent does not request that copies are made of those materials.

No fee shall be imposed when a parent accesses instructional materials online.

~~Nothing~~ No other provision of law or School Board policy shall prohibit or interfere with the parent making his/her own copies on school premises using any mobile or other device capable of making copies.

The principal of each school shall ensure that the school complies with such rules.

For the purpose of this policy:

Instructional materials means content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student. It also includes any ~~nonsecure test, nonsecure assessment, or~~ survey administered to a student. The term also includes books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process.

Parent means the parent or legal guardian of a child.

Survey means any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING CRITICISM OF MATERIAL

Criticism of specific materials should be handled by the building principal whenever possible. If the criticism cannot be resolved by the principal to the satisfaction of the complainant, then the following procedures shall be followed.

1. The criticism shall be presented in writing and directed to the principal and shall include specific information as to author, title, publisher, and the reason for the criticism, giving specific references to those aspects or sections of the book objected to.
2. The statement must be signed and identified so that a reply may be given.
3. The material shall be reviewed in the light of the objections by a committee appointed by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
4. The report of the special committee shall be forwarded to the Superintendent for action as rapidly as possible. The Superintendent may choose to refer the problem to the Calcasieu Parish School Board.
5. The decision of the Superintendent and/or the Calcasieu Parish School Board shall be sent in writing to the complainant. Copies of the decision shall also be sent to all staff personnel affected by the decision.

Revised: February 10, 2015

Revised: July, 2025

Ref: Constitution of Louisiana, Art. VII, §13; La. Rev. Stat. Ann. "17:81, 17:355; Board minutes, 2-10-15.

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EXPULSION

The Calcasieu Parish School Board may expel a student from school if an offense committed by the student is serious enough to warrant such action or is in violation of state law or the School Board's code of conduct. Prior to any expulsion the school principal or his/her designee shall advise the student of the particular misconduct of which he/she is accused as well as the basis for such accusation, and the student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his/her version of the facts. The principal/designee shall contact the parent or legal guardian of the student to notify them of the expulsion, and establish a date and time for a conference with the principal or designee as a requirement for readmitting the student. Notice shall be given by contacting the parent or legal guardian by telephone at the telephone number shown on the student's registration card, or by electronic communication and additionally by a certified letter sent to the address shown on the student's registration card. If the parent or legal guardian fails to attend the required conference within five (5) school days of notification, the truancy laws shall be effective.

Upon the recommendation for expulsion of a student by the principal a hearing shall be conducted by the Superintendent or his/her designee within fifteen (15) school days to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. The School Board shall provide written notice of the hearing to the student and his/her parent or legal guardian, and the notice shall advise the student and his/her parent or legal guardian of their rights. Notification of the time, date, and place of the expulsion hearing shall be mailed to the parents. Following the hearing, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parents of the decision rendered.

At the hearing, the principal and/or teacher concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the Superintendent and the concerned teacher shall be permitted to attend and present any relevant information. Until the hearing, the student shall remain suspended with access to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. A student who is suspended for longer than ten (10) days or expelled shall be provided with academic instruction at an alternative setting in accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:416.2.

Upon the conclusion of the hearing and upon finding the student guilty of conduct warranting expulsion, the Superintendent shall determine whether such student shall be expelled and the specified period of expulsion, or if other disciplinary action shall be taken. Unless otherwise stipulated by state statutes, the period of expulsion shall not be less than one school semester and may carry over into the next school year, if necessary. During an expulsion, the Superintendent shall place the student in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement.

APPEALS

The parent or legal guardian who has been recommended for expulsion in accordance with state law may, within five (5) days after the decision to expel has been rendered, submit a request to the School Board to review the findings of the Superintendent or designee at a time set by the School Board; otherwise the decision of the Superintendent shall be final. Such review shall also be available to the parent or legal guardian of a student who was recommended for expulsion but whose discipline was reduced to a suspension. After reviewing the findings of the Superintendent or designee, the School Board may affirm, modify, or reverse the action of the Superintendent or designee.

The parent or legal guardian of the student who has been recommended for expulsion in accordance with state law may, within ten (10) school days, appeal to the district court for the parish in which the student's school is located, an adverse ruling of the School Board in upholding the action of the Superintendent or his/her designee. The court may reverse or revise the ruling of the School Board upon a finding that the ruling of the School Board was based on an absence of any relevant evidence in support thereof. The parent or legal guardian of the student shall have such right to appeal to the district court even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a suspension.

FIREARMS, KNIVES, AND DRUGS

Any student, in grades six (6) through twelve (12), who is found guilty of being in possession of a firearm, a knife with a blade equal to or in excess of two and one-half inches (2 ½ ") in length, or any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of ~~four (4)~~ two (2) complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. However, the Superintendent, may modify the length of the minimum expulsion required on a case-by-case basis, provided such modification is in writing.

[A student found guilty of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof shall not be subject to such expulsion unless it is the second or subsequent occurrence.](#)

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

The provisions related to mandatory recommendation for expulsion shall not be applied to virtual instruction received by a student in the student's home.

ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR EXPULSION

1. Any student, after being suspended for committing violations of any discipline policies or other rule infractions, depending on the severity of the behavior, may be expelled upon recommendation to the Superintendent by the principal and after

an appropriate hearing is held by the Superintendent or designee.

2. The principal may recommend expulsion to the Superintendent for any student in grades pre-kindergarten through five who is found carrying or possessing a knife with a blade which equals or exceeds two and one-half (2 ½) inches in length.
3. Any students in grades six through twelve found guilty of being in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or vaping product or found guilty on the first occurrence of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event may be recommended for expulsion.
4. Notwithstanding any public school state or local policies, a student in grades six through twelve who is suspended a third time within the same school year for any offense, excluding those related to dress codes or tardiness, shall be recommended for expulsion.
5. Any student in pre-kindergarten through five, *after being suspended on three (3) occasions* for committing drugs or weapons offenses during the same school year, **shall, upon committing the fourth offense**, be expelled from all the public schools of the system until the beginning of the next regular school year, and the student's reinstatement shall be subject to the review and approval of the School Board.
6. In accordance with federal regulations, a student determined to have brought a weapon to a school under the School Board's jurisdiction shall be expelled for a minimum of one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. A *weapon*, in accordance with federal statutes, means a firearm or any device which is designed to expel a projectile or any destructive device, which in turn means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine or similar device.
7. The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult, would have constituted a felony, may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the School Board; such expulsions shall require the vote of **two-thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ of the elected members of the School Board**, shall not be for a period of time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the Superintendent or his/her designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.

EXPULSION NOT APPLICABLE

Expulsion shall not apply to the following:

1. A student carrying or possessing a firearm or knife for purposes of involvement in a school class, course, or school approved cocurricular or extracurricular activity or any other activity approved by appropriate school officials.
2. A student possessing any controlled dangerous substance that has been obtained directly or due to a valid prescription or order from a licensed medical provider. However, the student shall carry evidence of the prescription or medical provider's order on his/her person at all times when in possession of any controlled dangerous substance which shall be subject to verification. Evidence of the prescription or medical provider's order includes possession of the controlled dangerous substance in its original packaging as received from the pharmacy.

In addition, school officials, in accordance with statutory provisions, shall have total discretion and shall exercise such discretion in imposing on a student any disciplinary actions authorized by state law for possession by a student of a firearm or knife on school property when such firearm or knife is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the student's intent to use the firearm or knife in a criminal manner.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

A student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be expelled from school for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

READMITTANCE FOLLOWING EXPULSION

Required Parent Conference

In each case of expulsion, the school principal, or his or her designee, shall contact the parent or legal guardian of the student to notify them of the expulsion, and establish a date and time for a conference with the principal or designee as a requirement for readmitting the student. Notice shall be given by sending a certified letter to the address shown on the student's registration card. Also, additional notification may be made by contacting the parent or legal guardian by telephone at the telephone number shown on the student's registration card.

If the parent, or legal guardian fails to attend the required conference within five (5) school days of notification, the student may be considered a truant and dealt with according to all applicable statutory provisions. On not more than one occasion each school year when the parent or legal guardian refuses to respond, the principal may determine whether readmitting the student is in the best interest of the student. On any subsequent occasions in the same school year, the student shall not be readmitted unless the parent

or legal guardian, court, or other appointed representative responds.

In any case where a teacher, principal, or other school employee is authorized to require the parent or legal guardian of a student to attend a conference or meeting regarding the student's behavior and after notice, the parent or legal guardian willfully refuses to attend, the principal or his or her designee shall file a complaint, in accordance with statutory provisions, with a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction.

Readmittance After All Expulsions

Any student expelled may be readmitted to school on a probationary basis at any time during the expulsion period on such terms and conditions as may be stipulated by the Superintendent. Readmission to school on a probationary basis shall be contingent on the student and legal guardian or custodian agreeing in writing to the conditions stipulated. Any such agreement shall contain a provision for immediate removal of the student from school premises and returned to the school system's alternative school setting without benefit of a hearing or other procedure upon the principal or Superintendent determining the student has violated any term or condition of the agreement. Immediately thereafter, the principal or designee shall provide proper notification in writing of the determination and reasons for removal to the Superintendent and the student's parent or legal guardian.

Readmittance After Expulsion for Firearms, Knives, Weapons, or Drugs

In addition to the readmittance provisions for all expulsions stated above, a student that has been expelled for possessing on school property or on a bus, a firearm, knife, or other dangerous weapon, or possessing or possession with intent to distribute or distributing, selling, giving, or loaning while on school property or a school bus any controlled dangerous substance shall not be enrolled or readmitted to any regular public school of the school system on a probationary basis prior to the completion of the period of expulsion at the school system's alternative education setting until the student produces written documentation that he/she and his/her parent or legal guardian have enrolled and participated or is participating in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling program related to the reason(s) for the student's expulsion. The rehabilitation or counseling programs shall be provided by such programs approved by the juvenile or family court having jurisdiction, if applicable, or by the School Board. The requirement for enrollment and participation in a rehabilitation or counseling program shall be waived only upon a documented showing by the student that no appropriate program is available in the area or that the student cannot enroll or participate due to financial hardship.

