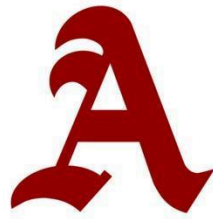


ALBERTVILLE

CITY SCHOOLS



Student and Parent Information Handbook 2025-2026

Principal Message

Albertville Kindergarten and Pre K uphold our district purpose, Educating for Excellence, and our mission, the Albertville Advantage, today, tomorrow, together. Kindergarten is a child's first experience with public education. Our goal is to allow them to become lifelong learners, productive members of society, and most importantly how to treat others with respect and kindness. The Chinese proverb states, "If you are planning for a year, sow rice. If you are planning for a decade, plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime, educate children."

Our teachers spend many hours at the beginning of school teaching our students how to become good citizens as well as how to be a part of a classroom family. We begin each day with our Peacemaker's Pledge, and the Pledge of Allegiance. AKPK classrooms are divided by color teams to encourage collaboration within their class as well as schoolwide. We encourage our students to earn points for their team by having good attendance, being a peacemaker, and achieving academic accomplishments.

All teachers have been trained in OG, Ortin Gillingham, , strategies to enhance beginning phonics and phonemic awareness instruction. LETRS training has been provided to all teachers with the focus being on the Science of Reading . These two professional development opportunities have made our teachers aligned in their instruction and implementation of the new reading standards. An updated pacing guide has been developed and implemented with the new math standards. Other opportunities for Math instruction include calendar time, number talks, and the daily use of hands on manipulatives. Assessments of our students are both formative and summative which are completed daily, weekly, and every nine weeks. Assessments are administered by our testing team as well as the classroom teacher.

All students attend library, PE, counseling, STEM and music on a weekly basis. Reading buddies visit AKPK weekly to read with our students that are struggling learners or just need an extra shoulder to lean on. Some of our high school students serve as Aggie Mentors to assist our students as needed with support in the classroom. Community leaders and businesses support our teachers and students as well.

AKPK provides many opportunities for real world, engaging, and interesting experiences for all of our students. These opportunities allow our students to grow socially, emotionally, and academically. Students enjoy a variety of experiences throughout the year that involve community support and parent participation. Some of these events include Farm Day, Community Helper Day, theater performances, and field trips.

AKPK parent connection is a packet of resources that is sent home to parents at the end of each nine weeks. Each nine weeks our focus is on a different skill and resources are sent home with parents along with their report cards. Parent conferences are held often and accommodations are in place for all parents to have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

AKPK provides a loving, safe environment for our students so they may be productive and engaged on a daily basis. The faculty and staff at AKPK are very family oriented and support and encourage each other. Students, faculty, and staff

enjoy working and learning at AKPK. We are very unique in that we are just Kindergarten and Pre K and we have the privilege of watching our students learn, grow and instill hope for their future.

Mona K Sheets, Principal
Haley Bearden, Assistant Principal
Vickie Ray , Counselor
256-878-7922

ALBERTVILLE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE K SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

CONTACT INFORMATION	4
MASTER SCHEDULE	4
SCHOOL OPERATIONS	4
DAILY DROPOFF	4
DAILY PICKUP	4
SCHOOL CHECK-OUT	4
VISITORS	5
ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT	5
SCHOOL HEALTH	5
LUNCHROOM INFORMATION	5
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT	5
DRESS CODE	20
ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES	21
EXTRA-CURRICULAR	21
TECHNOLOGY USAGE	21

CONTACT INFORMATION

Albertville Kindergarten and Pre K

Main Office Phone - 256-878-7922

Main Office Fax - 256- 891-6386

School Address -257 Country Club Road

Albertville, Alabama 35951

Name	Position	Phone Number
Mona Sheets	Principal	256-878-7922
Haley Bearden	Assistant Principal	256 -878-7922
Vickie Ray	Counselor	256-878-7922
Tiffany Freeman	Lunchroom Manager	256-891-6324

MASTER SCHEDULE

Students receive Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies instruction on a daily basis. Students also receive counseling services, library classes, music, physical education classes and stem weekly. Special education services and speech services are available for students that need these services.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

AKPK begins the day with doors opening at 7:00. Bus riders and car riders have separate drop off and pick up locations. Please read the information below for specific details on drop off and pick up procedures.

Daily Drop Off

Car line begins for Kindergarten at 7:00 and students are considered tardy at 7:31. Car line for Pre K begins at 7:35 and students are considered tardy at 7:51. Faculty and staff will open car doors for students every morning and they will proceed to the gym. Second semester, students will open the car door themselves. Drop off is in the front of the Kindergarten building and as cars pull in they should drive up as far as possible. All students should exit the vehicle on the passenger side. Students will not be allowed to exit from the drivers side and walk around the vehicle. Students must have backpacks, lunches, etc ready to exit the vehicle once it stops. Tell your child to have a great day as they exit the vehicle. Bus riders will be dropped off on the side of the Kindergarten building and make their way to the gym.

Daily Pickup

Car pick up begins for Kindergarten at 2:35 and car pick up for Pre K begins at 2:15. Parents will be given a blue, yellow, or purple car tag at the beginning of the year. Your car tag should be hanging from your rearview mirror for the best visibility to teachers to call students' names. Parents will line up in the correct lane according to their car tag color. Lane closest to the fence and ends on the curb next to the side of the building is the yellow lane. Lane farthest from the fence and ends away from the curb on the side of the K building is the blue lane. Yellow and blue arrows are painted on the asphalt in the parking lot. Vehicles should not cross traffic, choose the correct lane and stay in that lane. A faculty or staff member will direct you where to stop to pick up your child. Children will be loaded on the passenger side of the vehicle so make arrangements for that side to be empty. Pre K pick up line begins at 2:15 and is located in the front outer portion of the parking lot.

You will line up and wait for a faculty member to move you across lanes to the Pre K building on the hill. Parents should not arrive for afternoon pick up before 2:00.

School Check-Out

When you come to check out your child, do so before 2:00. Ring the doorbell located in the foyer on the right, arrows are pointing to the doorbell, and show your car tag or ID to the secretary. Car tag or ID must be presented or you will not be allowed to check out your child. If you send someone to check out your child, make sure they are on the check out list and have their ID . Your child will be called to the front office at that time to check out.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome at AKPK, parents are asked to inform the teacher if they would like to bring a birthday snack or eat lunch with their child.

Academic Progress Report

Progress reports are sent home with each child at the end of the fourth week in the nine week period. Report cards are sent home at the end of each nine weeks. Parent conferences are held each nine weeks for all students to discuss their academic progress.

School Health

Students that have a medical condition, food allergy, or will need to take medication at school, please contact the schedule to schedule an appointment with the school nurse. Students may not bring medication in their backpack and teachers are not allowed to give medication to a student. If a student needs medication, forms must be completed with the school nurse so the nurse can administer the medication. When a student becomes sick at school, parents will be contacted to pick up the child. Students must be fever free, no vomiting, or no diarrhea within 24 hours of the time they were picked up from school. If a child shows symptoms , fever, nausea, etc. please do not send them to school. Any day that a child misses, upon their return they should have a doctor's excuse or a parent excuse.

LUNCHROOM INFORMATION

Albertville City Schools' Child Nutrition Program works alongside our schools to provide our students with excellent experiences while in our care. Our cafeteria staff believes that students who are well-fed are ready to learn; therefore, it is our responsibility to provide all students with high-quality, nutritious and appealing meals each time they come through our cafeterias.

All students enrolled in Albertville City Schools will receive healthy breakfast and lunches at no charge regardless of income status for the 2024-2025 school year.

Community Eligibility Program

Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP for short, is a federal program that allows schools in high poverty areas to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. Participation in CEP does not require families to complete an application in order to receive the benefit of free meals. Enrollment in Albertville City Schools is the only student requirement. This allows our schools to focus on providing healthy meals to help students learn and thrive.

CEP increases school meal participation by removing the stigmas that are typically associated with having to pay for lunch and possibly not having the funds to do so that day. It also maximizes the federal reimbursement to schools with the highest rates of attending students living in low-income households.

