Hoke County Schools
2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct

Making the Grade
HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Student and Parent Acknowledgment and Pledge

The purpose of this Student Code of Conduct is to state clearly the standards for acceptable conduct of students. The goal of student discipline is not punitive, but rather to maintain safe and caring schools, to teach students to behave in ways that contribute to academic achievement and school success, and to support an exceptional school environment where students and staff are responsible and respectful. Therefore, please (1) review and discuss the *Student Code of Conduct* with your child and (2) sign and return this sheet to your child's school. Should you have any questions when reviewing the *Student Code of Conduct*, please contact your child's school principal. You may access an electronic copy of the handbook on the HCS website: https://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/.

NOTE: Failure to return this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve a student or the parent/guardian from being responsible for knowing or complying with the rules contained within the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Parent/Guardian:

I have reviewed the *Student Code of Conduct*, and understand the rights and responsibilities contained therein. I will work with my child to ensure that he/she understands and practices proper conduct according to the guidelines outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct* to help maintain a safe and orderly school environment.

Name (please print): _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student:

To help keep my school safe, I pledge to show good character, work to the best of my ability and adhere to the guidelines established within the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Name (please print): _____ (Student)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Hoke County Schools Student Code of Conduct Handbook

The Hoke County Schools Student Code of Conduct is provided by the Board of Education to establish a common understanding among students, parents, and teachers of the rights and responsibilities of students concerning their behavior in school. The primary purpose of this handbook is to ensure that all of our schools are safe, orderly and caring places for our students and staff. Thereby, providing them with an opportunity to teach and learn in a healthy environment.

Hoke County Schools Student Code of Conduct Team

Dr. Peggy L. Owens, Executive Director of Student Support Services

Dr. Chad Hunt, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Information Systems

Dr. Mary McLeod, Executive Director of Federal Programs

Dr. Thomas Benson, Title IX Coordinator/Hearing Officer, Hoke County Schools

Mrs. Haley Hall, Principal, Don Steed Elementary School

Dr. Katrenna S. Rich, Principal, East Hoke Middle School

Mrs. Colleen Pegram-Wike, Principal, Hoke County High School

Mr. David Renninger, Principal, McLaughlin Elementary

Mrs. Dacia Bullard, Principal, Hawk Eye Elementary

Dr. Franklin Bowden Jr., Principal, Sandy Grove Middle School

Mr. Gerald Puckett, Principal, Turlington Alternative School

Mr. Antonio Covington, Athletic Director/Dean of Students

Mrs. Danelle Locklear, Lead Mental Health Coordinator

Ms. Loretta Kimble, MTSS Support Coordinator

Table of Contents

Hoke County Schools' Vision Statement	1
Hoke County Schools' Mission Statement	1
Hoke County Schools' Core Value	1
Governing Principles	2
Statement of Purpose	3
Non-Discrimination Statement	3
Safe and Caring Schools	4
Safe and Drug Free Schools	4
Prohibition Against Bullying and Harassment	4
General Provisions	5-6
Due Process	7
Short-Term Suspensions	8
Long-Term Suspensions	8-9
Rights and Responsibilities	9-10
Violations and Consequences	10-11
School Bus Behavior	12
Bus Misbehavior Violation	13
Class I Violations	14-15
Class II Violations	16-18
Class III Violations	19-21
Class IV Violations	21
Class V Violations	22
Definitions: Class I Violations	23-24
Definitions: Class II Violations	24-27
Definitions: Class III Violations	27-32
Definitions: Class IV Violations	32
Definitions: Class V Violations	33
Interscholastic Athletics	33-43
Provisions for Enforcement	43-45
Student Admissions	45
Student Re-admissions	45
Use of Personal Technology	46
Student Dress Code	46-47
School Management Plan of Student Behavior	47
Resources	48

Hoke County Schools' Vision Statement

As a trusted community partner, we will ensure an inclusive and supportive environment that provides authentic learning opportunities to prepare future-ready students.

Hoke County Schools' Mission Statement

Hoke County Schools creates a student-focused learning community that fosters high expectations for all stakeholders, promotes lifelong learning, provides individualized support, and prepares students for success.

Hoke County Schools' Core Values

- **Inspiration**- Foster an environment that empowers and influences creative thinking, enthusiasm, and motivation to generate new ideas, goals, and actions.
- **Integrity**- Communicate and act in a trustworthy manner to build genuine relationships, the school community is committed to being self-aware, accountable, transparent, and responsible.
- **Intention**- Act with purpose to achieve desired goals and outcomes; be deliberate and thoughtful with words, actions, decisions, and work to positively influence the school community.
- **Inclusion**- Value people for who they are, nurture diversity, ensure access to opportunities, promote a sense of belonging, and embrace the contributions of all students, families and staff in order to strengthen the school community.
- **Innovation**- Continue to embrace forward thinking and creativity to transform solutions and ideas that will enable responsiveness to the true expectations of the entire school community.
- **Improvement**- Engage in continuous improvement to enhance processes and protocols in order to generate the most effective and efficient organization and ensure long-term success.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The mission of the Hoke County School District, as a diversified community of lifelong learners, is to create a student-focused learning community that fosters high expectations for all stakeholders, promotes lifelong learning, provides individualized support, and prepares students for success. Policies are the primary means by which the board expresses its vision for the school district. In formulating specific policies, the board is guided by governing principles it considers critical to providing a system of excellent schools where students can succeed. These governing principles are referenced frequently in the board policies and are also set out below.

1. Student success: As its top priority, a system of excellent schools provide opportunities for individual students to succeed and for overall student performance to improve. The board believes that all students can learn according to their abilities. The board believes in high expectations and success for all students through individualized instruction and will provide opportunities for students to become productive citizens in a technological society.

2. Parental Involvement: A system of excellent schools involves parents in decisions regarding their own children, the educational program, and the schools. The board believes that learning is a lifelong endeavor cultivated through the collaborative efforts of the school, home, and community.

3. Safe, orderly, and inviting environment: A system of excellent schools creates and maintains a safe, clean, and orderly environment where staff and students are focused on and excited about learning.

4. School Initiatives: In a system of excellent schools, each school initiates improvements to the educational program and services for students and involves staff, parents, and students in the school-level decision-making processes.