Review of Records

A student who has been expelled from any school in or out of state shall not be admitted to a school in the school system except upon the review and approval of the School Board following the request for admission. To facilitate the review and approval for readmittance,

the student shall provide to the School Board information on the dates of any expulsions and the reasons therefor. Additionally, the transfer of student records to any school or system shall include information on the dates of any expulsions and the reasons therefor.

CREDIT FOR SCHOOL WORK MISSED

A student who is expelled and receives educational services at an alternative school site shall be assigned work by a certified teacher and shall receive credit for school work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the teacher. Such work shall be aligned with the curriculum used at the school from which the student was expelled.

RECUSAL OF ADMINISTRATOR IN DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Any school administrator or administrator's designee who is required to make a recommendation, decide an issue, or take action in a matter involving the discipline of a student shall recuse himself/herself whenever a member of the immediate family of the administrator or administrator's designee is involved in any manner in the discipline matter. In case of recusal, the action to be taken shall be done so by the Superintendent or an impartial designee of the Superintendent.

Immediate family means the individual's children, brothers, sisters, parents, and spouse and the children, brothers, sisters, and parents of the spouse.

EXPULSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR EXCEPTIONALITIES

Expulsion of students with disabilities or exceptionalities, or an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan, shall be to the extent allowed by applicable state or federal law and regulations or the provisions of the student's specific plan.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of terms used herein shall have the meaning set forth in policy *JD, Discipline*.

Revised: October, 1995
Revised: July, 1996
Revised: September, 1997
Revised: August, 2003
Revised: August, 2007
Revised: September, 2008
Revised: September, 2009
Revised: November, 2012

Revised: December 8, 2015
Revised: February 9, 2021
Revised: November 9, 2021
Revised: January 10, 2023
Revised: August 13, 2024
Revised: July, 2025

Ref: 18 USC 921 (*Firearms – Definitions*); 20 USC 7961 (*Gun-Free Requirements*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:223, 17:416, 17:416.1, 17:416.2, 17:2092; Goss v. Lopez, 95 S. Ct. 729 (1973); Regulations for Implementation of the Exceptional Children's Act, Bulletin 1706, Louisiana Department of Education); Board minutes, 10-14-03, 9-4-07, 10-7-08, 1-12-10, 2-5-13, 12-8-15, 2-9-21, 11-9-21, 1-10-23, 8-13-24.

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Upon the recommendation for expulsion of a student by the principal a hearing shall be conducted by the Superintendent or his/her designee within fifteen (15) school days to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. The School Board shall provide written notice of the hearing to the student and his/her parent or legal guardian, and the notice shall advise the student and his/her parent or legal guardian of their rights. Notification of the time, date, and place of the expulsion hearing shall be mailed to the parents. Following the hearing, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parents of the decision rendered.

At the hearing, the principal and/or teacher concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the Superintendent and the concerned teacher shall be permitted to attend and present any relevant information. Until the hearing, the student shall remain suspended with access to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. A student who is suspended for longer than ten (10) days or expelled shall be provided with academic instruction at an alternative setting in accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:416.2.

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APPEALS

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A student found guilty of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof shall not be subject to such expulsion unless it is the second or subsequent occurrence.

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2. The principal may recommend expulsion to the Superintendent for any student in grades pre-kindergarten through five who is found carrying or possessing a knife with a blade which equals or exceeds two and one-half (2 ½) inches in length.
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5. Any student in pre-kindergarten through five, *after being suspended on three (3) occasions* for committing drugs or weapons offenses during the same school year, **shall, upon committing the fourth offense**, be expelled from all the public schools of the system until the beginning of the next regular school year, and the student's reinstatement shall be subject to the review and approval of the School Board.
6. In accordance with federal regulations, a student determined to have brought a weapon to a school under the School Board's jurisdiction shall be expelled for a minimum of one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. A *weapon*, in accordance with federal statutes, means a firearm or any device which is designed to expel a projectile or any destructive device, which in turn means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine or similar device.
7. The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult, would have constituted a felony, may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the School Board; such expulsions shall require the vote of **two-thirds ⅔ of the elected members of the School Board**, shall not be for a period of time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the Superintendent or his/her designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.

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In addition, school officials, in accordance with statutory provisions, shall have total discretion and shall exercise such discretion in imposing on a student any disciplinary actions authorized by state law for possession by a student of a firearm or knife on school property when such firearm or knife is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the student's intent to use the firearm or knife in a criminal manner.

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Any student expelled may be readmitted to school on a probationary basis at any time during the expulsion period on such terms and conditions as may be stipulated by the Superintendent. Readmission to school on a probationary basis shall be contingent on the student and legal guardian or custodian agreeing in writing to the conditions stipulated. Any such agreement shall contain a provision for immediate removal of the student from school premises and returned to the school system's alternative school setting without benefit of a hearing or other procedure upon the principal or Superintendent determining the student has violated any term or condition of the agreement. Immediately thereafter, the principal or designee shall provide proper notification in writing of the determination and reasons for removal to the Superintendent and the student's parent or legal guardian.

Readmittance After Expulsion for Firearms, Knives, Weapons, or Drugs

In addition to the readmittance provisions for all expulsions stated above, a student that has been expelled for possessing on school property or on a bus, a firearm, knife, or other dangerous weapon, or possessing or possession with intent to distribute or distributing, selling, giving, or loaning while on school property or a school bus any controlled dangerous substance shall not be enrolled or readmitted to any regular public school of the school system on a probationary basis prior to the completion of the period of expulsion at the school system's alternative education setting until the student produces written documentation that he/she and his/her parent or legal guardian have enrolled and participated or is participating in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling program related to the reason(s) for the student's expulsion. The rehabilitation or counseling programs shall be provided by such programs approved by the juvenile or family court having jurisdiction, if applicable, or by the School Board. The requirement for enrollment and participation in a rehabilitation or counseling program shall be waived only upon a documented showing by the student that no appropriate program is available in the area or that the student cannot enroll or participate due to financial hardship.

Review of Records

A student who has been expelled from any school in or out of state shall not be admitted to a school in the school system except upon the review and approval of the School Board following the request for admission. To facilitate the review and approval for readmittance,

the student shall provide to the School Board information on the dates of any expulsions and the reasons therefor. Additionally, the transfer of student records to any school or system shall include information on the dates of any expulsions and the reasons therefor.

CREDIT FOR SCHOOL WORK MISSED

A student who is expelled and receives educational services at an alternative school site shall be assigned work by a certified teacher and shall receive credit for school work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the teacher. Such work shall be aligned with the curriculum used at the school from which the student was expelled.

RECUSAL OF ADMINISTRATOR IN DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Any school administrator or administrator's designee who is required to make a recommendation, decide an issue, or take action in a matter involving the discipline of a student shall recuse himself/herself whenever a member of the immediate family of the administrator or administrator's designee is involved in any manner in the discipline matter. In case of recusal, the action to be taken shall be done so by the Superintendent or an impartial designee of the Superintendent.

Immediate family means the individual's children, brothers, sisters, parents, and spouse and the children, brothers, sisters, and parents of the spouse.

EXPULSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR EXCEPTIONALITIES

Expulsion of students with disabilities or exceptionalities, or an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan, shall be to the extent allowed by applicable state or federal law and regulations or the provisions of the student's specific plan.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of terms used herein shall have the meaning set forth in policy *JD, Discipline*.

Revised: October, 1995
Revised: July, 1996
Revised: September, 1997
Revised: August, 2003
Revised: August, 2007
Revised: September, 2008
Revised: September, 2009
Revised: November, 2012

Revised: December 8, 2015
Revised: February 9, 2021
Revised: November 9, 2021
Revised: January 10, 2023
Revised: August 13, 2024
Revised: July, 2025

Ref: 18 USC 921 (*Firearms – Definitions*); 20 USC 7961 (*Gun-Free Requirements*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:223, 17:416, 17:416.1, 17:416.2, 17:2092; Goss v. Lopez, 95. S. Ct. 729 (1973); Regulations for Implementation of the Exceptional Children's Act, Bulletin 1706, Louisiana Department of Education); Board minutes, 10-14-03, 9-4-07, 10-7-08, 1-12-10, 2-5-13, 12-8-15, 2-9-21, 11-9-21, 1-10-23, 8-13-24.

CHILD ABUSE

The Calcasieu Parish School Board shall endeavor to ensure that all instances of child abuse and/or neglect are reported in accordance with appropriate state and local laws and regulations. Therefore, the School Board directs that all school personnel be informed of their responsibilities under law as mandatory reporters when performing their occupational duties.

Students shall be provided age- and grade-appropriate instruction relative to child assault awareness and prevention, and how students may report abuse or assault to the child protection toll-free hotline operated by the State Department of Children and Family Services, and where students may locate the number for the hotline.

Each public school shall post the hotline number in a prominent location on its website.

DEFINITIONS

Abuse means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child:

1. The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
2. The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.
3. The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker or any other person of the child's involvement in (i) any sexual act with any other person; (ii) pornographic displays; (iii) any sexual activity constituting a crime under Louisiana law; or (iv) a coerced abortion conducted upon a child. Many state criminal laws prohibit the involvement of a child in sexual activity. By way of example but without limitation, some of these crimes include sexual touching or fondling a child, voyeurism, exposing a child to sexual acts or pornography, permitting a child to perform any sexually immoral acts, sexual intercourse with a child, sexual conduct between an educator and a student, lewd or lascivious acts upon or in the presence of a child, solicitation of sexual conduct from a child, rape, and communication to a child of lewd images or words.

Child, for purposes of child abuse, means a person under eighteen (18) years of age, who prior to juvenile proceedings, has not been judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage.