Students will continue to have the option to purchase a la carte items in our lunchrooms. A detailed and updated list, including pricing of a la carte items is available in each lunchroom and school office. Parents with preferences regarding a la carte purchases are encouraged to contact their child's cafeteria manager.

Lunch Prices

Staff: \$3.25-Breakfast, \$4.75-Lunch

Visitors:\$3.50-Breakfast, \$5.00-Lunch

Students: Meals will be served at no cost during the 24-25 school year under the Community Eligibility Provision, **"a la carte" items will be at an additional cost.**

Linq Family Portal

The Linq portal is where parents can load money onto student accounts and set payment reminders, view transaction history and set spending limits for their child. You will be able to link all your children together on one page. All you need are their names and birthdates to get started!

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The following section provides the disciplinary offenses and potential consequences of students for behavior that occurs on Albertville City Schools (ACS) property; on ACS transportation; during school- sponsored activities, including, but not limited to distance learning, field trips, athletic functions, and similar activities; and if appropriate, any other area as permitted by Alabama Statutes and/or State Board of Education Rules.

Student disciplinary offenses and the responses to them are divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious offenses and responses to them become progressively more severe. Some offenses require consultation with law enforcement if the offense is deemed to be a violation of state or federal laws.

ACS promotes a safe and supportive learning environment in schools, to protect students and staff from conduct that poses a serious threat to school safety. School based administrators shall provide consistent school-based discipline, where appropriate, and authorized by policy and this Code. In addition, a good faith effort shall be made by the principal or designee to employ parental assistance or other alternative measures prior to suspension, except in the case of emergency or disruptive conditions which require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious breach of conduct as defined by the Board and this Code.

Beginning the 25-26 School Year Albertville City Schools will be following the Alabama state law known as the Focus Act (please see below for the law and ACS Policy mandated by Alabama Focus Act).

Alabama Focus Act (§ 16-6K and § 16-40-13 Ala. Code 1975)

Albertville City School District-Wide Wireless Communication Device Policy 6.19

A. No student may possess a wireless communication device in any Albertville City Schools building or on the grounds during the instructional day unless the wireless communication device is turned off and stored off their person in a locker, car, or similar storage location, except for circumstances allowable by law.

B. Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a), a student may use, operate, or possess a wireless communication device in an Albertville City School building or on the grounds during the instructional day in any of the following circumstances:

- The use, operation, or possession is pursuant to the student's Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 plan, or Individualized Health Plan.
- The use, operation, or possession is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of local board of education personnel.
- The use, operation, or possession occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

C. School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school, including but not limited to the rules stated in the Code of Student Conduct, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive.

D. Violation of this policy may result in a Class I, Class II, Class III, or Class IV conduct violation as stated in the Albertville City Schools approved Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention Policy (2025)

In pursuance of Alabama Act 2025-403, Albertville City Schools adopts a policy relating to vaping, tobacco products, and alternative nicotine products. The purpose of this policy is to establish a vape awareness, education, and prevention program to prohibit the possession and use of prohibited tobacco, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, e-liquids, and alternative nicotine products by students in public K-12 schools.

1. Prohibition: The possession or use of tobacco, tobacco products, or electronic nicotine delivery systems, e-liquids, and alternative nicotine products are prohibited for any student at an Albertville City School, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored function.

2. Violation: Any student who violates the prohibition contained within this policy shall be subject to graduated consequences, which may include: (All discipline consequences may be found in the discipline response codes found in the student handbook)

- Notification of the student's parent or legal guardian shall be made regarding the violation.
- Required participation in the Alabama State Board of Education-approved vaping awareness, education, and prevention class.
- In-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or placement in an alternative school.
- Referral of the matter to the juvenile court for disposition.
- Or, any combination of the provided consequences due to violation of the policy.

3. Complaint procedure: When a complaint is lodged against a student for violating the prohibition, the complaint must be memorialized using the model complaint form (attached). An anonymous report may not be used as the sole basis for imposition of formal disciplinary action. Once a complaint is made against a student for a violation, the complaint form is then forwarded to the principal, assistant principal, or school resource officer for investigation. The complaint form must include all of the following information:

- Name of student who has violated the policy.
- Date, time, and location of violation.
- Description of conduct that violates the policy.

d. Name(s) of witness(es) to violation of the policy.

e. Any other pertinent information.

4. Investigation Procedure: Once a principal, assistant principal, or school resource officer receives a complaint of a serious violation, they must then promptly investigate the violation. The principal, assistant principal, or school resource officer must be the individual responsible for the investigation.

5. Response Procedure: If the student has violated the prohibition, the student shall immediately, and without delay, be subject to the graduated consequences. Any consequences shall conform to applicable disability, anti-discrimination, education laws, and school discipline policies. Additionally, a copy of the complaint form and the disposition shall be placed in the student's permanent record.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

A school district may impose discipline on students for offenses committed off-campus if the conduct in question has a sufficient connection to the school or educational environment. This may include conduct that occurs at a school-sponsored event or activity or conduct that creates a substantial disruption to the school environment or the education of other students.

It is important to note that while a school district may have jurisdiction to impose discipline for certain off-campus conduct, it may also be subject to limitations imposed by state and federal law, including the First Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In all cases, the school district should carefully weigh the need for discipline against the rights of the student and the potential consequences of the discipline.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE INVESTIGATIONS

ACS is responsible for investigating all allegations of student misconduct within its jurisdiction using the preponderance of the evidence legal standard. Therefore, ACS employees are authorized to interview students and obtain witness statements from students involved in offenses of the Code. However, any student may refuse to participate in an investigation. It is important to note that if the behavior is believed to be criminal and a violation of Alabama Statutes, the school resource officer, or law enforcement officer, if the school resource officer is not available, may participate in the investigation.

Parents/guardians may request their student not participate in student discipline investigations without authorization from the parent/guardian by submitting the request, in writing, to the school administration. Refusal to participate in the investigation does not prohibit ACS from continuing with the investigation and administering an appropriate disciplinary consequence. In addition, refusal does not prohibit the school resource officer, or law enforcement officer, from continuing the criminal investigation and imposing criminal penalties if warranted.

If the discipline investigation is conducted due to allegations of a threat or threatening behavior, the investigation will be submitted to the Superintendent or Superintendent designee(s).

In accordance with the Alabama State Compulsory Attendance Law, the Albertville City Board of Education makes the final disposition of any expulsion recommendation. A student may be expelled for any act that is classified as a Class IV offense. The school principal is initially responsible for determining that an offense has been committed for which expulsion may be warranted. Any student who has been determined eligible for special education may be expelled, but all procedural safeguards must be adhered to as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and as outlined in the Albertville City Board of Education Policy Manual.

Any student who is the subject of an expulsion, long-term alternative placement, long term suspension shall be granted the following rights to due process: a hearing, the right to counsel, the right to hear the alleged charge(s), the right to question all evidence, the right to speak and offer evidence in his/her own behalf and the right to have a full explanation of the applicable Board policy used to charge the student.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STUDENT DUE PROCESS LAW

Definitions

REGULAR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Any learning environment provided by the school system including in school suspension and virtual school.

EXPULSION

The exclusion of a student from his or her regular school environment for more than 90, and less than 180, school days for disciplinary purposes.

LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PLACEMENT

The placement of a student in alternative school for more than 15 school days for disciplinary purposes per incidence.

LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

The exclusion of a student from his or her regular school environment for more than 10, and less than 90, school days for disciplinary purposes per incidence.

General:

If a student is suspended pending an expulsion, long-term alternative placement, or long-term suspension, the school will follow the suspension policy and procedure, and on the Suspension Notice Form will identify that the suspension is pending a disciplinary hearing.

When a student's misbehavior warrants a Level IV Response, the principal immediately must notify the Student Services Director and, if the student has a disability, the Special Education Director. If a suspected controlled substance is involved, the Albertville Police Department must be notified.

Superintendent-Initiated Expulsion or Long Term Alternative Placement or Long Term Suspension

The Superintendent may recommend that a student be expelled, serve a long term alternative school placement, or a long term suspension without prior recommendation from the principal. In such cases, the Superintendent will follow the Principal-Initiated Expulsion, Long-term Alternative Placement or Long Term Suspension procedures below.