5. Professional Development: A system of excellent schools provides continuous professional development and training to help personnel gain the skills and knowledge needed to meet state and local board expectations, especially as they relate to improving student performance.
6. Removal of barriers: A system of excellent schools prohibits illegal discrimination and harassment of staff and students, encourages tolerance and respect, and seeks to eliminate or lessen other barriers that may impede a student's ability or opportunity to learn, including economic disadvantages, poor nutrition, ill-health, and lack of transportation.

7. Stewardship of resources: A system of excellent schools conserves financial and environmental resources and operates in an efficient manner.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

An educated citizenry is essential to good government in this country and cannot exist without effective public schools that offer a high quality education to all students. The purpose of this Student Code of Conduct is to state clearly the standards for acceptable conduct of students. The goal of student discipline is not punitive, but rather to maintain safe and caring schools, to teach students to behave in ways that contribute to academic achievement and school success, and to support an exceptional school environment where students and staff are responsible and respectful. As such, school disciplinary measures should be used as a tool to provide an exceptional environment where teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere free from disruption and obstacles that impede learning.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Hoke County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, genetic information, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law with respect to its operations, programs, and activities, and provides equal access to designated youth groups as required by law. Specifically regarding the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex, Hoke County Schools is committed to ongoing Title IX training and compliance. Inquiries regarding any of Hoke County Schools' non-discrimination policies, including those related to Title IX, may be directed to the following:

Dr. Thomas Benson, Title IX Coordinator, Telephone No: (910) 875-3658 ext. 20128.
Dr. Peggy L. Owens, Hoke County Schools Office of Civil Rights Coordinator,
Telephone No: (910) 904-1067 Inquiries may also be referred to the United States
Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

It is the position of the Hoke County Board of Education to promote the safety and well-being of all students, staff, and visitors in our schools. To further that position, school personnel may employ appropriate seclusion and restraint techniques with students consistent with N.C.G.S 115C-391.1, state and local policies and procedures. The superintendent or his/her designee will provide copies of N.C.G.S. 115C-391.1 to parents/guardians and school personnel at the beginning of each year through the Hoke County Schools' website or other appropriate method.

SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

In an effort to create in each of our schools an environment highly conducive to learning and in compliance with Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act of 1994 – Title IV, Hoke County schools provide comprehensive, age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug abuse and violence prevention education for all students from preschool level through grade 12. School-based Student Services teams provide case management, intervention, and referral services and will ensure re-entry into school after treatment for those students who are otherwise entitled to services provided by the Hoke County Board of Education.

PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Hoke County Schools is committed to ensuring that our students are free from bullying or harassing behavior while at school. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Students and parents are encouraged to report any incidents to school administration as set forth in our anti-bullying and harassment policies and procedures that may be viewed on the HCS website at: https://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/

If families experience bullying or harassing behavior outside of school hours or off school grounds, your local law enforcement agency should be contacted for immediate assistance and official reporting. The parent should also notify school administration of the situation/incident.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Students should recognize their responsibility to know the contents of this Student Code of Conduct and to ask the local school administration or staff for any clarification. All students, regardless of age, are subject to the rules and regulations of Hoke County Public Schools. Each local school will review the contents of this handbook with its students. All students are expected to comply with all rules governing behavior and conduct.

It is the responsibility of the principal/assistant principal to investigate fully the cases of students appropriately referred to his/her office for misbehavior, to ensure fair treatment of such students and protection of their procedural and substantive rights, and to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is warranted. The teacher shall have the responsibility and authority to discipline students, except in those cases requiring the attention of the principal/assistant principal.

- Unless otherwise specified, and/or with the exception of a Class V violation as later defined, this code shall apply to all students in the system before, during, and after school hours while at school, in any school building, and on any school premises; on any school-owned vehicle or in any other vehicle used to transport students to and from any school or school activities; at bus stops; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, including athletics; and during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of school personnel; to include conduct which occurs off school property which has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.
- The principal/assistant principal of the school to which the student is officially enrolled shall be responsible for imposing any disciplinary action upon the student for rule violations occurring away from the student's home school.
- Any student who drives a vehicle onto any Hoke County Schools' property is responsible for the contents of that vehicle. Prior to coming onto Hoke County Schools' property, students should ensure that the vehicle does not contain any contraband, weapons, or other items, which would violate the law or any school rule.
- Possession shall be defined as the prohibited item being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker, desk, or in the immediate control of the student.

In assigning appropriate disciplinary consequences under this Code of Conduct, eligible students will be given all rights as provided by the IDEA, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Procedures on implementing requirements for students with disabilities are found in the Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities and Section 504 Procedures and Guidelines.

During the period that a student is suspended or disciplinarily reassigned to an alternative program, he/she is prohibited from entering the grounds of any school in the Hoke County School system or from attending any school-related functions, including graduation, without the express permission of the building principal. During a period in which a student is long-term suspended or disciplinarily reassigned to an alternative program, the student is prohibited from any Hoke County School system property other than the alternative school/program to which the student has been reassigned.

Violation of Board policies, this Student Code of Conduct, any behavior management plan or regulations issued by the individual school, or any North Carolina General Statutes may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion or suspension of the student from Hoke County Schools, pursuant to the Due Process Procedures for Hoke County Schools.

Violations of the Hoke County Schools' Student Code of Conduct may result in a Disciplinary Reassignment to an alternative education program. If the principal determines that a Disciplinary Reassignment is appropriate, the principal may recommend to the superintendent or his/her designee that the student be reassigned to an alternative educational program.

Disciplinary reassignment of a student to a full-time educational program that meets the academic requirements of the standard course of study established by the State Board of Education and provides the student with the opportunity to make timely progress towards graduation and grade promotion is not a long-term suspension requiring the due process procedures described in Policy 4353 – Long Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion.

In addition to the compulsory attendance law, if the student fails to enroll in and regularly attend the alternative educational setting as reassigned, or other appropriate school (e.g. private or charter school, North Carolina Virtual Public School, etc.), the disciplinary reassignment will continue until such time as reassignment to the home school is appropriate as determined by the superintendent or his/her designee. A disciplinary reassignment may continue for a period up to and including that which could be imposed for a long-term suspension. In addition, if the offense(s) leading to the disciplinary reassignment occurs during the final quarter of the school year, the reassignment may include a period up to the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed and the first semester of the following school year.

In the event of any conflict, inconsistency, or omission involving this printed Student Code of Conduct and Board Policies, those policies shall control. Board Policies may be viewed on the HCS website at www.hcs.k12.nc.us., and are incorporated in this Student Code of Conduct by reference.