A *mandatory reporter* means any teaching or child care provider, which is any person

who provides or assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, bus operator, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides these services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity. ~~In addition, Any police officer or law enforcement officer who works as a school resource officer shall be considered a mandatory reporter. A school resource officer shall not receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the report.~~

Neglect means the refusal or willful failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health is substantially threatened or impaired. Neglect includes prenatal neglect. In accordance with statutory provisions, the inability of a parent or caretaker to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect. Whenever, in lieu of medical care, a child is being provided treatment in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religious method of healing which has a reasonable, proven record of success, the child shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be neglected or maltreated. However, nothing herein shall prohibit the court from ordering medical services for the child when there is substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Any *mandatory reporter*, notwithstanding any claim of privileged communication, who has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, or that abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death, in accordance with statutory provisions, shall immediately report suspected abuse/neglect in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Reports in which the abuse or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by a parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, the mandatory reporter shall make the report to the Department of Children and Family Services.
2. Reports in which the reporter has reason to believe abuse or neglect is being perpetrated by someone other than the individuals listed in number one above shall be made to local or state law enforcement. Abuse or neglect perpetuated on a student by a teaching or child care provider shall be immediately reported to local or state law enforcement
3. Dual reporting to both the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services and

the local or state law enforcement agency is permitted.

Reports to the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services shall be made as follows:

- A. A mandatory reporter shall make a report of suspected abuse or neglect requiring immediate assistance via the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number. A report of suspected abuse or neglect which is of a non-emergency nature may be reported via the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services Mandated Reporter Portal online. Reports may also be made in person at any child welfare office.
- B. If a report involves alleged sex trafficking, all mandatory reporters shall report via the hotline telephone number to the Department regardless of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker culpability.
- C. A permitted reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number or in person at any child welfare office.

[If a school resource officer suspects child abuse or neglect of a student, or if a mandatory reporter reports suspected child abuse or neglect to a school resource officer, the school resource officer shall immediately notify the officer's employing law enforcement agency or the Department of Children and Family Services in accordance with statutory provisions and this policy. The school resource officer's employer shall assign investigation of the matter to the most appropriate law enforcement officer, who may be the school resource officer.](#)

If a mandatory reporter is prohibited from immediately making the report required by statutes to the department or local or state law enforcement because of School Board policies or employee manual, the mandatory reporter shall file a complaint with local or state law enforcement. Local or state law enforcement shall investigate the complaint and if violations are confirmed, the School Board shall be subject to the penalties provided for in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:131.1 and 403. The School Board shall not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a mandatory reporter for complying with this policy. If the School Board discriminates or retaliates against an employee for compliance, the School Board shall be subject to additional penalties as provided for in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:131.1 and 403.

INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS

Admission of the investigator on school premises or access to the child in school shall not be denied by school officials.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be required to notify the local law enforcement agency of any allegation made by a student of the commission of a sex offense as defined by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §15:541. Such notification shall be made by the Superintendent or his/her designee within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the student notified the Superintendent or other appropriate personnel. Any school employee who receives information from a student concerning the possible commission of a sexual offense shall immediately comply with the reporting procedure outlined in this policy.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The circumstances and information of the initial report, the fact that a report was made to an agency, and the written report shall be held in confidence and shall not be disseminated to third parties other than those persons or agencies designated by this policy or required by state law. Any written report or other written information regarding the report shall be kept in a confidential file separate from the child's routine school records and accessible only by the principal/designee/supervisory employee or by court order.

INSERVICE TRAINING

Teaching or child care providers shall be required to complete an online training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June first and August thirty-first annually. A record of completion of the course by the teaching or child care provider shall be provided to and retained by the School Board. The School Board shall retain a list of all teaching or child care providers who have not complied with the training requirements provided by State law.

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Any person who in good faith makes a report, cooperates in any investigation arising as a result of such report, or participates in judicial proceedings authorized under the Louisiana Children's Code shall have immunity from civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed. This immunity, however, does not extend to (1) a person who participates in or conspires with a participant or an accessory to an offense involving the abuse or neglect of a child; (2) any person who makes a report known to be false or with reckless disregard for the truth of the report.

LIABILITY

The Louisiana Children's Code and Louisiana criminal law provide substantial penalties for mandatory reporters who fail to report facts which would support a reasonable belief that child abuse or neglect has occurred. Additionally, educators or other employees of the Calcasieu Parish School Board who fail or refuse to report child abuse/neglect as provided by law or by this policy may be subject to disciplinary and/or dismissal

proceedings for neglect of duty.

Revised: September, 2004

Revised: November, 2007

Revised: February 5, 2013

Revised: September 12, 2017

Revised: December 11, 2018

Revised: August, 2020

Revised: January 10, 2023

Revised: August 13, 2024

Revised: July, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:403, 15:539, 15:541, 17:81, 17:81.6; La. Children's Code, Title VI, Art. 601, 603, 609, 610; Board minutes, 4-2-93, 5-11-04, 12-7-04, 4-8-08, 2-5-13, 9-12-17, 12-11-18, 1-10-23, 8-13-24.

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2. The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.
3. The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker or any other person of the child's involvement in (i) any sexual act with any other person; (ii) pornographic displays; (iii) any sexual activity constituting a crime under Louisiana law; or (iv) a coerced abortion conducted upon a child. Many state criminal laws prohibit the involvement of a child in sexual activity. By way of example but without limitation, some of these crimes include sexual touching or fondling a child, voyeurism, exposing a child to sexual acts or pornography, permitting a child to perform any sexually immoral acts, sexual intercourse with a child, sexual conduct between an educator and a student, lewd or lascivious acts upon or in the presence of a child, solicitation of sexual conduct from a child, rape, and communication to a child of lewd images or words.

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who provides or assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, bus operator, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides these services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity. Any police officer or law enforcement officer who works as a school resource officer shall be considered a mandatory reporter.

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If a mandatory reporter is prohibited from immediately making the report required by statutes to the department or local or state law enforcement because of School Board policies or employee manual, the mandatory reporter shall file a complaint with local or state law enforcement. Local or state law enforcement shall investigate the complaint and if violations are confirmed, the School Board shall be subject to the penalties provided for in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:131.1 and 403. The School Board shall not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a mandatory reporter for complying with this policy. If the School Board discriminates or retaliates against an employee for compliance, the School Board shall be subject to additional penalties as provided for in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:131.1 and 403.

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The circumstances and information of the initial report, the fact that a report was made to an agency, and the written report shall be held in confidence and shall not be disseminated to third parties other than those persons or agencies designated by this policy or required by state law. Any written report or other written information regarding the report shall be kept in a confidential file separate from the child's routine school records and accessible only by the principal/designee/supervisory employee or by court order.

INSERVICE TRAINING

Teaching or child care providers shall be required to complete an online training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June first and August thirty-first annually. A record of completion of the course by the teaching or child care provider shall be provided to and retained by the School Board. The School Board shall retain a list of all teaching or child care providers who have not complied with the training requirements provided by State law.

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Any person who in good faith makes a report, cooperates in any investigation arising as a result of such report, or participates in judicial proceedings authorized under the Louisiana Children's Code shall have immunity from civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed. This immunity, however, does not extend to (1) a person who participates in or conspires with a participant or an accessory to an offense involving the abuse or neglect of a child; (2) any person who makes a report known to be false or with reckless disregard for the truth of the report.

LIABILITY

The Louisiana Children's Code and Louisiana criminal law provide substantial penalties for mandatory reporters who fail to report facts which would support a reasonable belief that child abuse or neglect has occurred. Additionally, educators or other employees of the Calcasieu Parish School Board who fail or refuse to report child abuse/neglect as provided by law or by this policy may be subject to disciplinary and/or dismissal proceedings for neglect of duty.

Revised: September, 2004
Revised: November, 2007
Revised: February 5, 2013
Revised: September 12, 2017
Revised: December 11, 2018

Revised: August, 2020
Revised: January 10, 2023
Revised: August 13, 2024
Revised: July, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:403, 15:539, 15:541, 17:81, 17:81.6; La. Children's Code, Title VI, Art. 601, 603, 609, 610; Board minutes, 4-2-93, 5-11-04, 12-7-04, 4-8-08, 2-5-13, 9-12-17, 12-11-18, 1-10-23, 8-13-24.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

The Calcasieu Parish School Board shall require that each public school make available to each student in grades three (3) through twelve (12) a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider, so long as it is annually authorized by his/her parent or legal guardian. Such screening shall be offered within the year, and, if feasible, during the first semester rather than the second semester of the school year. Each principal or his/her designee may use discretion in determining a convenient time for scheduling such assessments and an appropriate time and place to conduct such assessments.

For the purposes of this policy, "licensed behavioral health provider" means an individual or provider that falls into one of the following categories:

1. A mental health professional with a current and valid occupational license issued by a Louisiana professional occupational licensing board or commission under Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, acting within the scope of practice authorized by the licensing board to conduct mental health assessments.
2. A behavioral health services provider with a current and valid license issued by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §40:2151 et seq. to provide mental health services and assessments.

The schools may locate a current list of licensed mental health professionals who are authorized to conduct mental health assessments by contacting the individual licensing boards who regulate the licensed professionals. Schools may locate a current list of behavioral health service providers licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health through the Louisiana Department of Health's website.

The assessments provided for in this policy shall be provided to the appropriate students at each public school at no cost to the School Board.

REFERRAL FOR ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

The Calcasieu Parish School Board recognizes that students with behavioral or emotional challenges may be at risk of their behavior escalating into aggression or disruption, disciplinary actions including suspension or expulsion, or juvenile delinquency. The School Board shall adopt and maintain rules and regulations for a program which assists school personnel to identify such signs and symptoms of a student with behavioral or emotional challenges.

A specific employee shall be designated at each school who shall be responsible for identifying behavioral and mental health support services available in the community, and when appropriate, facilitating a referral of a student to those services for assessment and

treatment, including services provided through the Louisiana Coordinated System of Care and its Medicaid provider network.

After any second suspension of a student during the same school year, the principal or his/her designee and the designated employee shall consult on whether the student's behavior could be attributable to behavioral or emotional challenges. If it is determined that the behavior is attributable to behavioral or emotional challenges and rises to the level that supportive services could be beneficial, the principal or his/her designee and the designated employee shall schedule a conference with the student's parent or legal guardian to discuss the student's behavior and counseling as well as the referral of the student and family to support services for assessment and treatment.