Principal-Initiated Expulsion or Long -term Alternative School Placement or Long- term Term Suspension

The principal/designee will review the allegations and evidence against a student, advise the student of the reason(s), and allow the student to tell what occurred. After doing so, the principal/designee is responsible initially for determining that the behavior warrants an expulsion, long-term alternative school placement, or a long-term suspension and following the Student Due Process Law as described below.

Following an alleged student disciplinary incident or infraction, the principal, or his or her designee, may consider all of the following factors before recommending or initiating disciplinary action against a student: the age of the student, the disciplinary history of the student, the seriousness of the violation or behavior, and/or whether a lesser intervention would appropriately address the behavior of the student.

Following an alleged violation of the code of student conduct or an alleged violation of state law that results in a recommendation for the long-term alternative school placement, long-term suspension, or expulsion of a student, the local board of education, at a minimum, shall ensure that all of the following procedures are followed:

(1) The student is afforded an opportunity for a disciplinary hearing before the local board of education, or a designee of the local board of education, to determine whether the alleged violation has occurred.

(2) The student, and his or her parent or guardian, receive reasonable written notice of the disciplinary hearing, delivered to them personally or by mail. If the written notice is not responded to by a parent or guardian, the hearing shall be waived. The notice shall include:

- a. A statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;
- b. A short and plain statement detailing the alleged conduct, the provision of the code of student conduct or state law allegedly violated, and any recommended discipline;
- c. A statement outlining the rights of the student at the hearing; and
- d. An optional waiver of the disciplinary hearing indicating the parent or guardian's assent to the alleged violation or violations and to the recommended discipline.

(3) If the notice has been responded to by a parent or guardian, the disciplinary hearing shall occur within 10 school days after the initial suspension from school, unless good cause is otherwise shown or upon agreement of the parties.

(4) The student may be represented at the hearing by legal counsel or another advocate of the student's choice at the student's expense.

(5) At least five days before the hearing, the student, parent or guardian, and legal counsel or advocate of the student may review any audio or video recording of the incident and, consistent with federal and state student records laws and regulations, any records, documents, or other information that may be presented as evidence at the hearing, including written statements made by witnesses related to the alleged incident leading to the suspension or expulsion.

(6) Representatives from the school seeking the proposed disciplinary action shall offer evidence at the hearing that the student violated the code of student conduct or state law.

(7) The student, parent or guardian, or legal counsel or advocate may present a defense, question adverse witnesses who are present at the hearing and offering testimony, excluding students under 14 years of age, and offer evidence, including oral testimony from supporting witnesses, written statements, and other documentary evidence and audio or video recordings at the hearing. The anonymity of witnesses shall be protected. Witnesses shall not be compelled to attend and/or testify in hearings.

(8) Each party to the hearing, upon request, shall receive an electronic or written record of the hearing from the local board of education.

(9) The student and parent or guardian of the student shall receive a written decision from the local board of education, or its designee, within five school days after the hearing. The written decision shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following information:

- a. The basis for the decision, including a reference to the provision of the code of student conduct or state law that the student is accused of violating.
- b. A statement detailing the information that shall be included in the official record of the student.
- c. A statement detailing the right of the student to appeal the decision pursuant to the code of student conduct of the local board of education, Section 12-15-115, and notice of the procedures necessary to file an appeal.
 1. If the decision to recommend expulsion, long term alternative placement, or long term suspension is made by the Disciplinary Committee and is upheld by the Superintendent, the parent/guardian shall be notified by letter of the time and place of a hearing before the Albertville City Board of Education. The student shall remain under suspension until the hearing is held. This notice shall be given a minimum of five calendar days before the hearing is held.
 2. If a student with disabilities is alleged to have committed an offense under the Student Code of Conduct, the hearing panel determines the guilt or innocence only. The decision regarding an appropriate placement is determined by the IEP Committee.
 3. The following persons shall be notified of the committee decision:
 - a. The student's parent or guardian by certified mail or at the time proceeding hearing.
 - b. The Student Services Department.
 - c. The Principal.
 - d. The Special Education Services Department (for students with disabilities) and
 - e. The Superintendent.
 4. A recording shall be made of the hearing and shall be kept for no less than six (6) months from the date of the hearing.
 5. The written record of the hearing shall be kept for two (2) years.
 6. Failure of the parent/guardian and/or student to attend shall not nullify the process.
 7. The Superintendent will review all testimony, facts, and accounts provided by the Committee and Student. The determination will then be sent through certified mail to the parent or guardian and committee notified.

DISTRICT APPEAL PROCESS

Appeal of Disciplinary Committee Decision

If the student's parent or legal guardian is dissatisfied with the decision of the hearing panel in cases in which the hearing panel upholds the recommendation for expulsion, long term alternative placement, or long term suspension, the parent may file an appeal by using the following procedures:

1. The student's parent must mail or deliver a written request for an appeal to the Superintendent.
2. The written request for an appeal must be postmarked or hand delivered on a date no more than ten (10) calendar days after
 - a. the postmarked date of the written notification of the hearing panel's decision, or
 - b. date of hand delivery of the written notification of the hearing panel's decision, or
 - c. if the above are not able to occur, then verbal notification of the hearing panel's decision. If the written request for an appeal is not made on time, the hearing decision will be final.
3. The Superintendent, upon receipt of a timely filed written request for an appeal, will request the documented evidence of the case including the findings, conclusions, disposition, and audio recording if used.

4. The Superintendent or designee shall review the case based on the record. No new evidence shall be admissible.
5. After receipt of the appeal, the Superintendent will make a written decision to adopt, modify, or disapprove all or any part of the hearing panel's findings, conclusions, or disposition.
6. A copy of the Superintendent's decision shall be sent to the following persons:
 - a. The student's parent (by certified mail).
 - b. The Student Services Department.
 - c. The Principal.
 - d. The Special Education Department (for students with disabilities).
 - e. The Superintendent's Office.
7. If the parent is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision to uphold the recommendation for expulsion, long term alternative placement, or long term suspension the parent may file an appeal to the Board of Education using procedures described below.

Appeal of Superintendent's Decision for Expulsion or Long Term Alternative Placement or Long term Suspension

If after the hearing before the hearing panel and an appeal to the Superintendent, a parent is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision for expulsion, long term alternative placement, or long term suspension the parent may file an appeal to the Board of Education using the following procedure:

1. The student's parent must mail or deliver a written request for an appeal to the Albertville City Board Secretary.
2. The written request for an appeal must be addressed to and mailed or given to the Board of Education, with a copy to the Superintendent.
3. The written request for an appeal must be postmarked or hand delivered on a date no more than **ten (10) calendar days** after the postmarked date or date of hand delivery of the written notification of the Superintendent's decision. **If the written request for an appeal is not made on time, the Superintendent's decision will be final.**
4. Upon receipt of a timely filed written request for an appeal, the Board shall set a hearing date. To comply with applicable student privacy laws, the hearings will be closed to the public.
5. The student's parent must give the Board notice, at least 48 hours prior to the hearing, of the decision to have an attorney. Failure to do so may result in the rescheduling of the appeal hearing, and, if the student's parent fails to provide notice after a hearing has been rescheduled, the Board may deny the participation of the attorney in the hearing.
6. At the scheduled hearing, the Board will use the following procedures:
 - a. A representative of the Superintendent, school, and/or counsel for the Board will present to the Board the information supporting the recommendation for expulsion and may examine any witnesses provided by the student or his or her counsel.
 - b. The student, or his or her counsel, will be entitled to present evidence in support of his or her position and to examine any witnesses presented at the hearing.
 - c. The student, or his or her counsel, may make other arguments in support of their position.
 - d. At the conclusion of the evidentiary presentation, the Board may deliberate in executive session prior to voting whether to uphold the recommendation for expulsion.
7. The Board shall render a decision based upon the evidence presented.
8. The following persons shall be notified of the Board's decision:
 - a. The student's parent/guardian (by certified mail).
 - b. The Principal.
 - c. The Student Services Department.
 - d. The Superintendent and
 - e. If applicable, the Special Education Department.