DUE PROCESS

The HCS Board of Education mandates and the law requires that all students be treated fairly and honestly in resolving grievances, complaints, or suspensions/expulsions. Due process will be defined as fair and reasonable notices and approaches to all areas of student governance and discipline on the part of all school officials. The principal shall give full and complete consideration to the defense or excuses, if any, made by the student and dismiss the charges if not satisfied as to the guilt of the student or reduce the punishment if not satisfied as to the reasonableness of the proposed disciplinary action under all the circumstances. Due process procedures will be followed in accordance with Policies 4351, 4353, 4370. A summary of those procedures is provided below. Students and parents should consult the relevant policy for complete information.

When deciding whether to recommend or impose a disciplinary reassignment or long-term suspension, the principal and superintendent may consider the student's intent, disciplinary and academic history, the potential benefits to the student of alternatives to a disciplinary reassignment or a long-term suspension, and other mitigating or aggravating factors.

Mitigating and Aggravating Factors

When considering the appropriate consequence for specific student misconduct, administrators may consider any relevant mitigating or aggravating factors, including, but not limited to, the student's intent, disciplinary and academic history, and the potential benefits to the student of alternatives to suspension.

1. **Mitigating Factors** may include, but are not limited to:
   a. The student's age, maturity level, and developmental level
   b. No recent disciplinary history
   c. Being a passive participant or playing a minor role in the offense
   d. Making appropriate restitution
   e. Reasonably believing the conduct was allowed
   f. Acting under strong provocation
   g. Aiding in the investigation
   h. Making a full and truthful statement admitting guilt at an early stage in the investigation of the offense
   i. Displaying an appropriate attitude and giving respectful cooperation during the investigation and discipline process

2. **Aggravating Factors** may include, but are not limited to:
   a. Inducing others to take part in the prohibited behavior or occupying a position of leadership or dominance of other participants
   b. Attempting to flee or conceal guilt
   c. Falsely blaming another individual
   d. Receiving money or something of value from the misbehavior
   e. A pattern or history of disciplinary infractions
   f. School-based interventions were implemented, but students' behavior did not improve

g. The misconduct was associated with gang activity
h. The victim of the misconduct is a teacher or other staff member
i. Victimizing a significantly younger or smaller student or a student with a known or obvious mental or physical disability
j. Repetitive blatant disrespect for authority
k. Taking advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense
l. Committing an offense on another school system's property

1. TEMPORARY (IMMEDIATE) SUSPENSION

If the principal/assistant principal witnesses or is made aware of serious student misconduct and believes that immediate removal of the student is necessary to restore order or to protect school property or persons on the school grounds, the principal/assistant principal may suspend the student immediately. In such cases, the principal/assistant principal is not required to conduct a full investigation before suspending the student. In all cases, the minimal due process informal hearing for short term suspensions must be given to the student as soon as is reasonably possible, usually the following school day.

2. NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN THAT A SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION HAS BEEN IMPOSED (4351)

The school administrator will notify the student's parent or guardian in writing that a short-term suspension has been imposed. If English is the second language of the parent, the notice must be provided in English and in the parent's primary language, when the appropriate foreign language resources are readily available. Both versions must be in plain language and easily understandable. The notice will explain why the student has been suspended and will describe the student's misconduct. The notice will be provided on the day of the suspension when reasonably possible, but no later than two days after the suspension is imposed.

3. REVIEW OF SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

If the parent believes that the principal/assistant principal failed to provide the student with sufficient notice of the charges or opportunity to respond to the charges, then the parent shall have five (5) school days from the date of the principal's/assistant principal's decision to make a written request to the superintendent or his/her designee for a review of the suspension procedure. **There shall be no right to appeal a short term suspension to the Board of Education.**

4. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION, 365-DAY SUSPENSION, EXPULSION (Policy 4353)

As applicable, Mitigating and Aggravating Factors as set forth above should be considered before imposing a Long-term Suspension, 365-day Suspension, or Expulsion.

a. Long-term suspension, 365-Day suspension, and expulsion procedures will be followed in accordance with Policy 4353. These procedures include the right to

written notice of the proposed discipline and the right to request a full hearing before the disciplinary penalty is imposed.

b. The school administrative hearing shall be held not less than two (2) school days from the date the Notice of Charges and Hearing was mailed or hand delivered to the parent or legal custodian.

c. A principal may recommend to the superintendent the long-term suspension of any student who willfully engages in conduct that violates a provision of the Student Code of Conduct that authorizes long-term suspension. Only the superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to long-term suspend a student.

Students subject to Long-term Suspension, 365-day Suspension, or Expulsion possess Board appeal and hearing rights pursuant to Policy 4353(B)(4), which may be viewed on the HCS https://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights of Students

Students shall have the right to:

1. Pursue a successful education in a safe environment without disruption
2. Receive fair and equitable treatment without discrimination in every aspect of the educational system
3. Be treated respectfully and as an individual
4. Be informed of their rights, responsibilities, and discipline policies

Responsibilities of Students

All students share with the administration and faculty the responsibility to develop a safe learning environment within the school. Students shall have the responsibility to:

1. Attend school regularly, arrive on time, and bring materials
2. Respect the personal, civil, and property rights of others
3. Put forth conscientious effort in classroom work and homework
4. Groom and dress appropriately
5. Have knowledge of and conform to school rules and regulations
6. Not use indecent, obscene, or foul language
7. Report incidents or activities that may threaten or disrupt the school environment

Rights of Parent/Guardians

Parents shall have the right to:

1. Receive regular official reports of their child's academic progress
2. Receive an explanation for the basis of any grade given by the teacher
3. Request a conference with the teacher and/or principal

4. Receive a prompt report of their child's attendance to class or school
5. Bring, or have the District provide, an interpreter during disciplinary conferences or hearings, when a parent or student has limited English proficiency and the parent or student requests an interpreter or the school observes that a parent or student's limited English proficiency would deny them an opportunity to meaningfully participate in the conference or hearing

Responsibilities of Parent/Guardians

Parents/guardians shall have the responsibility to:

1. Ensure that their children between the ages of 6 and 16 enroll in schools regularly, on time, and for the whole school day in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina
2. Present to school officials any concern in a calm, reasoned manner
3. Work with the school on academic, disciplinary, or other related matters pertaining to their child
4. Plan the time and place for homework assignments and provide necessary supervision
5. Talk with their child about school activities and expected behavior
6. Know the rules set forth in this Student Code of Conduct and review them with their child
7. Ensure that their child receives the periodic student health examinations that are required by law

VIOLATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school's behavior management plan (see Policy 4302 - School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

Minor Violations

Minor violations of the Student Code of Conduct are those less severe infractions that involve a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations and minor physical altercations that do not involve weapons or injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in Policy 4351 - Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Parental involvement, such as conferences;
2. Time-out for short periods;
3. FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment)

4. Behavior improvement agreements; BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)
5. Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;
6. Peer mediation;
7. Individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
8. Academic intervention;
9. In-school suspension; Restorative Practices;
10. Community service; in partnership with JCPC (with parent permission)
11. Exclusion from graduation ceremonies;
12. Exclusion from extracurricular activities;
13. Suspension from bus privileges;
14. Participation in a drug, alcohol, vaping, and/or educational awareness program;

The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation that may be required to carry out the consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if a parent or guardian is unable to provide transportation, another consequence will be substituted.

Serious Violations

Serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary reassignment or any of the other consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that either (1) threaten the safety of students, staff, or school visitors or (2) threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information about the procedures for disciplinary reassignments is provided in Policy 4305 – Alternative Learning Programs/Schools.

Information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is provided in Policies 4351 - Short-Term Suspension and 4353 - Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion. (See also Policy 4333 - Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety, for information regarding 365-day suspensions for certain firearms violations.)

Threat Assessment

The Hoke County Student Code of Conduct covers policies approved by the Hoke County Board of Education and **House Bill 605.**

(1) Assessment of and intervention with an individual whose behavior poses a risk to the safety of school staff, students, or self, including suggested definitions of threat levels with examples of behavior that would be considered a threat under the given definitions.

(2) If the individual is a student or minor, the involvement of the individual's parent or legal guardian is required throughout the threat assessment process.

(3) Referral to LME/MCOs, as provided in G.S. 122C-115.4(b)(9), for evaluation or treatment.

(4) Compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., and Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

(5) Referral to the appropriate local law enforcement agency if the individual is not a student.

SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

School transportation service is a privilege and not a right. The school bus, including bus stops, is an extension of the school. Therefore, the Student Code of Conduct is applicable to incidents occurring on the school bus and at the bus stop area. While riding a school bus, students shall at all times comply with the directives of the school bus driver and all other rules outlined in this code of conduct. Failure to follow directives will result in suspension from riding the bus as determined by the principal/assistant principal.

Discipline on the school bus is the responsibility of the principal/assistant principal of the school where the student is assigned. The principal/assistant principal has authority over students on the bus and at designated bus stops. This authority is delegated to the bus driver. The bus driver has the responsibility and authority for the safe operation of the bus and will refer all students who violate any directives or rules to the principal/assistant principal.

1. Students shall not attempt to ride a bus unless assigned to it by the principal/assistant principal.
2. Students shall not board or disembark the bus unless it is their assigned stop.
3. When students enter the school bus, they shall take their assigned seats quickly and remain seated and face the front at all times.
4. Students shall not rush to get off the bus.
5. Students shall not loiter or play near a stopped bus, but shall walk quickly away from the bus to the school building or home.
6. The following is a nonexclusive list of specific prohibited bus behaviors:
   a. Putting any part of the body outside of the bus;
   b. Throwing objects about the bus or out the windows;
   c. Striking matches or lighting cigarette lighters;
   d. Piling books, musical instruments, lunch boxes, or other objects in the bus aisle;
   e. Using profane and indecent language, tobacco, vaping devices, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or substances that mimic the effects of illegal drugs while riding in a bus;
   f. Taking pets or other animals on the school bus;
   f. Making loud or boisterous noises that have the potential of distracting the driver's attention;
   g. Fighting, playing or scuffling on the school bus;
   h. Tampering with the emergency door or any other part of the bus;
   i. Marring or defacing the bus in any way;
   j. Tampering with the fire extinguishers or first aid supplies;
   k. Harassing or assaulting other students, driver or bus monitor;
   l. Making obscene gestures; and
   m. Leaving trash or discarded items behind on the bus or at the stop

BUS MISBEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS **Bus Misbehavior**	
Grades:	**First & Repeated Offenses:**
K - 5	This violation **will** result in suspension from the school bus and/or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal/assistant principal.
6-12	This violation **will** result in suspension from the school bus and/or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal/assistant principal.

CLASS I VIOLATIONS

Behaviors that do not significantly violate the rights of others and do not appear chronic.

- **Dress Code Violation**
- **Inappropriate Items on School Property**
- **Falsification of Information**
- **Inappropriate Language/Disrespect**
- **Gambling**
- **Medication**
- **Honor Code Violation**
- **Insubordination**
- **Truancy***

*** Maximum of two (2) days suspension for each offense**

Grade First Offense	Second & Subsequent Offense(s)
PreK - 5: This violation **may** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined proper by the building principal to include documentation of notification to the parent/guardian.	This violation **will** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined properly by the building principal that may include short-term suspension not to exceed 5 days.
6-8: This violation **may** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined proper by the building principal to include documentation of notification to the parent/guardian and/or assignment to Restorative Interventions and or Hoke County Juvenile Services.	This violation **will** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined properly by the building principal, assignment to the Restorative Interventions and/or (Hoke County Juvenile Services) and/or short-term suspension not to exceed 5 days.

9-12	
This violation **will** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined proper by the building principal up to and including documentation of notification to the parent/guardian and/or assignment to Restorative Interventions and or the Hoke County Juvenile Services.	This violation **may** result in disciplinary measures, outlined on Page 9, as determined properly by the building principal, assignment to Restorative Interventions and or Hoke County Juvenile Services .and/or short-term suspension not to exceed 5 days.
Possible Interventions: ● **Academic Conferences** ● **Targeted SEL Lessons** ● **Check-In/Check-Out** ● **Behavior Contract** ● **Mentoring** ● **Tutoring** ● **Restorative Classrooms** ● **Parent Conferences** ● **Attendance Interventions** ****Additional interventions for each level may be determined by the school administrator. ****	

CLASS II VIOLATIONS

Behaviors that significantly violate the rights of others or put others at risk of harm.