ANNUAL REPORT

The School Board shall report to the Louisiana Department of Education and the House and Senate committees on education the number of students identified as possibly having behavioral or emotional challenges, the number of students for which a conference was scheduled, and the number of students referred for assessment and supportive services. The reports shall be submitted annually on July first and shall reflect data from the previous school year.

New policy: September 10, 2024
Revised: July, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:173, [17:173.1](#), 17:416, 17:416.23; Board minutes, 9-10-24.

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New policy: September 10, 2024
Revised: July, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:173, 17:173.1, 17:416, 17:416.23; Board minutes, 9-10-24.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Calcasieu Parish School Board recognizes that the fundamental right to attend the public schools places upon students the accompanying responsibility to be faithful in attendance. Regular attendance can be assumed to be essential for a student's successful progress in the instructional program.

The parent or legal guardian shall enforce the attendance of the student at the school to which the student is assigned.

The principal of a school, or his/her designee, shall notify the parent or legal guardian in writing on or before a student's *third* unexcused absence or unexcused occurrence of being tardy, and shall hold a conference with such student's parent or legal guardian. This notification shall include information relative to the parent or legal guardian's legal responsibility to enforce the student's attendance at school and the civil penalties that may be incurred if the student is determined to be habitually absent or habitually tardy. The student's parent or legal guardian shall sign a receipt for such notification.

Each school shall attempt to provide verbal notification to a child's parent, tutor, or legal guardian, and, if such verbal notification cannot be provided, then the school shall provide written notification to a child's parent, tutor, or legal guardian when that child has been absent from school for five (5) school days in schools operating on a semester basis, and for ten (10) days in schools not operating on a semester basis. The accumulation of days absent need not be consecutive.

No public elementary or secondary school student shall be permitted for any reason to absent himself/herself from school attendance during the school day upon his/her own authority, unless legally emancipated. The principal or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to verbally notify the parent or other person responsible for the student's school attendance of any such prohibited absence by a student.

TYPES OF ABSENCES

The days absent for elementary and secondary school students shall include ~~non-exempted-excused absences, exempted~~ *excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions/expulsions.*

~~A. — Non-exempted-excused absences are absences incurred due to personal illness or serious illness in the family (documented by acceptable excuses, including a parental note) which are not considered for purposes of truancy, but which are considered when determining whether or not a student is eligible to make up work and tests, receive credit for work completed, and receive credit for a course and/or school year completed.~~

- B. ~~Exempted~~ *Excused absences* are absences which are not considered for purposes of truancy ~~and which are not considered when determining whether or not a student is eligible to make up work and tests, receive credit for work completed, and receive credit for a course and/or school year completed.~~ including absences incurred due to extenuating circumstances as listed below.
- C. *Unexcused absences* are any absences not meeting the requirements set forth in the excused absences ~~s and extenuating circumstances~~ definitions, including but not limited to absences due to any job (including agriculture and domestic services, even in the student's own home or for their own parents or tutors) unless it is a part of an approved instructional program. ~~Students shall be given failing grades for these days missed and shall not be given an opportunity to make up work.~~
- D. *Suspension/Expulsions* are ~~non-exempted~~ absences ~~for in~~ which a student is ~~allowed to make up his/her work and is eligible for consideration for credit provided it is completed satisfactorily and in a timely manner. The absence shall be considered when determining whether or not a student may or may not be promoted, but shall not be considered for purposes of truancy. Students absent from school as a result of any suspension shall be counted as absent.~~ not in attendance in the regular instructional setting due to disciplinary actions imposed by the school. The absence is not considered for purposes of truancy unless the student was assigned to an alternative site and is not in attendance at the assigned alternative site.

A student who is absent, including a suspended student, shall be allowed to submit missed assignments and tests and shall be eligible to receive the same academic credit and grades originally available when work is completed satisfactorily and in a timely manner.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Exceptions to the attendance regulation shall be the enumerated extenuating circumstances below that are verified by the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance or the school principal/designee where indicated. These exempted absences do not apply in determining whether a student meets the minimum minutes of instruction required to receive credit.

1. Extended personal physical or emotional illness as verified by a physician or nurse practitioner licensed in the state.
2. Extended hospital stay in which a student is absent as verified by a physician or dentist.
3. Extended recuperation from an accident in which a student is absent as verified by a physician, dentist, or nurse practitioner licensed in the state.

4. Extended contagious disease within a family in which a student is absent as verified by a physician or dentist licensed in the state.
5. Quarantine due to prolonged exposure to or direct contact with a person diagnosed with a contagious, deadly, disease, as ordered by state or local health officials.
6. Observance of special and recognized holidays of the student's own faith.
7. Visitation with a parent who is a member of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard of a state and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. Excused absences in this situation shall not exceed five (5) school days per school year.
8. Absences as verified by the principal or his/her designee as stated below:
 - A. Prior school system-approved travel for education;
 - B. Death in the immediate family (not to exceed one week); or,
 - C. Natural catastrophe and/or disaster.
9. Expectant and parenting high school students shall be granted excused absences as delineated in policy *JQE, Expectant and Parenting Students*.

For any other extenuating circumstances, the student's parents or legal guardian must make a formal appeal in accordance with the due process procedures established by the school system.

Students who are verified as meeting extenuating circumstances, and therefore eligible to receive grades shall not receive those grades if they are unable to complete makeup work or pass the course.

MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ABSENCES

A student may be absent for up to three (3) days in any school year related to the student's mental or behavioral health, and such absences shall be excused if certification is provided in writing in accordance with the student handbook. The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any school work missed during such absences. Following the second day of absence in any school year, the student shall be referred to the appropriate school support personnel for help addressing the underlying issue, which may include referral to medical services outside of the school setting.

SCHOOL-APPROVED ACTIVITIES

Students participating in school-approved field trips or other instructional activities that necessitate their being away from school shall be considered to be present and shall be given the opportunity to make up work.

CHILD PERFORMERS

Minors employed to perform or render artistic or creative services under a contract or employment arrangement for two (2) or more days within a 30-day period must receive instruction pursuant to statutory provisions.

MAKE UP WORK

A student who is absent five (5) or more days in any nine-weeks period shall receive an incomplete grade in all subjects involved if the grade is not made up before the end of the grading period. The student can make up the work during the next nine-weeks period. If he/she fails to do so, the incomplete grade automatically becomes a "U". It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to inform the student of the deadline for any makeup work.

WRITTEN EXCUSES

For a student to be eligible to receive credit and make up work following an absence, the student shall be required in each instance to submit parental confirmation of the reasons for the absence. If a student is tardy or absent, the parent or guardian must submit a written excuse, signed and dated, to school authorities upon the student's return to classes, stating the reason for the student's absence from school. All excuses for a student's absence, including medical verification of extended personal illness, must be presented within five (5) school days of the student's return to school, or the student's absence shall be considered unexcused and the student not allowed to make up work missed.

The following procedures shall be followed for excuses:

1. Students who are absent from any class or from school for any cause will need a note from their parents or guardian. This note, dated and signed by a parent or guardian, shall state the cause for absence and the date/s of absence. The student must take the note to the appropriate school office or to a designated representative to secure an admit-to-class slip. Every absence will be recorded as temporarily excused or unexcused, based on the reason for the absence.
2. A forged excuse will be dealt with by the student's principal.
3. If after investigation by the teachers and principal, there is still a question as to the validity of the absence the case shall be reported to the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance.

REPORTING ABSENCES

The attendance of all school students shall be checked each school day and at the

beginning of each class period and shall be verified by the teacher keeping such record, which shall be open to inspection by the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance or duly authorized representative at all reasonable times. All schools shall immediately report to the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance any unexplained, unexcused, or illegal absence, or habitual tardiness.

The Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance shall, after written notice to the parent or legal guardian of a child, or a personal visit of notification, report any such child who is habitually absent or who is habitually tardy to the family or juvenile court of the parish as a truant child, there to be dealt with in such manner as the court may determine.

The following procedures shall be followed for the reporting of unexcused absences:

1. Any unexplained, unexcused, or illegal absence, or habitual tardiness, shall be reported to the visiting teacher and/or Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance when necessary.
2. The Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance may visit the residence of a student or any other place in order to ensure that a student is in attendance during the hours of a school day.
3. In the discharge of the duties of their office, Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance shall cooperate fully with the State Departments of Public Welfare, Labor, Health and Human Resources (DHHR), and other state and local agencies, and may serve such writs and process in law relating to compulsory attendance as may be necessary for the enforcement.
4. Violations of the compulsory attendance law shall be investigated and, when necessary, shall include written notice, either in person or by registered mail, to the parent, tutor, or other person having control or charge of a student within the compulsory school attendance age.

APPEAL OF ABSENCES

When a student exceeds the maximum number of absences allowed the parents or student may make a formal appeal to the principal if they feel any of the absences are because of extenuating circumstances. If they feel that the decision is unfavorable, they shall appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee. After a review by the Superintendent or his/her designee, a decision shall be made and communicated to the parents or legal guardian by letter.

High school students in danger of failing due to excessive absences may be allowed to make up missed time in class sessions held outside the regular class time. The make-up sessions must be completed before the end of the current semester and all other applicable policies must also be met.

TARDINESS

A student shall be considered tardy to class if the student is not in the classroom when the bell to begin class ceases. A student shall be considered tardy to school if the student is not in his/her homeroom/first period class when the bell to begin homeroom/class ceases. Tardy shall also mean leaving or checking out of school unexcused prior to the regularly scheduled dismissal. Habitual tardiness on the part of students shall not be tolerated.

Students who exhibit habitual tardiness shall be subject to disciplinary action, appropriate under the circumstances. Parents of students who continue to be tardy shall be notified for a conference with the principal, and the student may be subject to suspension from school and the parent/legal guardian subject to court fines or community service.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:221, 17:221.8, 17:226, 17:226.1, 17:230, 17:232, 17:233; Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education; Board minutes, 10-7-08, 10-5-10, 2-7-12, 12-8-15, 1-10-23, 9-12-23.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Calcasieu Parish School Board recognizes that the fundamental right to attend the public schools places upon students the accompanying responsibility to be faithful in attendance. Regular attendance can be assumed to be essential for a student's successful progress in the instructional program.