Length of Expulsion

If a student is found to have committed the behavior warranting an expulsion, the length of the student's expulsion may be for any length of time up to the end of the current school year or up to 180 school days per incident. The Superintendent shall, by letter, notify the parent/guardian of the Albertville City Board of Education's decision within ten days after it is made.

If a student is assigned to alternative school in lieu of expulsion, the student must begin attending the alternative school within 7 days of being assigned to alternative school. Failure to do so will result in the student being expelled. While attending alternative school, the Board will count only those days the student attends the alternative school. If a student is placed in alternative school, the student must attend for the number of days assigned; however, the alternative school may create a plan for the student, the successful completion of which, will allow the student to complete his or her assignment early.

When a student returns to school after expulsion, the re-admission must be preceded by a conference with the principal or his/her designee during which the student is given a readmission slip to return to class.

SCHOOL LEVEL DISCIPLINARY APPEAL PROCESS

Alternative Placement Appeal

A student assigned to the alternative program by the Disciplinary Review Committee may appeal by providing written notice to the Superintendent within three (3) school days of the disciplinary action. The written notice must state the reason for the appeal and propose a resolution. A hearing will then be scheduled with the Superintendent or his/her designee. If the parent or legal aged student is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee, the decision may be appealed to the Board of Education by submitting written notice to the Superintendent within three (3) school days of the Superintendent's or his/her designee's decision. Again, the written notice must state the reason for the appeal and propose a resolution. A hearing will then be held with the Board of Education. The decision of the Board will be final and cannot be appealed further. There is no appeal from a Board placement in the alternative program.

A student that has multiple Code of Conduct violations can be assigned Alternative Placement at the discretion of the school Principal for no more than a period of 15 days total within a single school year. The conditions for appeal also apply for Principal level placement.

Appeal Conditions

The following conditions are applicable to the appeal of any disciplinary action:

- At each level of appeal, the parent must provide written notice stating the reason[s] for the appeal and a proposed resolution.
- The initial disciplinary action will not be stayed or delayed while the appeal is pending.
- No issue or evidence may be presented on appeal that was not presented at the time of the initial disciplinary decision, unless it could not have been discovered, through reasonable inquiry, at that time.
- At each level of appeal, the judgment of the person/body hearing the appeal can be substituted for the underlying decision. For example, the appellate decision may void the initial disciplinary action, affirm it without change, enter a less severe sanction, or enter a more severe sanction, including expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RESPONSE CODES

LEVEL I: Discipline Response Code

Level I offenses are minor acts of misconduct that interfere with the orderly operation of the classroom, a school function, extracurricular/co-curricular program, or approved transportation.

The ACS employee involved should intervene in the misconduct. If further action is necessary, the employee should refer the student to the school administrator for disciplinary action. After hearing the student's explanation, consulting with staff members and other students, and doing any other investigation necessary, the administrator will decide on disciplinary action. Suspension is not an available disciplinary response for Level I violations.

Level I Offenses

1. **Cheating-** Willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or unauthorized use of notes or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. In addition to disciplinary responses, the student may receive no credit for the assignment, test, or exam at the discretion of the teacher.
2. **Disruptive Conduct-** Conduct or behavior that interferes with or disrupts the orderly process of the teaching/learning process, school environment, a school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
3. **Disrespect-** Conduct or behavior that lacks regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, ACS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. This offense may include, but is not limited to, speech or behavior that is insulting or rude.
4. **Dress Code-** Non-conformity to established dress code.
5. **False and/or Misleading Information-** Intentionally providing false or misleading information to an ACS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer.
6. **Profane, Obscene, or Abusive Language/Materials-** The use of either oral or written language, or gestures, which are disrespectful or socially unacceptable and are not directed at another person. This section does not include threatening or intimidating language.
7. **Wireless Communication Device Violation-** The violation of Alabama Focus Act, and may include, but is not limited to, cellphones, smartphones, smart watches, MP3 players, iPods, e-readers, tablets, laptops, and other wireless communication devices.
8. **Tardiness-** Repeated late arrival to school.
9. **Unauthorized Absence from School-** A student arrives at school and then leaves campus, has temporary unauthorized absences from class, or fails to attend specific classes.
10. **Unsubstantiated Bullying-** After a complete investigation and follow up of a reported bullying incident, the administrator determines that there is not enough evidence to substantiate that the incident meets the criteria of a prohibited act under the definition of bullying as listed in the Jamari Terrell Williams Bullying Prevention Act (Ala. Code § 16-28B-1). This offense is for documentation purposes only and discipline consequences are not given.
11. **Unsubstantiated Harassment-** After a complete investigation and follow up of a reported harassment incident, the investigator determines that there is not enough evidence to substantiate that the incident meets criteria of a prohibited act under the definition of harassment as listed in the Jamari Terrell Williams Bullying Prevention Act (Ala. Code § 16-28B 1). This offense is for documentation purposes only and discipline consequences are not given.
12. **Forgery (Non-criminal)-** To create or reproduce the signature or document of another for fraudulent purposes. This offense may include, but is not limited to, signing a document with your parent's signature without permission.
13. **Harassment Level I-** Any threatening, insulting, dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that:

1. Places an ACS student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.
2. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.
3. Any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress.

This offense may include, but is not limited to, teasing, name calling, gossiping, spreading, or starting rumors, and/or purposefully embarrassing or humiliating another person.

14. **Other Misconduct-** Any other act of misconduct which may interfere with the orderly operation of the classroom, the school program, a school activity, an extracurricular/co-curricular program, or approved transportation and cannot be coded as another Level I offense.

Level I: Consequences

1. **Counseling and/or direction***
2. Possible Parent/guardian contact by Administrator or Teacher
3. Verbal reprimand
4. Special work assignment
5. Withdrawal of privileges
6. Detention to include lunch detention
7. In-school suspension
8. Suspension from bus (1-10 days)
9. Confiscation of unauthorized materials, objects, or contraband
10. Assigned seat
11. Supervision plan
12. Guidance referral
13. Schedule change
14. Warning of referral to Level II for multiple Level I Offenses

**Mandatory Consequences (Consequences can be single or combination)*

LEVEL II: Discipline Response Code

Level II offenses are more serious acts of misconduct than Level I offenses. Level II includes repeated acts of misconduct from Level I and acts directed against people or property that do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others.

The misconduct must be reported to the appropriate school administrator for further investigation. After hearing the student's explanation, consulting with staff members and other students, and doing any other investigation necessary, the administrator will follow the procedure designated for Level II violations in investigating the matter and deciding on the progressive disciplinary action.

Level II: Offenses

1. **Destruction of Property/ Vandalism (under \$100)**- The willful or malicious destruction of school property or the property of others.
2. **Disrespect**- Repeated conduct or behavior that lacks regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, ACS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. This offense may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate language directed towards another that is not profane.
3. **Horseplay**- Intentional physical contact or altercation between two or more students such as pushing, shoving, or altercation that stops upon verbal command.
4. **Gambling**- Any unlawful participation in games (or activities) of chance for money and/or other things of value.