- **Bullying**
- **Possession of Alcohol**
- **Communicating Threats to a**
- **Student**
- **Possession of Chemical/Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Cyber Bullying**
- **Possession/Use of Tobacco and vaping**
- **Disorderly Conduct**
- **Harassment – Verbal**
- **Property Damage - Less than $1,000**
- **Theft – Value Less than $1,000**
- **Extortion**
- **Hazing**
- **Possession of Counterfeit Items**
- **Use of Counterfeit Items**
- **Inappropriate Items on School Property / Use**

Grade	First Offense	Second Offense	Third and Subsequent Offense(s)
Pre-K - 5	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term suspension or other disciplinary measures as deemed necessary by the building principal and other interventions outlined below..	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term suspension up to 10 days and other interventions outlined below..	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term Suspension and other interventions outlined below.

6-8	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in assignment of Restorative Practices, in school suspension and/or short-term suspension, with behavior contract (depending on severity) and/or and other interventions outlined below..	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in assignment of Restorative Practices, in school suspension short-term suspension and/or disciplinary reassignment to an Alternative program not to exceed 45 days and other interventions outlined below..	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term suspension and/or disciplinary reassignment to an Alternative program or long-term suspension and other interventions outlined below.
9-12	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in assignment of Restorative Practices and/or short-term suspension, with behavior contract (depending on severity), and/or other interventions outlined below.	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term suspension and/or disciplinary reassignment to an alternative program not to exceed 45 days and other interventions outlined below.	This violation **<u>may</u>** result in short-term suspension and/or disciplinary reassignment to an alternative program or long-term suspension and other interventions outlined below..
Possible Interventions: ● **Academic Conferences** ● **Targeted SEL Lessons** ● **Check-In/Check-Out** ● **Behavior Contract** ● **Mentoring** ● **Tutoring** ● **Restorative Classrooms** ● **Parent Conferences**			

- **Progress Monitoring**
- **Small Group Counseling**
- **FBA/BIP**
- **Restorative Conference**
- **Restorative Circle**
- **Attendance Interventions**

****Additional interventions for each level may be determined by the school administrator****

CLASS III VIOLATIONS

Behaviors that significantly violate the rights of others or put others at risk of harm, and violate HCS policies, or North Carolina policies or laws.

- **Adult Taking Indecent Liberties with Minor**
- **Affray**
- **Harassment - Sexual**
- **Harassment – Other Prohibited Bases**
- **Aggressive Behavior**
- **Kidnapping**
- **Assault Involving Use of a Weapon(except firearms)**
- **Off-Campus Consumption of Alcohol/Controlled Substances**
- **Assault Resulting in Serious Injury**
- **Assault on School Personnel**
- **Possession of a Weapon**
- **Assault on Student**
- **Possession of Controlled Substance/Selling**
- **Property Damage – More than $1,000**
- **Assault/Other**
- **Rape**
- **Bomb Threats (dynamite, cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful**
- **explosive)**
- **Breaking/Entering a School**
- **Robbery Without a Dangerous Weapon**
- **Building/Property**
- **Sexual Assault/Sexual Battery**
- **Sexual Misconduct**
- **Sexual Offense**
- **Burning of a School Building**
- **Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon**
- **Communicating Threats to an Adult**
- **Communicating Threats of Mass Violence**
- **False Fire Alarm**
- **Theft – Value More than $1,000**

- **Fighting**
- **Unlawfully Setting a Fire**
- **Use of and /or Distribution of Alcoholic Beverage**
- **Gang Activity**
- **Harassment – Gender Based**
- **Use of Controlled Substance**

Grade	
Pre-K - 5	This violation **may** result in out-of-school suspension for up to 10 days.
6-8	This violation **may** result in short-term suspension for up to 10 days and/or disciplinary reassignment to an alternative program or long-term suspension depending on the severity of the offense.
9-12	This violation **may** result in short-term suspension and/or disciplinary reassignment to an alternative program or long-term suspension or expulsion.

Interventions:

- **Day Treatment Referral-K-8**
- **School Behavioral Health (at designated locations)**
- **Teen Court**
- **Dispute Resolution**
- **Attendance Interventions**

****Additional interventions for each level may be determined by the school administrator****

CLASS IV VIOLATION	
Possession of Firearm or Destructive Device (a weapon, including a starter gun, which will or 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, or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol.)	
Grade	**Penalty**
All Grades	This violation **may** result in a 365-calendar day suspension. The superintendent may modify the consequence pursuant to Policy 4353 - Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, or Expulsion or pursuant to Policy 4354 – Disciplinary Reassignment to an Alternative Program.

CLASS V VIOLATIONS **Behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school personnel. This includes any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. §14-208.18.**	
Grades 9-12	**Penalty**
In accordance with NC General Statute 115C-390.11(a), a local board of education may, upon recommendation of the principal and superintendent, expel any student who is 14 years of age or older whose behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school personnel. In accordance with N.C.G.S. §115C 390.11(a)(2), a local board of education may expel any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. §14-208.18. **Death By Other Than Natural Causes**	**Expulsion in accordance with 115C-390.11(a)** **The local Board of Education shall consider whether there is an alternative program that may be offered by the local school Administrative unit to provide educational services.**

DEFINITIONS

CLASS I VIOLATIONS

DRESS CODE VIOLATION
Hoke County Schools prohibits appearance or clothing which violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by an individual school, is substantially disruptive, is provocative or obscene, endangers the health or safety of the student or others, or promotes products or activities that are illegal for use by minors (Policy 4316 – Student Dress Code). Clothing that reveals undergarments, chest, breasts, navel, buttocks, or any private body part will be considered inappropriate for the school setting.

FALSIFICATION OF INFORMATION
Falsification of information is a false statement meant to deceive or give a wrong impression.

GAMBLING
Gambling means to bet money or wager anything on the outcome of a game, contest, or other event.

HONOR CODE VIOLATION
Cheating, plagiarism, dishonesty, falsification of assignments and signatures, violation of software regulations or copyright laws, and inappropriate computer access are considered honor code violations. Also, selling merchandise, magazines, newspapers, or other property on school grounds, unless the same is an approved school activity, is considered private enterprise and an honor code violation.

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY / USE Any device disruptive to the school environment to include electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, digital cameras, and laser devices, will not be displayed or utilized while on the school bus or on school premises during the school day unless utilized for educational purposes as approved by the school administration.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE/DISRESPECT
Any communication used to degrade, disrespect, or that is abusive in nature, whether by signs, symbols, or gestures is prohibited in the school environment.