The parent or legal guardian shall enforce the attendance of the student at the school to which the student is assigned.

The principal of a school, or his/her designee, shall notify the parent or legal guardian in writing on or before a student's *third* unexcused absence or unexcused occurrence of being tardy, and shall hold a conference with such student's parent or legal guardian. This notification shall include information relative to the parent or legal guardian's legal responsibility to enforce the student's attendance at school and the civil penalties that may be incurred if the student is determined to be habitually absent or habitually tardy. The student's parent or legal guardian shall sign a receipt for such notification.

Each school shall attempt to provide verbal notification to a child's parent, tutor, or legal guardian, and, if such verbal notification cannot be provided, then the school shall provide written notification to a child's parent, tutor, or legal guardian when that child has been absent from school for five (5) school days in schools operating on a semester basis, and for ten (10) days in schools not operating on a semester basis. The accumulation of days absent need not be consecutive.

No public elementary or secondary school student shall be permitted for any reason to absent himself/herself from school attendance during the school day upon his/her own authority, unless legally emancipated. The principal or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to verbally notify the parent or other person responsible for the student's school attendance of any such prohibited absence by a student.

TYPES OF ABSENCES

The days absent for elementary and secondary school students shall include *excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions/expulsions*.

- A. *Excused absences* are absences which are not considered for purposes of truancy, including absences incurred due to extenuating circumstances as listed below.
- B. *Unexcused absences* are any absences not meeting the requirements set forth in the excused absence definition, including but not limited to absences due to any job (including agriculture and domestic services, even in the student's own home

or for their own parents or tutors) unless it is a part of an approved instructional program.

- C. *Suspension/Expulsions* are absences in which a student is not in attendance in the regular instructional setting due to disciplinary actions imposed by the school. The absence is not considered for purposes of truancy unless the student was assigned to an alternative site and is not in attendance at the assigned alternative site.

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7. Visitation with a parent who is a member of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard of a state and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. Excused absences in this situation shall not exceed five (5) school days per school year.
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The attendance of all school students shall be checked each school day and at the beginning of each class period and shall be verified by the teacher keeping such record, which shall be open to inspection by the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance or duly authorized representative at all reasonable times. All schools shall immediately report to the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance any unexplained, unexcused, or illegal absence, or habitual tardiness.

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when necessary.

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3. In the discharge of the duties of their office, Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance shall cooperate fully with the State Departments of Public Welfare, Labor, Health and Human Resources (DHHR), and other state and local agencies, and may serve such writs and process in law relating to compulsory attendance as may be necessary for the enforcement.
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FILE: JBD
Cf: JB, JBA
Cf: JDD, JGFC, JQE

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Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, Louisiana
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23, 9-12-23.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR INTERNET AND DISTRICT NETWORK RESOURCES

Internet access is available to students, employees and guests in the Calcasieu Parish School System. System e-mail accounts are only available to employees. The School Board is very pleased to bring this access, and believes that the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique educational resources to all participants.

The Internet is an "electronic highway" connecting billions of computers and individual subscribers all over the world. The School Board's goal in providing this service to students is to enhance innovative education for students through access to unique resources and collaborations. Furthermore, employees and guests will improve learning and teaching through research, teacher training, communication, collaboration, and dissemination of successful educational practices, methods, and materials.

Terms and Conditions in a user's agreement are provided so that Internet users are aware of the responsibilities they will assume when using this Calcasieu Parish School Board (CPSB) resource. Responsibilities include efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. All users, including students, employees, or any other users of School Board computers, hardware, and School Board network shall abide by all policies of the School Board and any applicable administrative regulations and procedures.

Each user shall sign an *Internet and District Network Resources Contract* which shall be legally binding and indicates that he/she has read the *Terms and Conditions* carefully and agrees to abide by them.

The School Board shall incorporate the use of computer-related technology or the use of Internet service provider technology designed to block access or exposure to any harmful materials or information, such as sites that contain obscene, pornographic, pervasively vulgar, excessively violent, or sexually harassing information or material. Sites which contain information on the manufacturing of bombs or other incendiary devices shall also be prohibited. However, the School Board does not prohibit authorized employees or students from having unfiltered or unrestricted access to Internet or online services, including online services of newspapers with daily circulation of at least 1,000, for legitimate scientific or educational purposes approved by the School Board.

~~Age and grade appropriate classroom instruction shall be provided regarding Internet and cell phone safety. Such instruction shall include appropriate online behavior, interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response, as well as areas of concern as authorized in state and federal law.~~

~~In addition,~~ The School Board, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, shall develop and distribute age and grade appropriate information to each student regarding

Internet and cell phone safety and online content that is a threat to school safety. The information shall include the following:

- Instruction on how to detect potential threats to school safety exhibited online, including posting on any social media platform
- Visual examples of possible threats.
- The process for reporting potential threats, which shall be in accordance with the procedures referenced in policy *EBBB, School and Student Safety*.

Such information shall be either distributed to or explained to students and school personnel at the beginning of each school year and shall be posted on an easily accessible page of the School Board's website and the website of each school.

If information reported to a school is deemed a potential threat to school safety, the school shall present the written form and any further evidence to local law enforcement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Personal Safety and Privacy

- A. Users will not publish online any personal contact information (e.g., address, phone number) about themselves or any other person on any CPSB webpage. Calcasieu Parish School Board home pages will use Calcasieu Parish School Board phone numbers and cpsb.org e-mail addresses. Personal photos and work can be published if a signed district release form is on file.
- B. Users will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without appropriate approval. Inappropriate contacts should be reported to school authorities immediately.
- C. It is expected that all students will be appropriately supervised and monitored during any online activities to ensure proper use.

2. Illegal Activities

- A. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the network, any computer system or another person's account or files.
- B. Users will not intentionally attempt to disrupt or intentionally disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
- C. Users will not engage in any illegal acts, such as selling drugs, engaging in

criminal gang activity or threatening the safety of a person or persons, etc.

- D. Users will not attempt to impersonate another individual or organization using CPSB network or other technology resources for any reason (ie. "phishing").

3. Security

- A. Users are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no condition should users give their password to another person nor post the password in written form where it can be easily seen by others.
- B. Users will log off or lock their personal accounts when away from the computer for more than a few moments to prevent unauthorized access.
- C. Users will immediately notify school authorities if they have identified a possible security problem. However, testing or purposely looking for possible security problems may be considered as an illegal attempt to gain access. Any security concerns should be addressed to the CPSB Tech Support Center.
- D. Users will avoid the spread of computer viruses by installing and maintaining up-to-date antivirus software provided by the district. The user may not remove, disable or replace the district antivirus software solution for any reason.
- E. Users will only use memory storage devices (ie. disks, CDs, pen drives, etc.) that have been scanned and found to be free of viruses.
- F. Users will not download and install unnecessary programs from the Internet since most of this installs "spyware/malware" on the computer and hinders the performance of the computer (i.e. Toolbar helpers, e-mail add-ons, screen savers, search engine assistants, pop-up blockers, etc.).
- G. Users should be aware that the CPSB network, Internet use and system e-mail is maintained and regularly monitored for inappropriate use. If any misuse is detected by the staff, appropriate action will be taken against the person or persons involved.
- H. Users are not allowed to install software to capture or monitor the computer activity of other users on the network or network traffic. Only authorized CPSB tech support staff is permitted to do this in the course of administering the network.

4. Network

- A. All computers are to be setup and maintained with connection to the CPSB

domain for network administration and security. Removing a computer from the CPSB domain without the permission of a CPSB tech support staff member will be considered an act to circumvent district network security and is strictly prohibited.

- B. All wireless devices on the CPSB network will be setup using official CPSB wireless policies. All wireless devices purchased must be equipment approved by the network department. No unauthorized wireless devices will be attached to the CPSB network and doing so will be considered a network security breach and dealt with accordingly.
 - C. Network bandwidth is a limited resource of which must be conserved to serve all of the network needs of the district. Users must understand that listening to online radio stations, viewing non-educational streaming video sites, and downloading very large files, etc. will be considered a misuse of this limited resource.
 - D. Important information regarding the CPSB network will be sent out to all employees from time to time during the year addressed from the e-mail account "tech.support@cpsb.org." It is the responsibility of all employees to open and read all e-mails from this account and then act accordingly. Excuses such as "not reading" or deleting the messages from this account will not be acceptable.
5. Inappropriate Language/Content
- A. Users will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, unprofessional, or disrespectful language. This includes personal attacks or harassment of another person.
 - B. Users will not circumvent district content filters using any means in order to access inappropriate content as listed above.
6. Resource Limits
- A. Users will use the system e-mail, Internet and network resources only for educational and professional development activities. Personal use of these resources is strongly discouraged.
 - B. Users will not post or forward e-mail "chain letters" or send annoying or unnecessary messages to others.
 - C. Users will not use district e-mail to mass e-mail and "spam" any users (internal and external) with unauthorized communications or solicitations.
 - D. Users will subscribe only to high-quality discussion group mail lists that are

relevant to educational or professional development activities and not subscribe others without their consent.

7. Access and Use of Materials

- A. Users will not take the ideas or writings of others and present them as if they were their own.
- B. Users will respect copyrighted materials and other intellectual property. Users may not duplicate, copy or distribute electronic resources without the appropriate permissions, documentations or citations.
- C. Users will immediately report to school authorities any website they access with inappropriate content.

8. Consequences of Misuse

- A. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of privileges and/or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by administration, faculty, and staff.
- B. Users should expect no privacy of the contents of personal files and e-mail on the district system. Messages relating to, or in the support of, illegal activities must be reported to the authorities.
- C. The Calcasieu Parish School Board allows for the suspension of network services and email for the inappropriate or illegal use of the Internet or email by students and employees. Other disciplinary action may also be warranted.
- D. Misuse of the system can result in possible legal action and/or prosecution, and will require restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software costs.
- E. Users bringing illegal and/or inappropriate materials into the system's electronic environment will be subject to disciplinary action.