5. **Insubordination/Open Defiance**- Verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with school rules or directions from an ACS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer without causing a disruption or committing any further acts.
6. **Intimidation/ Threats**- Any direct or indirect threat to do harm to the property of another student, ACS employee, contracted vendor, or ACS volunteer. Or any direct or indirect harm to hit, fight, or beat up another student or a threat to another student's life if the threat to life is vague, said out of anger or frustration, an expression of humor or rhetoric and can be easily resolved. The content of the threat suggests the person is unlikely to carry it out. This section does not include threats made to ACS employees, contracted vendors, or ACS volunteers; these threats are a Level III or IV.
7. **Stealing (Under \$100)**- Taking the property of another without permission of the person.
8. **Unauthorized Publications**- Possession and/or distribution of unauthorized publications, including misuse of electronic messages or computers which interfere with the orderly process of the school environment, a school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
9. **Bullying**- A bullying offense includes repeatedly being cruel to other students, ACS employees, volunteers, or contracted personnel, on or off ACS property if it adversely impacts the educational environment at school for students or staff. This offense may include, but is not limited to, repeated teasing, name calling, and/or minor physical contact.
10. **Other Serious Misconduct**- Any other act of misconduct that is more serious, harmful, or is a more disruptive example of any of the offenses described in Level I, which may interfere with the orderly operation of the school, school transportation, or school activity and cannot be coded as another Level II offense.
11. **Gang Related**- The possession, use, or displaying of items associated with gang activity that include, but is not limited to, clothing and accessories, gang related insignias, writings, signs, or symbols that promote gang affiliation and/or involvement.
12. **Harassment Level II**- Any threatening, insulting, dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places an ACS student or school employee in reasonable fear or harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, and has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose. This offense may include, but is not limited to, name calling with profanity, and/or minor physical contact.
13. **Wireless Communication/Electronic Device Violation**- Continued violation of The Alabama Focus Act regarding use of a wireless communication device as outlined in ACS policy, unauthorized access to programs or files not expected or intended for student or ACS network (i.e. gaming); sharing another person's username and password; or intentionally providing access to another person to use the student's device while the student is logged in.
14. **Sexual Harassment**- Any minor slur, innuendo, gesture, or other written or verbal conduct reflecting on an individual's gender which has the purpose of creating an offensive educational environment. This offense may include, but is not limited to, unpleasant distasteful comments, jokes, or gestures that are sexual in nature; however, this does not include acts involving physical contact.
15. **Horseplay**- Any rough uncontrolled play or prank that involves two or more students and there is risk of injury because of the horseplay.
16. **Dress Code**- Non-conformity to the dress code (second and subsequent offenses).

Level II: Consequences

1. **Counseling and/or direction***
2. Possible Parent/guardian contact by Administrator or Teacher
3. Special work assignment
4. Detention
5. Guidance referral
6. Confiscation of unauthorized materials

7. In-school suspension
8. Suspension from bus (1-10 days)
9. Suspension from school (1-10 days)
10. Schedule change
11. Temporary removal or participation in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities
12. Warning of referral to Level III for multiple Level II Offenses

****If consequence results in suspension, Administrator will ensure Parent or Guardian is contacted *Mandatory Consequences (Consequences can be single or combination)***

LEVEL III: Discipline Response Code

Level III offenses are major acts of misconduct that disrupt the orderly operation of the school, school activity, or school transportation that threatens the health, safety, and property of others. Level III offenses may include repeated acts of misconduct from Level II.

The misconduct must be reported right away to the school administrator for further investigation. After hearing the student's explanation, consulting with staff members and other students, and doing any other investigation necessary, the administrator will follow the procedure designated for Level III violations in investigating the matter and deciding on the progressive disciplinary action, which may result in the removal of the student from the school or activity immediately.

Level III: Offenses

1. **Physical Attack**- An actual and intentional striking of another student against his/her will, without injury. This section does not include injury that is a result of fighting if students are mutual combatants.
2. **Destruction of Property/ Vandalism (Above \$100, but less than \$1,000)**- The willful or malicious destruction of ACS property or the property of others.
3. **Disrespect**- Conduct or behavior that lacks regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, ACS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. This offense may include, but is not limited to, language and/or gestures that are abusive and/or profane directed towards another person.
4. **Extortion/Blackmail**- The willful or malicious threat of harm, injury, or violence to the person, property, or reputation of another with the intent to obtain money, information, services, or items of material worth. This offense may include, but is not limited to, threatening to accuse another of a minor offense or crime to obtain lunch money.
5. **Fighting**- When two or more persons mutually participate in the use of force or physical violence that requires: (1) physical intervention; or (2) results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention.
Note: If a student is unable to leave the area of a pending attack, a student may use self-defense. Self-defense is an action taken that is necessary to protect oneself or others from serious bodily harm. Self-defense may include asking an adult for help, restraining, or blocking the attacker, shielding oneself or others from being hit, or pushing to get away from the attacker. However, retaliating by striking or hitting (i.e. punching, slapping, kicking) a person back, or choosing not to leave after you are able to get away, may be considered as fighting.
6. **Firecrackers/ Fireworks**- Unauthorized possession, sale, or storage of unlit fireworks or firecrackers on ACS property, at a school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
7. **Gross Insubordination/Open Defiance**- Willful refusal to submit to or comply with authority; exhibiting contempt or open resistance to a direct order; challenging the authority of an ACS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer in the presence of others which causes a disruption.
8. **Illegal Organizations**- Establishing or participating in a secret society on ACS property, at a school function, or at an extracurricular activity.

9. **Possession of Contraband Material-** Possession, use, and/or distribution of materials or items, other than weapons or firearms, which are forbidden. The parent/guardian will decide to pick up the object from the school, if applicable. At no time shall ACS be responsible for theft, loss or damage to contraband items brought onto its property.
10. **Smoking/Vaping and Other Use of Tobacco/Nicotine Products-** The possession or use of tobacco/vaping nicotine products, or items represented to be of said nature.
11. **Stealing (\$100-\$500)-** The taking of the property of another without the permission of the person.
12. **Trespassing-** To enter or remain on school grounds/campus, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event/off campus, without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry.
13. **Violation of Curfew-** Breaking of curfew regulations during an extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
14. **Bullying-** The offense must include repeatedly inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more ACS students, employees, volunteers, or contracted personnel that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation, on or off ACS property if it adversely impacts the educational environment at school for students or staff. This offense may include, but is not limited to, repeated name calling with threat, physical contact with minor injury, distribution or sharing of written texts/pictures/video to multiple recipients.
15. **Other Serious Misconduct-** Any other act of misconduct that is more serious, harmful, or is a more disruptive example of any of the offenses described in Level II, which may interfere with the orderly operation of the school, school transportation, or school activity and cannot be coded as another Level III offense. This offense may include, but is not limited to, sexting that is not intended to extend beyond the sender/receiver; body piercing; providing false/misleading information to staff members which causes a disruption to the school, language intended or reasonably calculated to insult and/or incite another person; filming or photographing Code of Conduct violations; sharing in the activation of a fire alarm that was not the result of a willful or malicious act.
16. **Physical Aggression on an Employee or Contracted Personnel-** The willful use of force upon employee or contracted personnel that does not result in bodily injury.
17. **Sexual Harassment-** Any slur, innuendo, gestures, or other written, verbal or physical contact reflecting on an individual's gender which has the purpose of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. These acts are sexual in nature and may include, but are not limited to, mooning, sharing/sending/showing images or video that have no bodily exposure but are taken in a private area, and/or minor physical contact that is sexual in nature.
18. **Intimidation/ Threats to a Person-** Repeated Level II threats or any direct or indirect threat to another student's life if the threat has some details and information obtained suggests that some thought was given to how the threat will be carried out, but there is no clear indication that the student has taken preparatory steps. This section also includes threats of harm or violence towards an ACS employee, contracted vendor or ACS volunteer without any further acts of aggression or where there is no intent to carry out the threat.
19. **Gang Related-** Conduct or behavior that tends to promote gang activity, provoke violence, or seriously disrupt the orderly operation of the school program, any school activity or transportation services, including but not limited to the possession, use or displaying of gang paraphernalia, jewelry, tattoos, clothing, or other insignias and writings that promote gang affiliation/involvement/the use of gang related signs or symbols or any other gang associated behavior.
20. **Harassment Level III-** Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places an ACS student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits and has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose. This offense may include, but is not limited to, name calling with threat, physical contact with minor injury, distribution or sharing of written texts/pictures/video to multiple recipients.

21. **Hazing**- Any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6 through 12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. This offense may include, but is not limited to, false imprisonment not resulting in medical attention, verbal or physical behavior resulting in minor injury, or any other act that creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
22. **Wireless Communication/Electronic Device Violation**- The repeated misuse of wireless communication devices as outlined in The Alabama Focus Act and ACS Policy. Unauthorized misuse of electronic devices, which are not educational in nature; the unauthorized modification of software/hardware configuration on an electronic device (i.e. factory reset of district device); unauthorized access to programs and/or files not expected or intended for student use on an electronic device or ACS network. This section does not include images, videos, messages, etc. that can be classified as another offense (i.e. threats, images/videos containing nudity).
23. **Horseplay**- Any rough uncontrolled play or prank that involves two or more students and there is injury because of the horseplay. Any horseplay that results in serious injury where medical attention is needed may result in a Level IV offense.