INSUBORDINATION
Refusal to comply with all appropriate or reasonable directions of principals, teachers, School Resource Officers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, volunteers and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of such school personnel.

MEDICATION
Unauthorized possession of any prescription or non-prescription drugs in violation of medication protocol.

TRUANCY
Each student will be assigned a school schedule and must adhere to that schedule except when excused by the principal or a teacher authorized to excuse a student.

CLASS II VIOLATIONS

BULLYING
Bullying is a form of harassment. Bullying means the one-sided, repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or emotional abuse or through destruction or theft of property of another. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, verbal taunts, name-calling and put downs, rumor spreading, and extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups.

COMMUNICATING THREATS TO A STUDENT
Threatening actions include language that reasonably threatens force of violence and any sign or action that reasonably constitutes a threat of force or violence toward another student. For purposes of this rule, intent is irrelevant, and examples of covered forms of communication include any oral or written communication, posts on any social media or online platform, creation of documents, drawings or images, threatening or symbolic gestures, or threatening, distracting, or provoking behavior concerning, directed toward, or in the presence of any person.

CYBERBULLYING
Cyberbullying includes but is not limited to the following misuses of any school or non-school technology resources or networks within the learning environment or during any school-related activity: harassing, threatening, teasing, intimidating, humiliating, embarrassing, terrorizing another student or school employee by sending or posting such inappropriate or hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, text/digital pictures or images, or through social media websites and blogs. Cyberbullying may exist where there is only one post which can be shared multiple times resulting in the bullying of an individual. This definition can include the sharing of personal or private information about another person causing embarrassment or humiliation.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Disorderly conduct is any action that disrupts the peace and order of the school. Trespassing/Loitering is also included as a part of disorderly conduct. Trespassing to include loitering is the presence of any student on the campus of another school in the Hoke County School system without the knowledge and consent of the officials of the school he/she is visiting. Any student who has been suspended from school will be considered trespassing if he/she appears on school property during the

suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Disruptive behavior constitutes any physical or verbal action which reasonably could or does substantially disrupt, disturb, or interfere with the peace, order, and/or discipline within the learning environment or during any school-related activity.
- Disruptive behavior also constitutes any verbal, physical, or visual forms (including cell phone and/or other digital images/recordings/sexting) of a sexual nature that create a hostile or abusive educational environment for other students.
- Disruptive behavior also includes the unauthorized photographing and audio and/or video recording of student voices and/or images by cell phone, digital camera, video recorder, or other device on school property or at a school related activity that is disruptive to the school environment.
- Disruptive behavior is also any action, comments, postings or written messages to social media intended to cause others to fight or which might reasonably be expected to result in a fight**.**
- Disruptive behavior also includes distribution of over the counter medications.
- No student shall possess or wear any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items, which indicate a student's membership or desired membership or affiliation with a gang.
- No student shall possess pyrotechnics and incendiary devices or materials intended to result in an explosion and/or fire on school property, any school sponsored event, or any activity representing Hoke County schools. Pyrotechnics and incendiary devices include, but are not limited to: lighters, explosive caps for toy pistols, fireworks, snake and glow works, smoke devices, trick noisemakers, wire sparklers, and other sparkling devices.

EXTORTION

Extortion is the use of one's position or power to obtain property, funds, or patronage. (Hoke County's Def: Extortion involves obtaining money, property, services, or anything of value from a person, entity, or institution through coercion or intimidation. The actual obtaining of money or property is not required to commit the consequence.)

HARASSMENT-VERBAL

Verbal harassment means to worry, torment, trouble, verbally attack, or irritate persistently any student, school employee, or any other person.

HAZING

Hazing is defined as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office or other status in a group. It consists of any action that is abusive and designed to frighten, scold, humiliate, degrade, endanger, harass or to subject an individual to personal indignity, regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

Any student possessing any malt beverages, fortified or unfortified wine, or spirituous liquor, in any amount or form to include any alcoholic beverage on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop or at any school-sponsored event is prohibited. Possession shall be defined as the substance being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form.

POSSESSION OF CHEMICAL AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia or any other item used for inhaling/ingesting any controlled substance, narcotic, alcohol or chemical. Possession shall be defined as the item being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form.

POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEIT ITEMS

Possessing any false item, which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying marks, imprint, number or device to include currency, is prohibited. Possession shall be defined as the item being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form.

POSSESSION/USE OF TOBACCO OR VAPING

The term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, pens, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine. Possession shall be defined as the substance or item being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - LESS THAN $1,000

Damage is intentionally damaging, or attempting to damage, any school property or private property while under school jurisdiction.

THEFT - VALUE LESS THAN $1,000

Theft is stealing, attempting to steal, or possessing stolen property having reason to know it was stolen.

THREATENING BEHAVIOR

Any communication or action that indicates that an individual may pose a danger to the safety or well-being of school staff or students through acts of violence or other behaviors that would cause harm to self or others. These behaviors may be expressed or communicated orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means and may be considered threatening regardless of whether a direct verbal threat is expressed.

USE OF COUNTERFEIT ITEMS
Use of any counterfeit item, which the person thereof obtains, or attempts to obtain, money, property, services, or something of value is prohibited.

CLASS III VIOLATIONS

ADULT TAKING INDECENT LIBERTIES WITH A MINOR Committing a sexual act with or in the presence of a child under the age of 16 years, by a person at least age 16 and at least five years older than the child, for sexual gratification, regardless of whether force was used, or whether the victim consented.

AFFRAY
An affray is a fight between three or more students on school property or at a school-related activity. It includes actions which cause fear or terror to be experienced by other people in a public setting.

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR
This attempted assault occurs when a student behaves in such a manner as could reasonably cause physical injury to any student or staff member. This physical aggression can occur between two individuals or be a one sided incident in which students are engaging in minor contact, not resulting in an injury, with at least one person demonstrating anger. This definition also includes the accidental striking of an adult while attempting to break up a fight.

ASSAULT INVOLVING USE OF A WEAPON (except firearms) Assault with a weapon or other object that could reasonably be considered a weapon. A weapon includes any incendiary device defined under Class II, or any weapon or dangerous instrument defined in Class III, or any firearms or explosive device defined in Class IV.