DISCLAIMER

The School Board's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The School Board does not make any warranties, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein. The School Board uses a variety of vendor-supplied hardware and software. Therefore, the School Board does not warrant that the functions or services performed by, or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the user's requirements. Neither does the School Board

warrant that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free, nor that defects will be corrected. Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers, or other third party individuals in the system are those of the providers and not necessarily the School Board.

The School Board will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the School Board's computer systems and networks.

Revised: November, 2004

Revised: December, 2008

Revised: November, 2012

Revised: April 9, 2019

Revised: July, 2025

Ref: 47 USC 254, (*Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 17:100.7, **17:280**, Board minutes, 9-7-99, 8-3-04, 9-14-04, 4-21-09, 2-5-13, 4-9-19.

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Terms and Conditions in a user's agreement are provided so that Internet users are aware of the responsibilities they will assume when using this Calcasieu Parish School Board (CPSB) resource. Responsibilities include efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. All users, including students, employees, or any other users of School Board computers, hardware, and School Board network shall abide by all policies of the School Board and any applicable administrative regulations and procedures.

Each user shall sign an *Internet and District Network Resources Contract* which shall be legally binding and indicates that he/she has read the *Terms and Conditions* carefully and agrees to abide by them.

The School Board shall incorporate the use of computer-related technology or the use of Internet service provider technology designed to block access or exposure to any harmful materials or information, such as sites that contain obscene, pornographic, pervasively vulgar, excessively violent, or sexually harassing information or material. Sites which contain information on the manufacturing of bombs or other incendiary devices shall also be prohibited. However, the School Board does not prohibit authorized employees or students from having unfiltered or unrestricted access to Internet or online services, including online services of newspapers with daily circulation of at least 1,000, for legitimate scientific or educational purposes approved by the School Board.

The School Board, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, shall develop and distribute age and grade appropriate information to each student regarding Internet and cell phone safety and online content that is a threat to school safety. The information shall include the following:

- Instruction on how to detect potential threats to school safety exhibited online, including posting on any social media platform.

- Visual examples of possible threats.
- The process for reporting potential threats, which shall be in accordance with the procedures referenced in policy *EBBB, School and Student Safety*.

Such information shall be either distributed to or explained to students and school personnel at the beginning of each school year and shall be posted on an easily accessible page of the School Board's website and the website of each school.

If information reported to a school is deemed a potential threat to school safety, the school shall present the written form and any further evidence to local law enforcement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Personal Safety and Privacy

- A. Users will not publish online any personal contact information (e.g., address, phone number) about themselves or any other person on any CPSB webpage. Calcasieu Parish School Board home pages will use Calcasieu Parish School Board phone numbers and cpsb.org e-mail addresses. Personal photos and work can be published if a signed district release form is on file.
- B. Users will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without appropriate approval. Inappropriate contacts should be reported to school authorities immediately.
- C. It is expected that all students will be appropriately supervised and monitored during any online activities to ensure proper use.

2. Illegal Activities

- A. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the network, any computer system or another person's account or files.
- B. Users will not intentionally attempt to disrupt or intentionally disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
- C. Users will not engage in any illegal acts, such as selling drugs, engaging in criminal gang activity or threatening the safety of a person or persons, etc.
- D. Users will not attempt to impersonate another individual or organization using CPSB network or other technology resources for any reason (ie. "phishing").

3. Security

- A. Users are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no condition should users give their password to another person nor post the password in written form where it can be easily seen by others.
- B. Users will log off or lock their personal accounts when away from the computer for more than a few moments to prevent unauthorized access.
- C. Users will immediately notify school authorities if they have identified a possible security problem. However, testing or purposely looking for possible security problems may be considered as an illegal attempt to gain access. Any security concerns should be addressed to the CPSB Tech Support Center.
- D. Users will avoid the spread of computer viruses by installing and maintaining up-to-date antivirus software provided by the district. The user may not remove, disable or replace the district antivirus software solution for any reason.
- E. Users will only use memory storage devices (ie. disks, CDs, pen drives, etc.) that have been scanned and found to be free of viruses.
- F. Users will not download and install unnecessary programs from the Internet since most of this installs "spyware/malware" on the computer and hinders the performance of the computer (i.e. Toolbar helpers, e-mail add-ons, screen savers, search engine assistants, pop-up blockers, etc.).
- G. Users should be aware that the CPSB network, Internet use and system e-mail is maintained and regularly monitored for inappropriate use. If any misuse is detected by the staff, appropriate action will be taken against the person or persons involved.
- H. Users are not allowed to install software to capture or monitor the computer activity of other users on the network or network traffic. Only authorized CPSB tech support staff is permitted to do this in the course of administering the network.

4. Network

- A. All computers are to be setup and maintained with connection to the CPSB domain for network administration and security. Removing a computer from the CPSB domain without the permission of a CPSB tech support staff member will be considered an act to circumvent district network security and is strictly prohibited.

- B. All wireless devices on the CPSB network will be setup using official CPSB wireless policies. All wireless devices purchased must be equipment approved by the network department. No unauthorized wireless devices will be attached to the CPSB network and doing so will be considered a network security breach and dealt with accordingly.
 - C. Network bandwidth is a limited resource of which must be conserved to serve all of the network needs of the district. Users must understand that listening to online radio stations, viewing non-educational streaming video sites, and downloading very large files, etc. will be considered a misuse of this limited resource.
 - D. Important information regarding the CPSB network will be sent out to all employees from time to time during the year addressed from the e-mail account "tech.support@cpsb.org." It is the responsibility of all employees to open and read all e-mails from this account and then act accordingly. Excuses such as "not reading" or deleting the messages from this account will not be acceptable.
5. Inappropriate Language/Content
- A. Users will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, unprofessional, or disrespectful language. This includes personal attacks or harassment of another person.
 - B. Users will not circumvent district content filters using any means in order to access inappropriate content as listed above.
6. Resource Limits
- A. Users will use the system e-mail, Internet and network resources only for educational and professional development activities. Personal use of these resources is strongly discouraged.
 - B. Users will not post or forward e-mail "chain letters" or send annoying or unnecessary messages to others.
 - C. Users will not use district e-mail to mass e-mail and "spam" any users (internal and external) with unauthorized communications or solicitations.
 - D. Users will subscribe only to high-quality discussion group mail lists that are relevant to educational or professional development activities and not subscribe others without their consent.

7. Access and Use of Materials

- A. Users will not take the ideas or writings of others and present them as if they were their own.
- B. Users will respect copyrighted materials and other intellectual property. Users may not duplicate, copy or distribute electronic resources without the appropriate permissions, documentations or citations.
- C. Users will immediately report to school authorities any website they access with inappropriate content.

8. Consequences of Misuse

- A. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of privileges and/or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by administration, faculty, and staff.
- B. Users should expect no privacy of the contents of personal files and e-mail on the district system. Messages relating to, or in the support of, illegal activities must be reported to the authorities.
- C. The Calcasieu Parish School Board allows for the suspension of network services and email for the inappropriate or illegal use of the Internet or email by students and employees. Other disciplinary action may also be warranted.
- D. Misuse of the system can result in possible legal action and/or prosecution, and will require restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software costs.
- E. Users bringing illegal and/or inappropriate materials into the system's electronic environment will be subject to disciplinary action.

DISCLAIMER

The School Board's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The School Board does not make any warranties, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein. The School Board uses a variety of vendor-supplied hardware and software. Therefore, the School Board does not warrant that the functions or services performed by, or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the user's requirements. Neither does the School Board warrant that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free, nor that defects will be corrected. Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers, or other third party individuals in the

system are those of the providers and not necessarily the School Board.

The School Board will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the School Board's computer systems and networks.

Revised: November, 2004

Revised: December, 2008

Revised: November, 2012

Revised: April 9, 2019

Revised: July, 2025

Ref: 47 USC 254, (*Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 17:100.7, Board minutes, 9-7-99, 8-3-04, 9-14-04, 4-21-09, 2-5-13, 4-9-19.

BULLYING AND HAZING

The Calcasieu Parish School Board is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment so that no student is subject to bullying, hazing, or similar behavior while in school or participating in school-related activities. Students and their parents or legal guardians shall be notified that the school, school bus, and all other school environments are to be safe and secure for all. Therefore, all statements or actions of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior made on campus, at school-sponsored activities, or events, on school buses, at school bus stops, and on the way to and from school shall not be tolerated. Even if made in a joking manner, these statements or actions of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior towards other students or school personnel shall be unacceptable.

All students, teachers, and other school employees shall take responsible measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this policy.

BULLYING

Bullying shall mean:

1. A pattern of any one or more of the following:
 - A. Gestures, including but not limited to obscene gestures and making faces.
 - B. Written, electronic, or verbal communications, including but not limited to calling names, threatening harm, taunting, malicious teasing, or spreading untrue rumors. *Electronic communication* includes but is not limited to a communication or image transmitted by email, instant message, text message, blog, or social networking website through the use of a telephone, mobile phone, pager, computer, or other electronic device.
 - C. Physical acts, including but not limited to hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, choking, damaging personal property, or unauthorized use of personal property.
 - D. Repeatedly and purposefully shunning or excluding from activities.
2. Where the pattern of behavior as enumerated above is exhibited toward a student, more than once, by another student or group of students and occurs, or is received by, a student while on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related function or activity, at any designated school bus stop, in any other school bus or any other school or private vehicle used to transport students to and from schools, or any school-sponsored activity or event.
3. The pattern of behavior as provided above shall have the effect of physically

harming a student, placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm, damaging a student's property, placing the student in reasonable fear of damage to the student's property, or shall be sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough to either create an intimidating or threatening educational environment, have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's performance in school, or have the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Each elementary and secondary school shall institute a program to prohibit and prevent bullying. The program shall:

1. Define bullying as provided above.
2. Ensure each student, each student's parent or legal guardian, and each school administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, school employee, and volunteer is aware of his/her duties and responsibilities relative to preventing and stopping bullying.
3. Provide for a process for reporting and investigating alleged incidents of bullying.
4. Provide for appropriate discipline of a student found guilty of bullying.
5. Provide for appropriate remedies for a student found to have been bullied.
6. Provide for procedures for investigating and reporting each school administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, and school employee for failure to act as provided.