Level III: Consequences

1. **Parent/guardian contact mandatory***
2. **Counseling and direction***
3. Special work assignment
4. Return of property
5. In-school suspension
6. Suspension from bus (1-10 days)
7. Suspension from school (1-10 days)
8. Detention
 9. Temporary or permanent removal from participation in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities
10. Referral to intervention program
11. Confiscation of unauthorized materials, objects, or contraband
12. Schedule change
13. Guidance referral
14. Warning of referral to Level IV for multiple Level III Offenses

****If consequence results in suspension, Administrator will ensure Parent or Guardian is contacted *Mandatory Consequences (Consequences can be single or combination)***

LEVEL IV: Discipline Response Code

Level IV offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct and are grounds for expulsion. Level IV offenses may include repeated acts of misconduct from Level III. Any Level IV act shall result in suspension from school pending Disciplinary Review Panel determination.

Major acts of misconduct must be reported right away to the school administrator for further investigation. After hearing the student's explanation, consulting with staff members and other students, and doing any other investigation necessary, the administrator will follow the procedure designated for Level IV violations in investigating the matter and refer the Level IV to District Disciplinary Review Panel for further review.

Students who commit a Level IV offense may be referred to local authorities for further investigation.

Level IV: Offenses

1. **Alcohol**- The possession, use, distribution, transmission, sale, purchase, solicitation, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages. Distribution or transmission of alcohol is defined as delivery of alcohol to another person without the intent of communal or collective consumption. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits using or is discovered to have used during an investigation.
2. **Arson**- The willful and/or malicious burning of or attempt to burn ACS property, contents in or on the property, or personal property of others.
3. **Intimidation/ Threats to a Person**- Repeated Level III threats. Or any direct or indirect threat to hit, fight or beat up an ACS employee, contracted vendor, or ACS volunteer with an aggressive act to carry out the threat. Or any direct or indirect threat, which threatens the life of another student, ACS employee, contracted vendor, or ACS volunteer, and the threat to life appears to pose an imminent or a danger to the safety of others. The threat is specific, detailed, and plausible. Information obtained suggests steps may have been taken to carry out the threat, and/or there is a strong concern about the student's potential to act. This offense includes, but is not limited to, threats made verbally or nonverbally by act, through social media, or by text, or threats/threatening behavior with a weapon or other dangerous object or the attempted use of a weapon or other dangerous object without injury.
4. **Battery**- An actual or intentional touching or striking of a student, ACS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer against his/her will, causing more serious injury, such as: great bodily harm; permanent disfigurement; permanent disability; use of a deadly weapon; or where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant. The harm must be documented through medical evaluation. The attack must be serious enough to warrant reporting to law enforcement. This section includes the use of a weapon or other dangerous object that results in more serious injury, however, this section does not include injury that is a result of fighting if the students are mutual combatants.
5. **Threats to the School**- Any direct or indirect threat that may harm the school or may disrupt the function of the school campus or school sponsored activity including, but not limited to, threats made verbally or nonverbally by act, through social media, or by text. All threats are taken seriously, regardless of intent. Threats to the school may include, but are not limited to, bomb threats, threats to use firearms in a violent manner, and/or threats to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
6. **Drugs: Possession/Use**- The possession, solicitation, use or being under the influence of any drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, or any other substance when used for chemical intoxication, or the possession or use of any substance represented to be of said nature. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits using or is discovered to have used during an investigation. The possession, solicitation, use, or being under the influence of over-the-counter medication or prescription medication more than the manufacturer's prescribed limits are included in this section. Also included in this section is any amount of THC or any other cannabinoids.
7. **Drugs: Transmission/ Distribution/ Selling/Buying**- The manufacture, cultivation, transmission, distribution, buying, selling, or intending to sell any drug, narcotic, controlled substance or any substance represented to be a drug, narcotic, or controlled substance. This includes any form of payment for any drug or contraband substance.
8. **Tobacco: Vaping/Nicotine Selling/Distribution**- The distribution or sale, intention of selling, or buying of tobacco/vaping nicotine products, or items represented to be of said nature. This offense may include, but is not limited to, electronic cigarettes, CBD oil, Juuls, pods, vapors and hookah pens that do not contain THC or any other illegal controlled substance.
9. **Firearms/ Weapons**- The possession or control of any firearm, weapon, and/or destructive device ("weapons") whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded. A firearm means any weapon, which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. A weapon means any dirk, knife (blade length is 2.5 inches or more), metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon. A destructive device means any bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, pipe

bomb, or similar, or any combination of parts to make a destructive device, which is designed or constructed to explode.

10. **Major Disruption on Campus**- Major disruption of all or a significant portion of campus activities, school-sponsored events, and/or school bus transportation. Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, or the health, safety, or welfare of others. This offense may include, but is not limited to, inciting a riot, initiating a false fire alarm, incidents that result in closing the cafeteria, fights involving multiple participants that disrupt the campus, and/or incidents that prevent students from proceeding to the next level.
11. **Larceny/Theft (\$500 or over)** - The act, participating in the act, or attempted act of taking, carrying, riding away with, or concealing of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person, including motor vehicle, without threat of violence or bodily harm. This offense may include, but is not limited to, pocket picking, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a vending machine, theft of a golf cart, motor vehicle, or anything that is self-propelled or motorized.
12. **Other Dangerous Objects**- The possession, sale, or control of any instrument or object, other than a firearm or weapon, which could be used to inflict harm on another person or to intimidate any person. This offense includes, but is not limited to, BB guns or pellet guns, airsoft guns, paintball guns and replicas of any gun or weapon, water/gel bead gun, common pocket knives (blade length is less than 2.5 inches), chains, pipes, common household tools, razor blades, box cutter/utility knife, ice picks, other pointed instruments, nunchucks, Chinese stars, pepper spray, Taser, items used for self-defense (i.e. Kubaton), ammunition, firearm clips, firearm cartridges. This offense also includes igniting fireworks/firecrackers.
13. **Repeated Misconduct of a More Serious Nature**- Repeated misconduct which tends to substantially disrupt the orderly conduct of a school, school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular program or activity. Recommendations for expulsion relative to repeated misconduct must be based on documented referrals and a variety of intervention strategies.
14. **Robbery/Extortion**- The taking, participation in taking, or attempting to take anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under the confrontational circumstances of force, or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. This offense may include the taking of objects such as purses, phones, clothing etc.
15. **Sexual Battery**- Any sexual act or attempt directed against another person, forcibly, and/or against the person's will. The category includes rape, indecent liberties, child molestation, and sodomy.
16. **Sexual Harassment**- Unwanted verbal or physical behavior with sexual connotations that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation. Any sexual harassment of an ACS employee, contracted vendor, or volunteer that is physical is included in this offense. These acts are sexual in nature and may include, but are not limited to, sharing/sending/showing/taking images or video of other students or ACS employees, contracted vendors, or volunteers that have bodily exposure; fondling or groping of another against their will.
17. **Sexual Offenses**- Any willful and/or deliberate act, behavior, or conduct intended to result in sexual gratification or furthering acts lewd or lascivious in nature. This offense includes, but is not limited to, consensual sexual acts, and/or exposure of nude body parts in the presence of others or by sending through electronic means.
18. **Violation of Early Re-entry Plan**- Any act or series of acts which violates or has the practical effect of violating an early re-entry plan from full exclusion/expulsion.
19. **Vandalism (\$1000 or over)**- The willful or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property including the act of defacing with graffiti, keying, or scratching a car or trashing a room resulting in damages.
20. **Other**- Any other intentional or wanton act which is clearly beyond the bounds of acceptable and tolerable student conduct in the community, which cannot be coded in another Level IV offense. This offense may include, but is not limited to: possession of images or videos that contain nudity or any situation meant to cause emotional harm or act of cyber-bullying; extortion; hate crimes; any false accusation made by a student that jeopardizes the professional reputation, employment, or professional certification of any ACS employee; any

speech on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, or disability that does or would be likely to cause a substantial disruption to the educational environment; possession/sale of drug paraphernalia.