HAZING

Hazing shall mean any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order, or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental, or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop. Hazing does not mean any adult-directed and school-sanctioned athletic program practice or event or military training program.

Any solicitation to engage in hazing, and the aiding and abetting another person who engages in hazing shall be prohibited. The consent, stated or implied, of the hazing victim shall not be a defense in determining disciplinary action.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The School Board shall inform each student, orally and in writing, at the required

orientation conducted at the beginning of each school year, of the prohibition against bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student by another student; the nature and consequences of such actions; including the potential criminal consequences and loss of driver's license, and the proper process and procedure for reporting any incidents involving such prohibited actions. A copy of the written notice shall also be delivered to each student's parent or legal guardian.

REPORTING

The principal or his/her designee shall be authorized to receive complaints alleging violation of this policy. All employees, parents, volunteers, or any other school personnel shall report alleged violations to the principal or his/her designee. Any written or oral report of an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall be considered an official means of reporting such act(s). Complaints, reports, and investigative reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall remain *confidential*, with limited exception of state or federal law.

The reporting of incidents of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall be made on the *Bullying Report* form, which shall include an *affirmation of truth*. Any bullying, hazing, or similar behavior report submitted, regardless of recipient, shall use this form, but additional information may be provided. The form shall be available on the website of each public elementary and secondary school.

Students and Parents

Any student who believes that he/she has been, or is currently, the victim of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, or any student, or any parent or legal guardian, who witnesses bullying, hazing, or similar behavior or has good reason to believe bullying, hazing, or similar behavior is taking place, may report the situation to a school official, who in turn shall report the situation to the principal or his/her designee. A student, or parent or legal guardian, may also report concerns regarding bullying, hazing, or similar behavior to a teacher, counselor, other school employee, or to any chaperone supervising a school function or activity. Any report shall remain *confidential*.

School Personnel

Any school employee, whether full- or part-time, and any chaperone supervising a school function or activity, who witnesses or learns of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, immediately shall report the incident to the principal or his/her designee. Verbal reports shall be submitted by the employee or chaperone on the same day as the employee or chaperone witnessed or otherwise learned of the incident, and a written report shall be filed no later than two (2) days thereafter.

All other members of the school community, including students, parents or legal guardians, volunteers, and visitors shall be encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to the principal or his/her designee.

False Reports

Intentionally making false reports about bullying, hazing, or similar behavior to school officials shall be prohibited conduct and shall result in appropriate disciplinary measures as determined by the School Board.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Investigations of any reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student shall be in accordance with the following:

1. Timing

The school shall begin an investigation of any complaint that is properly reported and that alleges the prohibited conduct the next business or school day after the report is received by the principal or his/her designee. The investigation shall be completed as expeditiously as possible, but not later than ten (10) school days after the date the written report of the incident is submitted to the principal or his/her designee. If additional information is received after the end of the ten-day period, the school principal or his/her designee shall amend all documents and reports required to reflect such information.

2. Scope of Investigation

An investigation shall include documented interviews of the reporter, the alleged victim, the alleged bully or offender, and any witnesses, and shall include obtaining oral, visual or written evidence, including, but not limited to statements, writings, recordings, electronic messages, and photographs. Interviews shall be conducted privately, separately, and confidentially. Unless necessary for the purpose of the investigation, the alleged offender and alleged victim shall not be interviewed together.

The principal or his/her designee shall collect and evaluate all facts using the *Bullying Investigation* form.

3. Parental Notification

Upon receiving a report of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, the school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each involved student no later than the following business or school day. Delivery of notice to the parents or legal guardians by an involved student shall **not** constitute the required parental notice.

Before any student under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, his/her parent or legal guardian shall be notified by the principal or his/her designee of the allegations made and shall have the opportunity to attend any interviews with their child conducted as part of the investigation.

All meetings with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged perpetrator shall be in compliance with the following:

- A. Separate meetings shall be held with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged perpetrator.
- B. Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and of the alleged perpetrator shall be informed of the potential consequences, penalties, and counseling options.

In any case where a teacher, principal, or other school employee is authorized to require the parent or legal guardian of a student who is under the age of eighteen (18) and not judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage to attend a conference or meeting regarding the student's behavior and, after notice, the parent, or legal guardian willfully refuses to attend, the principal or his/her designee shall file a complaint, pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Article 730 or Article 731, with a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. The principal may also file a complaint on the grounds the student is a truant or has willfully and repeatedly violated school rules, or any other applicable ground when, in his/her judgment, doing so is in the best interests of the student.

4. Documentation

At the conclusion of an investigation of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, and after meeting with the parents or legal guardians of each involved student, the principal or his/her designee or School Board shall:

- A. Prepare a written report containing the findings of the investigation, including input from the involved students' parents or legal guardians, and the decision by the principal or his/her designee or school system official. The document shall be placed in the school records of each involved student.
- B. Promptly notify the reporter/complainant of the findings of the investigation and whether remedial action has been taken, if such release of information does not violate the law.
- C. Keep reports/complaints and investigative reports confidential, except where disclosure is required to be made by applicable federal laws, rules, or regulations or by state law.
- D. Maintain reports/complaints and investigative reports for three (3) years.
- E. As applicable, provide a copy of any reports and investigative documents to the School Board for disciplinary measures, or to the Louisiana

Department of Education, as necessary.

- F. As applicable, provide a copy of any reports and investigative documents to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

During the pendency of an investigation, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the alleged victim, students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of the investigation.

Handling Evidence

Whenever an employee/administrator receives notice of a bullying or hazing, or similar behavior, any physical evidence of the act/communication shall be secured in the building administrator's office with as little physical contact as possible. If the act/communication is in the form of graffiti, the area shall be sealed off by the building administrator. Photographs shall be taken as soon as possible. Student/public exposure shall be as minimal as possible. Graffiti shall not be removed until law enforcement has properly examined the area.

APPEAL

If the school principal or his/her designee does not take timely and effective action in any bullying incident, the student, parent or legal guardian, or school employee may report, in writing, the incident to the School Board. The School Board shall begin an investigation of any properly reported complaint that alleges prohibited conduct the next business day during which school is in session after the report is received by the School Board.

If the School Board does not take timely and effective action, the student, parent or legal guardian, or other school employee may report any bullying incident to the Louisiana Department of Education.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Once a report has been received at a school, and a school principal or his/her designee has determined that an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior has occurred, and after having met with the parent or legal guardian of the student involved, the principal or his/her designee, or applicable school official shall take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against the student, and report criminal conduct to law enforcement. Counseling and/or other interventions may also be recommended.

Students may be disciplined for off-campus bullying, hazing, or similar behavior the same as if the improper conduct occurred on campus, if the actions of the offender substantially interfere with the education opportunities or educational programs of the student victim and/or adversely affects the ability of the student victim to participate in or benefit from the school's education programs or activities.

PARENTAL RELIEF

If a parent, legal guardian, teacher, or other school official has made four (4) or more reports of separate instances of bullying, and no investigation pursuant to state law or this policy has occurred, the parent or legal guardian of the alleged victim may request that the student be transferred to another school operated by the School Board.

Such request shall be filed with the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the request to transfer the student to another school, the School Board shall make a seat available at another school under its jurisdiction within ten (10) school days of the parent or legal guardian's request for a transfer. If the School Board has no other school under its jurisdiction serving the grade level of the alleged victim, within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the request, the Superintendent shall:

1. Inform the student and his/her parent or legal guardian and facilitate the student's enrollment in a statewide virtual school.
2. Offer the student a placement in a full-time virtual program or virtual school under the School Board's jurisdiction.
3. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Superintendent or director of another governing authority to secure a placement and provide for the transfer of the student to a school serving the grade level of the student, in accordance with statutory provisions.

If no seat or other placement is made available within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the request by the Superintendent, the parent or legal guardian may request a hearing with the School Board, which shall be public or private at the option of the parent or legal guardian. The School Board shall grant the hearing at the next scheduled meeting or within sixty (60) calendar days, whichever is sooner.

At the end of any school year, the parent or legal guardian may make a request to the School Board to transfer the student back to the original school. The School Board shall make a seat available at the original school that the student attended. No other schools shall qualify for transfer under this provision.

FAILURE TO ACT

Any teacher, counselor, bus operator, administrator, or other school employee, whether full- or part-time, who witnesses bullying or who receives a report of bullying from an alleged victim, and who fails to report the incident to a school official shall be investigated by the School Board. Upon finding a reasonable expectation that the individual failed to act, the School Board shall suspend the individual without pay. The length of the suspension shall be determined by the School Board based on the severity of the bullying inflicted on the victim. The School Board shall report each finding of a failure to report and the length of suspension issued to each employee who failed to report to the State Department of Education.

Any school administrator or official who fails to notify a parent or legal guardian of a report of bullying, timely investigate a report of bullying, take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against a student that was determined to have engaged in bullying, or report criminal conduct to the appropriate law enforcement official shall be investigated by the School Board. Upon finding a reasonable expectation that the individual failed to act, the School Board shall suspend the individual without pay. The length of the suspension shall be determined by the School Board based on the severity of the bullying inflicted on the victim. The School Board shall report each finding of a failure to report bullying and the length of suspension issued to the employee who failed to report to the State Department of Education. The report shall be submitted by August first annually.

TRAINING

~~The School Board shall provide a minimum of four (4) hours of training for all new employees who have contact with students and two (2) hours of training each subsequent year for all school employees who have contact with students, including bus drivers, with respect to bullying, in accordance with state statutory provisions.~~

RETALIATION

Retaliation against any person who reports bullying, hazing, or similar behavior in good faith, who is thought to have reported such conduct, who files a complaint, or who otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior is prohibited conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

CHILD ABUSE

The provisions of this policy shall not be interpreted to conflict with or supersede the provisions requiring mandatory reporting pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Art. 609 and as enforced through La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:403.

Revised: July, 2004

Revised: August, 2010

Revised: November, 2012

Revised: October 8, 2013

Revised: December 11, 2018

Revised: January 10, 2023

Revised: July, 2025

Ref: 20 USC 1232(g-i), (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. "14:40.3, 14:40.7, 14:40.8, 14:403, 17:105, 17:105.1, 17:183, 17:416, 17:416.1, 17:416.13, 17:416.14; La. Children's Code, Art. 609, 730, 731; Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 119 S. Ct. 1661 (1991); Board minutes, 8-5-03, 12-7-04, 10-5-10, 2-5-13, 10-8-13, 12-11-18, 1-10-23.

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3. The pattern of behavior as provided above shall have the effect of physically

harming a student, placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm, damaging a student's property, placing the student in reasonable fear of damage to the student's property, or shall be sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough to either create an intimidating or threatening educational environment, have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's performance in school, or have the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Each elementary and secondary school shall institute a program to prohibit and prevent bullying. The program shall:

1. Define bullying as provided above.
2. Ensure each student, each student's parent or legal guardian, and each school administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, school employee, and volunteer is aware of his/her duties and responsibilities relative to preventing and stopping bullying.
3. Provide for a process for reporting and investigating alleged incidents of bullying.
4. Provide for appropriate discipline of a student found guilty of bullying.
5. Provide for appropriate remedies for a student found to have been bullied.
6. Provide for procedures for investigating and reporting each school administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, and school employee for failure to act as provided.

HAZING

Hazing shall mean any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order, or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental, or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop. Hazing does not mean any adult-directed and school-sanctioned athletic program practice or event or military training program.

Any solicitation to engage in hazing, and the aiding and abetting another person who engages in hazing shall be prohibited. The consent, stated or implied, of the hazing victim shall not be a defense in determining disciplinary action.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The School Board shall inform each student, orally and in writing, at the required

orientation conducted at the beginning of each school year, of the prohibition against bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student by another student; the nature and consequences of such actions; including the potential criminal consequences and loss of driver's license, and the proper process and procedure for reporting any incidents involving such prohibited actions. A copy of the written notice shall also be delivered to each student's parent or legal guardian.

REPORTING

The principal or his/her designee shall be authorized to receive complaints alleging violation of this policy. All employees, parents, volunteers, or any other school personnel shall report alleged violations to the principal or his/her designee. Any written or oral report of an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall be considered an official means of reporting such act(s). Complaints, reports, and investigative reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall remain *confidential*, with limited exception of state or federal law.

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School Personnel

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All other members of the school community, including students, parents or legal guardians, volunteers, and visitors shall be encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to the principal or his/her designee.

False Reports

Intentionally making false reports about bullying, hazing, or similar behavior to school officials shall be prohibited conduct and shall result in appropriate disciplinary measures as determined by the School Board.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Investigations of any reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student shall be in accordance with the following:

1. Timing

The school shall begin an investigation of any complaint that is properly reported and that alleges the prohibited conduct the next business or school day after the report is received by the principal or his/her designee. The investigation shall be completed as expeditiously as possible, but not later than ten (10) school days after the date the written report of the incident is submitted to the principal or his/her designee. If additional information is received after the end of the ten-day period, the school principal or his/her designee shall amend all documents and reports required to reflect such information.

2. Scope of Investigation

An investigation shall include documented interviews of the reporter, the alleged victim, the alleged bully or offender, and any witnesses, and shall include obtaining oral, visual or written evidence, including, but not limited to statements, writings, recordings, electronic messages, and photographs. Interviews shall be conducted privately, separately, and confidentially. Unless necessary for the purpose of the investigation, the alleged offender and alleged victim shall not be interviewed together.

The principal or his/her designee shall collect and evaluate all facts using the *Bullying Investigation* form.

3. Parental Notification

Upon receiving a report of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, the school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each involved student no later than the following business or school day. Delivery of notice to the parents or legal guardians by an involved student shall **not** constitute the required parental notice.

Before any student under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, his/her parent or legal guardian shall be notified by the principal or his/her designee of the allegations made and shall have the opportunity to attend any interviews with their child conducted as part of the investigation.

All meetings with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged perpetrator shall be in compliance with the following:

- A. Separate meetings shall be held with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged perpetrator.
- B. Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and of the alleged perpetrator shall be informed of the potential consequences, penalties, and counseling options.

In any case where a teacher, principal, or other school employee is authorized to require the parent or legal guardian of a student who is under the age of eighteen (18) and not judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage to attend a conference or meeting regarding the student's behavior and, after notice, the parent, or legal guardian willfully refuses to attend, the principal or his/her designee shall file a complaint, pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Article 730 or Article 731, with a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. The principal may also file a complaint on the grounds the student is a truant or has willfully and repeatedly violated school rules, or any other applicable ground when, in his/her judgment, doing so is in the best interests of the student.

4. Documentation

At the conclusion of an investigation of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, and after meeting with the parents or legal guardians of each involved student, the principal or his/her designee or School Board shall:

- A. Prepare a written report containing the findings of the investigation, including input from the involved students' parents or legal guardians, and the decision by the principal or his/her designee or school system official. The document shall be placed in the school records of each involved student.
- B. Promptly notify the reporter/complainant of the findings of the investigation and whether remedial action has been taken, if such release of information does not violate the law.
- C. Keep reports/complaints and investigative reports confidential, except where disclosure is required to be made by applicable federal laws, rules, or regulations or by state law.
- D. Maintain reports/complaints and investigative reports for three (3) years.
- E. As applicable, provide a copy of any reports and investigative documents to the School Board for disciplinary measures, or to the Louisiana

Department of Education, as necessary.

- F. As applicable, provide a copy of any reports and investigative documents to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

During the pendency of an investigation, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the alleged victim, students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of the investigation.

Handling Evidence

Whenever an employee/administrator receives notice of a bullying or hazing, or similar behavior, any physical evidence of the act/communication shall be secured in the building administrator's office with as little physical contact as possible. If the act/communication is in the form of graffiti, the area shall be sealed off by the building administrator. Photographs shall be taken as soon as possible. Student/public exposure shall be as minimal as possible. Graffiti shall not be removed until law enforcement has properly examined the area.

APPEAL

If the school principal or his/her designee does not take timely and effective action in any bullying incident, the student, parent or legal guardian, or school employee may report, in writing, the incident to the School Board. The School Board shall begin an investigation of any properly reported complaint that alleges prohibited conduct the next business day during which school is in session after the report is received by the School Board.

If the School Board does not take timely and effective action, the student, parent or legal guardian, or other school employee may report any bullying incident to the Louisiana Department of Education.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Once a report has been received at a school, and a school principal or his/her designee has determined that an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior has occurred, and after having met with the parent or legal guardian of the student involved, the principal or his/her designee, or applicable school official shall take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against the student, and report criminal conduct to law enforcement. Counseling and/or other interventions may also be recommended.

Students may be disciplined for off-campus bullying, hazing, or similar behavior the same as if the improper conduct occurred on campus, if the actions of the offender substantially interfere with the education opportunities or educational programs of the student victim and/or adversely affects the ability of the student victim to participate in or benefit from the school's education programs or activities.

PARENTAL RELIEF

If a parent, legal guardian, teacher, or other school official has made four (4) or more reports of separate instances of bullying, and no investigation pursuant to state law or this policy has occurred, the parent or legal guardian of the alleged victim may request that the student be transferred to another school operated by the School Board.

Such request shall be filed with the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the request to transfer the student to another school, the School Board shall make a seat available at another school under its jurisdiction within ten (10) school days of the parent or legal guardian's request for a transfer. If the School Board has no other school under its jurisdiction serving the grade level of the alleged victim, within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the request, the Superintendent shall:

1. Inform the student and his/her parent or legal guardian and facilitate the student's enrollment in a statewide virtual school.
2. Offer the student a placement in a full-time virtual program or virtual school under the School Board's jurisdiction.
3. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Superintendent or director of another governing authority to secure a placement and provide for the transfer of the student to a school serving the grade level of the student, in accordance with statutory provisions.

If no seat or other placement is made available within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the request by the Superintendent, the parent or legal guardian may request a hearing with the School Board, which shall be public or private at the option of the parent or legal guardian. The School Board shall grant the hearing at the next scheduled meeting or within sixty (60) calendar days, whichever is sooner.

At the end of any school year, the parent or legal guardian may make a request to the School Board to transfer the student back to the original school. The School Board shall make a seat available at the original school that the student attended. No other schools shall qualify for transfer under this provision.

FAILURE TO ACT

Any teacher, counselor, bus operator, administrator, or other school employee, whether full- or part-time, who witnesses bullying or who receives a report of bullying from an alleged victim, and who fails to report the incident to a school official shall be investigated by the School Board. Upon finding a reasonable expectation that the individual failed to act, the School Board shall suspend the individual without pay. The length of the suspension shall be determined by the School Board based on the severity of the bullying inflicted on the victim. The School Board shall report each finding of a failure to report and the length of suspension issued to each employee who failed to report to the State Department of Education.

Any school administrator or official who fails to notify a parent or legal guardian of a report of bullying, timely investigate a report of bullying, take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against a student that was determined to have engaged in bullying, or report criminal conduct to the appropriate law enforcement official shall be investigated by the School Board. Upon finding a reasonable expectation that the individual failed to act, the School Board shall suspend the individual without pay. The length of the suspension shall be determined by the School Board based on the severity of the bullying inflicted on the victim. The School Board shall report each finding of a failure to report bullying and the length of suspension issued to the employee who failed to report to the State Department of Education. The report shall be submitted by August first annually.

RETALIATION

Retaliation against any person who reports bullying, hazing, or similar behavior in good faith, who is thought to have reported such conduct, who files a complaint, or who otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior is prohibited conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

CHILD ABUSE

The provisions of this policy shall not be interpreted to conflict with or supersede the provisions requiring mandatory reporting pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Art. 609 and as enforced through La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:403.

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Ref: 20 USC 1232(g-i), (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. "14:40.3, 14:40.7, 14:40.8, 14:403, 17:105, 17:105.1, 17:183, 17:416, 17:416.1, 17:416.13, 17:416.14; La. Children's Code, Art. 609, 730, 731; Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 119 S. Ct. 1661 (1991); Board minutes, 8-5-03, 12-7-04, 10-5-10, 2-5-13, 10-8-13, 12-11-18, 1-10-23.