21. **Bullying**- Repeatedly inflicting physical hurt, or psychological distress on one or more students, ACS employees, volunteers, or contracted personnel, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation on or off ACS property if it adversely impacts the educational environment at school for students or staff. This offense may include, but is not limited to, repeated name calling with threats, stalking/cyberstalking, distribution or sharing of written texts, picture/video to multiple recipients, posting picture or video to social media for public view, and/or physical contact with serious bodily injury.
22. **Harassment Level IV**- Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places an ACS student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits and has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose. This offense may include, but is not limited to, stalking/cyberstalking, placing another in reasonable fear of death or serious injury.
23. **Hazing**- Any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6 through 12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. This offense may include, but is not limited to, false imprisonment resulting in medical attention, verbal or physical behavior resulting in injury that requires medical attention, forcing indecent exposure of another, or any other act that creates a substantial risk of death or serious injury.
24. **Physical Attack**- An actual and intentional striking of a student, ACS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel against his/her will, resulting in less serious bodily harm. Less serious bodily harm does not include a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, permanent disfigurement, or permanent disability. The injury must be documented. This offense includes the use of a weapon or dangerous object that results in less serious bodily harm, however, this section does not include injury that is a result of fighting if the students are mutual combatants.
25. **Sexual Assault**- An incident that includes a threat of rape, fondling, indecent liberties, or child molestation. Both male and female students can be victims of sexual assault.
26. **Wireless Communication Devices/District Technology Violation**- Continual misuse of wireless communication devices as outlined in The Alabama Focus Act and ACS Policy. Use of unauthorized access to programs and/or files not expected or intended for student use on an electronic device or ACS network; or any use that violates Board policies, local, state, and/or federal laws and regulations. This offense may include, but is not limited to, gaining access to the ACS network with intent to do harm or alter records, or having images, videos, messages, etc., on a district issued device that are not shared with others (i.e. images/videos containing nudity).
27. **Burglary**- Unlawful entry into or remaining in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime therein or cause damage. This offense is more severe than trespassing.
28. **Homicide**- The unjustified killing of one human being by another.
29. **Kidnapping**- Forcibly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his/her will and without lawful authority.

Level IV: Consequences

School Level Consequences

1. **Parent/guardian contact mandatory***
2. **Counseling and direction***
3. **Up to a 10-day suspension pending the District for Disciplinary Committee Meeting***
4. Temporary or permanent removal from participation in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities, e.g., to include, but not limited to, senior graduation
5. Schedule change

6. Supervision plan

District Level Consequences

1. Expulsion from the school district
2. Assignment to an alternative school
3. Referral to an intervention program
4. Bus expulsion

****If consequence results in suspension, Administrator will ensure Parent or Guardian is contacted *Mandatory Consequences (Consequences can be single or combination)***

DRESS CODE

The Albertville City Board of Education recognizes the effect which students dress and grooming have upon student behavior and commitment to learning. It further recognizes the role of parents in assisting their children in making appropriate choices regarding clothing, accessories, and personal appearance. To maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, the Board requires that all students exercise good taste regarding their personal appearance. Attire considered disruptive or that could present a health or safety problem is not appropriate. Prohibited dress violations are listed below, but this list is not all inclusive nor is a violation of the dress code limited to the following:

1. Any clothing that is explicitly gang related is prohibited, or colors that would lead school administration to believe the student to be wearing gang colors.
2. Any article of clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, illegal drugs, adornment that displays vulgar or abusive words, pictures, designs, lettering or messages that may be offensive to a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group or unusually large displays on vehicles driven to school by the student that potentially disrupt the educational process.
3. Dresses, shirts or tops that are low cut in the front or back are prohibited.
4. All tops must have straps that measure at least 1" wide and cover both shoulders. No spaghetti strap tops may be worn without a blouse to cover it.
5. All shirts or blouses that expose the midriff at any time are not permitted. Halter type dresses or tops and tube tops or clothing that does not cover undergarments is prohibited. 6. No "see through" clothing is allowed unless the clothing that can be seen meets the dress code. No muscle shirts, skin-tight shorts (such as bicycle shorts) or sleeveless T-shirts designed to be undergarments are allowed.
7. No hats, bandanas, athletic headbands, sunglasses, visors, bonnets, or any headwear not otherwise required, may be worn in the building during the regular school day (unless medically required).
8. Bare feet and any type of footwear that is detrimental to the floor or floor-coverings, i.e., boots and shoes with cleats, is prohibited. Appropriate footwear is required for the many different learning environments.
9. For safety reasons, oversized or long coats may not be worn out of season. Students should not wear heavy metal chains, metal spiked apparel, or other accessories that can be used as weapons. No chains will be allowed on students except for necklaces and bracelets that are for cosmetic purposes.

10. Facial piercing disruptive to the learning environment is not permitted (Earrings cannot be excessive or create safety or health hazards and shall not be worn during sports & PE activities). Principal may use discretion for final determination.
11. All shorts, culottes, skirts, and dresses are to be halfway between the knee and groin area. The principal may use discretion for final determination. Pants or shorts with holes or cuts must not show skin above the allowed area.
12. No athletic sweatpants that are tight fitting and unsuitable for school attire are permitted. Clothing with writing on the seat of the garment is not allowed.
13. Students are to wear clothing in the manner it was designed to be worn, i.e. clothing worn backwards or inside out, or suspenders/overalls undone are not allowed. Specifically, pajama pants, pants worn too low, too long, or excessively large are not permitted. Pants are to be worn at the natural waistline with a belt if needed. Excessively large clothing of any kind is not permitted.
14. Appropriate attire must be always worn over leggings. Garments worn over leggings must be at least fingertip length or longer.
15. Neither hairstyles nor hair color should be disruptive to the learning environment.

Students who violate the rules and/or intent of the Dress Code will be subject to punitive action in accordance with the ACS Student Code of Conduct. If any type of dress is questionable and does not fall

ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES

Attendance Procedures

Each parent, guardian or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or has him/her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy (VI. Students Section 6.1.4) on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal/teacher of the public school he/she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section. At the commencement of each academic year a copy of the written policy on school behavior will be given to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or control of a child who is enrolled. Included in the written policy shall be a copy of this section. The signature of the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall document receipt of the policy.

Class Attendance and Absences

Students are expected to report on time and attend school for the full day. Kindergarten students are subject to the same attendance policies as other students in the system. Parents should make every effort to schedule doctors' and dentists'

appointments after school hours. **ABSENCES ARE EITHER EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED and all absences count toward Chronic Absenteeism (18 total absences).**

Excused absences are defined as the following:

1. Student Illness - Students who are sick and whose illness would endanger their health and the health of others. A doctor's excuse may be required.
2. Serious Family Illness - Students in whose immediate family there is a serious illness that would reasonably necessitate the absence of a student.
3. Death in the Immediate Family - Students in whose immediate family there has occurred a recent death may be temporarily excused from school for a reasonable length of time.
4. Recognized Religious Holidays - Students will be temporarily excused from attendance on special and recognized religious holidays.
5. Professional Appointments – Students will be excused for a professional appointment with a note from the Doctor for the appropriate amount of time provided by the excuse.
6. School-Sponsored Activities - Students shall be marked present when participating in a school-sponsored activity away from the school building. However, any work missed must be made up.
7. Family Emergency/Crisis - Students will be excused when their absence is beyond their control and due to a family emergency/crisis as determined by a school administrator.
8. Prior permission from the principal

Students who are trending as chronically absent (13 or more school days - excused or unexcused) will be contacted by the Attendance Supervisor by email. The purpose of communication will be to offer support to parents regarding absenteeism. If the student resides outside of the Albertville School District they may be withdrawn to the district where they reside.

Unexcused Absences

An absence for a reason not covered in the provisions described under "Excused Absence" will be unexcused (example: Overslept, Traffic, Missed Bus, etc.).

Students in grades K-12 with more than 10 unexcused days in one semester may be given a grade of FA (Failure due to Absence,) for that semester, unless extenuating circumstances exist, as determined by the principal. School attendance is required of all children between the ages of seven and seventeen, inclusive. (Alabama Code 16-28-3)

Written Excuse Requirement

It is the parents' responsibility to see that their children attend school regularly and to provide evidence for an excused absence when an absence is necessary. A phone call to the school about an absence is not sufficient documentation.

The State of Alabama requires a written note on file; each note must contain the following:

- Child's full name
- Date to be excused
- Reason for absence
- Phone number to contact parent/guardian
- Signature of parent or doctor

Parents will be notified of unexcused absences per the following:

In-District Students

§ First unexcused absence –an email will be sent to the student address provided in the Student Information System.

§ Third unexcused absence – a school representative will contact the parent or guardian reminding them of the attendance policies and procedures.

§ Fifth unexcused absence – A letter will be mailed to the student address provided in the Student Information System from the attendance supervisor and/or Marshall County Juvenile Probation informing them that they are required to attend an Early Warning meeting. At the meeting, penalties for any additional unexcused absences will be discussed.

§ Seven or more unexcused absences – attendance supervisor will file a petition in Marshall County Juvenile Court against the student's parent/guardian.

Out of District Students

§ First unexcused absence – an email will be sent to the student's parent or guardian at the address provided in Student Information System

§ Third unexcused absence – a school representative will contact the parent or guardian reminding them of the attendance policies and procedures regarding out of district students.

§ Fifth unexcused absence - Attendance Supervisor or Principal will contact parent or guardian and the student may be withdrawn to the district in which they live.

§ Seven or more unexcused absences – attendance supervisor will file a petition in Marshall County Juvenile Court against the student's parent/guardian

§ Tenth unexcused tardy (check in or out) - Student and parents will be notified by certified mail regarding the attendance policies and procedures regarding out of district students.

§ Twelfth unexcused tardy - the student may be withdrawn to the school district in which they live Note: Unexcused absences and tardies are cumulative for the school year.

Procedures for Parents Submitting Excuses

- (Five) parent notes per semester that will excuse one (1) day per parent note will be accepted. (If a student is out more than 1 day, a parent note for each day will be required until all parent notes are used).
- After the student has used five (5) parent notes for absences in the semester, a doctor's note will be required.
- Three (3) parent notes per nine weeks for check ins/check outs will be accepted. (Parent notes for check ins and outs are not counted against parent notes for absences).
- The excuse and/or necessary documentation must be submitted within three days (72 hours) after returning to school or the absence is unexcused.

All notes will be kept on file and marked valid or invalid upon date and time of receiving the note. When school officials do not know the reason for an absence, they must assume that it is unexcused.

It is the parent's responsibility to verify whether written, emailed, or faxed excuses were received by the school.

Students must attend 51% of the day to be counted present for the day. Parents must sign their children in or out of school at the office and upon returning the student will need a note to take to his/her school. This note will count as one of the three (3) parent notes per grading period allowed for check ins/outs.

A student will have 5 days, after returning to school with an excused absence, to turn in make-up work (unless otherwise approved by the school principal).

STUDENT CHECK-IN AND CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

Three parent notes, per nine weeks, will be allowed for check-ins/check outs. (Parent notes for check ins/check outs are not counted against parent notes for absences) After three (3) unexcused check-ins, every two check-ins after this will result in school discipline, 11 tardies to class during the school day, per 9 weeks, will result in the student being referred to the office for a disciplinary infraction.

Students will be allowed to check out of school only with parental permission. If parents are unable to come to the school to pick up their student, they may call the school and designate someone to pick their child up or give the child permission to leave if they are a driver. The call must be made from a phone number on the approved contact list in PowerSchool.

Parents coming to the school to check students out, must come to the main office. **A parent checking a student out does not in itself constitute an excused absence.** Upon returning to school from checking out or from an absence, the student must present a note stating the reason for the absence, from a parent, doctor or legal authority, to the office, then an excused or unexcused absence slip will be issued to the student. Three parent notes per nine weeks will be allowed for check-ins/check outs, as long as the time in or out doesn't result in the student missing 51% or more of the school day. If the student does miss 51% or more of the day, a doctor excuse or one of the five (5) parent notes for absences (with an acceptable excuse) must be used. Parent notes for check ins/check outs not resulting in the student missing 51% of the day or more are not counted against parent notes for absences.

A student will have three (3) school days or 72 hours after returning to school to bring a note, and after that, the absence will be unexcused. If no note is offered, the absence will be unexcused. All notes will be kept on file and marked valid or invalid upon the date and time of receiving the note. Students will not be able to make up missed work if absence is unexcused. (A phone call or the mere fact that a parent signs a student in or out cannot be accepted as an excuse for an absence, check- ins, or check-outs. We must have a written note to file.)

A student will have 5 days after returning to school with an excused absence, to turn in make-up work (unless otherwise approved by the school principal).

Please be advised that to implement Sections 16-28-40 (1975) Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-.02(7)(b)(1) your child's driver's license can be revoked by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency for excessive absences during a single semester.

Healthcare and Illness guidelines

Albertville City Schools follows illness guidelines and would like to send a friendly reminder of our policies to parents and caregivers. We want your child to be in school to learn as much as possible, but to prevent widespread outbreak of illness please keep the following in mind:

- **Fever:** If your child has a fever of 100.4 or above, then he/she should remain at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or ibuprofen. If your child is sent home from school due to fever, the nurse has excused that school day. Subsequent days will need a parent or doctor's excuse.
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea:** Your child should not attend school if they have had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- **Undiagnosed Rash:** Your child should not attend school until the rash has been diagnosed by a physician and treated if necessary.
- **Pink Eye:** Pink eye is often contagious. Your child must be treated before returning to school.
- **Common Sense:** There are times when your child just looks and feels like he/she is too sick to learn in school.

School excuses upon returning to school:

The State of Alabama requires a written note on file; each note must contain the following:

- Child's full name
- Date to be excused

- Reason for absence
- Phone number to contact parent/guardian
- Signature of parent or doctor

Albertville City Schools Procedure for School Excuse submission:

- Five parent notes per semester that will excuse one (1) day per parent note will be accepted. (If a student is out more than 1 day, a parent note for each day will be required until all parent notes are used).
- After the student has used five (5) parent notes for absences in the semester, a doctor's note will be required.
- Three (3) parent notes per nine weeks for check ins/check outs will be accepted. Parent notes for check ins and outs are not counted against parent notes for absences. The excuse and/or necessary documentation must be submitted within three days (72 hours) after returning to school or the absence is unexcused.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE

The Albertville City School System (hereafter ACS) recognizes that access to technology in schools gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills will prepare them for work, life, and citizenship. We are committed to help students develop 21st Century technology and communication skills. Our goal is to provide technology tools that allow teachers and students the opportunity to assist with learning, share resources, be innovative and communicate with others. To this end, we provide access to technologies for student and staff use.

The use of school system resources and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, for all students. Access to the system's resources and the Internet may be taken away at any time if one or more of the proper procedures are not followed. Parents/Guardians may be held financially responsible for any damages that occur to system resources.

The items listed below are a summary of general things that need to guide the use of technology resources in the school system. For a full description of terms, definitions and examples please see www.albertk12.org; Technology.

1. The use of ACS resources is intended for educational purposes.
2. ACS personnel have the right to review any material sent, emailed, accessed, or stored through ACS technology or an ACS provided network account.
3. Use of the Internet will be monitored/filtered, as required by federal regulations such as Children's Internet protection Act (CIPA).
4. ACS personnel can remove any material that it believes to be unlawful, obscene, harassing, or otherwise objectionable.

Before students will be allowed to use any of the district's technology, parents and/or guardians of all students must sign and return the Acceptable Use section included in the Albertville City School System's Student Handbook at the start of each school year. Students in Grades 5 through 12 must also sign. Signature indicates understanding of this policy, and acceptance of liability for damages resulting from the intentional disregard of these procedures. Students in grades 5-12 may not log in under a generic or shared password unless there is an extenuating circumstance. The professional staff will enforce these procedures. Students who have not returned the appropriately signed Acceptable Use section included in the Albertville City School System's Student Handbook will not use the Albertville City School System's technology