ASSAULT RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY
An intentional act or attempt by force or violence to do injury to the person of another that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm resulting in one of the following: (1) substantial risk of death, (2) serious permanent disfigurement, (3) a coma, (4) a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, (5) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or (6) that results in prolonged hospitalization.

ASSAULT ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL
Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a school official, employee or school volunteer who is not a student.

ASSAULT ON STUDENT
Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a student, while a student is at any school sponsored function on or off campus during or after regular school hours.

ASSAULT / OTHER
Attempted or actual hitting, striking, emitting bodily fluids, utilizing any foreign substance, or other use of force upon a non-student or non-school employee.

BOMB THREATS (dynamite, cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive)
Communicating a report, while knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is located on any school premises a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning. Placing on any school premises with the intent of perpetrating a hoax, any device that would appear to a reasonable person to be a bomb or similar instrument capable of causing injury and/or damage. (G.S. 14.69.1 et.seq. or G.S. 14-69.2)

BREAKING / ENTERING OF A SCHOOL BUILDING / PROPERTY The wrongful breaking or entering of any school building, school-owned vehicle, or secured property of the Hoke County Board of Education at any time is prohibited. This includes the HCS network, computers, systems, and programs.

BURNING OF A SCHOOL BUILDING
Any person who maliciously and willfully sets fire to, burns or causes to be burned i.e. aids, directs or procures the burning of any school building owned, leased or used by the public schools.

COMMUNICATING THREATS OF MASS VIOLENCE
It is a Class III Violation for any student to, by means of any form of communication, share, state, spread or circulate any sort of threat that an act of mass violence may or will occur on educational property or at any curricular or extracurricular activity sponsored by a school. For purposes of this rule, intent is irrelevant, and examples of covered forms of communication include any oral or written communication, posts on any social media or online platform, creation of documents, drawings or images, threatening or symbolic gestures, or threatening, distracting, or provoking behavior concerning, directed toward, or in the presence of any person. Additional examples of prohibited forms of communication which violate this rule include creation or dissemination of a “hit list,” list of “people to kill,” list of “people to shoot,” or any statement referencing bringing a weapon to school for any reason. Any communication of a threat of this nature shall be investigated thoroughly and school consequences may be assigned accordingly regardless of the time and/or location of the threat.

COMMUNICATING THREATS TO AN ADULT
Threatening actions include language that reasonably threatens force of violence and any sign or action that reasonably constitutes a threat of force or violence toward any

school employee or any other adult. For purposes of this rule, intent is irrelevant, and examples of covered forms of communication include any oral or written communication, posts on any social media or online platform, creation of documents, drawings or images, threatening or symbolic gestures, or threatening, distracting, or provoking behavior concerning, directed toward, or in the presence of any person.

FALSE FIRE ALARM

Students will not initiate a false fire alarm on any school premises.

FIGHTING

Fighting is the act of two or more persons involved in a physical conflict such as hitting or kicking another student or other person. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent to free himself/herself from the attack and notify proper school authorities. A student who exceeds this reasonable force may be disciplined even though he/she may not have provoked the fight.

GANG ACTIVITY

Gang activity shall be defined as any act(s) that further promotes gangs or gang related activities or which threatens or intimidates another person or disrupts the educational environment on school premises or during any school-sponsored activity which includes, but is not limited to: (1) communicating either verbally or non-verbally (hand signs, gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.), to convey membership or affiliation with a gang; (2) defacing school or personal property with gang-related graffiti, symbols or slogans; (3) requiring payment of protection, insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity; (4) inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity; (5) soliciting others for gang membership; (6) committing any other illegal act or other violation of the Hoke County Schools' policies that relate to gang activity e.g. gang-related assault on student.

HARASSMENT – SEXUAL

Sexual harassment may consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats, pressure for sexual activity, **continued or repeated** offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, **continued or repeated** verbal remarks about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, sexual assault, sexual violence, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures or written materials. Acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, but not involving sexual activity or language, may be combined with incidents of sexually harassing conduct to determine if the incidents of sexually harassing conduct are sufficiently serious to create a sexually hostile environment.

HARASSMENT – GENDER-BASED

Gender-based harassment is also a type of harassment. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

HARASSMENT – OTHER PROHIBITED BASES

Harassment may include, but is not limited to, harassing behavior that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic or motivated by an individual's association with a person who has or is perceived to have a differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability.

KIDNAPPING

Confining, restraining or removing from one place to another a person, without his/her or the victim's or a minor victim's parents' consent, for the purpose of committing a felony; or holding a victim as hostage or for ransom, or for use as a shield. A parent taking a child in violation of a court order, although it may be a crime, is not kidnapping for this purpose.

OFF-CAMPUS CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The rule is violated when a student consumes any amount of alcohol or prohibited substance off-campus and then presents him or herself on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop, or at any school sponsored event and a school official detects the physical characteristics of, e.g., odor, slurred speech, erratic behavior, bloodshot/glassy eyes, etc., the student's consumption of alcohol or prohibited substance

POSSESSION OF A WEAPON

Possessing, handling or transferring, whether openly or concealed, without educational permission or consent, any BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, facsimile of a gun, knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, loaded cane, sword cane, machete, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, razor blades, box cutters, pepper spray, mace, ammunition, explosives, explosive making material, chemicals, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument. Possession shall be defined as the item being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form.

POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES / SELLING

This offense includes possession, distribution or sale by a student of a controlled substance of the N.C. Controlled Substances Act or any counterfeit controlled

substance. This includes, but is not limited to, any edible product containing a psychoactive compound or illegal substance as an ingredient, marijuana, synthetic marijuana (Spice or similar product), MDPV and mephedrone (e.g. bath salts) cocaine, methamphetamine, barbiturate, heroin, mescaline, LSD, codeine, opium, ecstasy, Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin (or generic derivatives) or any other hallucinogenic drug. Possession shall be defined as the substance being on the person, in the student's personal effects, vehicle, locker or desk or in the immediate control of the student in any amount or in any form. This offense also includes the unauthorized distribution of any prescription drug.

PROPERTY DAMAGE – MORE THAN $1,000

Damage is intentionally damaging, or attempting to damage, any school property or private property while under school jurisdiction.

RAPE

Rape may be statutory or forcible. Forcible Rape is committed by force and without the consent of the victim, regardless of age. Statutory Rape is committed on a child under the age of 16 by a person who is at least 12 years old and at least four years older than the victim, regardless of whether the victim consented.

ROBBERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON

This includes theft or attempted theft of anything of value from the person of another, or from the area under the immediate bodily control of the other, by using a dangerous weapon or by an act threatening use of a dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is any article, instrument or substance that is likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Forcible theft or attempted theft from a person without the use of a dangerous weapon should be reported under Robbery without a Dangerous Weapon.

ROBBERY WITHOUT A DANGEROUS WEAPON

The taking or attempting to take anything of value from another's person, by force, or by an act threatening force or violence, which puts a victim in fear, without the use of a weapon. The stealing of someone's property without the use of force or from a source other than the victim's person is not included in this offense. If the taking from the person involves use of a dangerous weapon the incident is reported under Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/SEXUAL BATTERY

A person is guilty of sexual battery if he/she, for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, engages in sexual contact with another person by force and against the will of the other person, or if the person being assaulted is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know that the other person is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

No student shall engage in behavior, which is indecent, disreputable, or of a sexual

nature to include consensual sex and/or sexual acts.

SEXUAL OFFENSE
Sexual Offense may be forcible or statutory. Forcible Sexual Offense is committed by force and without the consent of the victim. Statutory Sexual Offense is a sexual act committed on a child under the age of 16 by a person who is at least 12 years old and more than four years older than the victim, regardless of whether the victim consented. Statutory Sexual Offense is also sexual acts committed on a person who is mentally handicapped or incapacitated or physically helpless, regardless of whether the victim consented.

THEFT – VALUE MORE THAN $1,000
Theft is stealing, attempting to steal, or possessing stolen property having reason to know it was stolen.

UNLAWFULLY SETTING A FIRE
Intentionally starting a fire or attempting to start a fire or aiding and abetting in the starting or attempting to start a fire without educational permission or consent is prohibited.

USE OF AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Consumption and/or distribution of an alcoholic beverage in any amount or form on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop or at any school-sponsored event is prohibited.

USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
This offense includes the use of, but not limited to, marijuana, synthetic marijuana (Spice or similar product), MDPV and mephedrone (e.g. bath salts), cocaine, methamphetamine, barbiturate, heroin, mescaline, LSD, codeine, opium, ecstasy, Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin (or generic derivatives) hallucinogenic drug or any other chemical or product that may bring about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or otherwise alter the student's mood or behavior while on school property owned or leased by the local Board of Education, school bus stop, or at any school sponsored event.

CLASS IV VIOLATION

POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE Bringing or possessing a firearm or destructive device on educational property or to a school-sponsored event off of educational property, including a starter gun, which will or 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, or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. A destructive device is a bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, device similar to those above. The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol.

CLASS V VIOLATIONS

Behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school personnel. This includes any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. §14-208.18.

DEATH BY OTHER THAN NATURAL CAUSES

Death by other than natural causes is the killing of a living person done by another person including, but not limited to, murder, manslaughter and death by vehicle.

ATHLETICS AND CHEERLEADING

Hoke County High School and SandHoke Early College High School

Hoke County High School and SandHoke Early College High School are members of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and are bound by their rules and regulations. They are also members of the Mid-South 8A Athletic Conference. Other members of this conference are Pinecrest High School, Richmond Sr. High School, Overhills, Pine Forest High School, and Jack Britt High School.

A student may participate on more than one athletic team during the same sport's season provided that a dual participation form is on file. Tryouts are a part of the qualification process for a team. When the membership of the team is determined from tryouts, the decision of the head coach is **final**.

Guidelines for Cheerleaders:

Cheerleaders play an important role in creating better relations between opposing supporters and make positive contributions to good spectator reaction at an athletic contest. Cheerleaders are to set the example for all spectators for how they should behave in support of their team. The following are expectations pertaining to cheerleaders at NCHSAA contests:

- All cheers shall be positive not antagonizing
- Cheerleaders should remain silent when the opponent's cheerleaders are performing and during free throws at basketball contests.
- "Battling" between opposing cheerleading squads is never acceptable.

Sportsmanship

THE QUALITY OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR CHARACTERIZED BY A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY AND A GENUINE CONCERN FOR OPPONENTS, OFFICIALS AND TEAMMATES

Students and spectators should:

1. realize you represent the school as does a member of a team; therefore, you have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others;
2. recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding example of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team;
3. remember that the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players through the medium of contest and respect the judgment and integrity of game officials.

. A. Definitions

1. Athletic Probation: A student on athletic probation may practice and play games while on probation. The student must meet the requirements of the probation to attend practice and participate. Probation is only for the sport for which the student was playing when placed on probation. Probation may not extend beyond the last regular season game or play-off game for the season of the sport for which the student was playing when placed on probation.
2. Athletic Suspension: A student placed on athletic suspension cannot play in any game while on suspension. The student may or may not be required to attend practice while on suspension. Suspension will carry over from one season to the next.
3. End of Season: The end of a sports season occurs after the last regular season game and any playoff games have been played.

A. Penalties

The following penalties apply in *addition* to other school and district disciplinary actions:

1. Possession of Tobacco and/or Vaping

First Offense
Two week suspension and placement on athletic probation for the remainder of the current sport's season and must attend a tobacco awareness program with school counselor or school social worker.

Second Offense:
Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of the current sport's season

Third Offense:
Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of the school year**.**

2. **Possession of Alcoholic Beverage, Marijuana or Possession of Non-Prescription Drug Designed to Alter Mood or Behavior**

   First Offense:

   Suspension from all athletic teams for the remainder of the school year

3. **Quitting the Team**

   Suspension from all athletic teams until the coach of the team that the player quits gives his/her permission to play on another team.

4. **Being Ejected from a Game by an official**

Sportsmanship/Ejection Policy

The policy applies to all persons involved in an athletic contest, including student-athletes, coaches, managers and game administrators. The NCHSAA may review video, when available, to invoke ejections or sanctions not reported by game officials. Video clips must be presented to the NCHSAA office for committee review within (2) business days of the contest.

The following examples include behavior or conduct which will result in an ejection from a contest:

Fighting, which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:

1. An altercation between 2 or more parties that includes swinging, hitting, punching and/or kicking;
2. An attempt to strike an opponent with a fist, hands, arms, legs, feet, or equipment;
3. An attempt to punch or kick an opponent, regardless of whether or not contact is made;
4. An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsportsmanlike act toward an opponent that causes an opponent to retaliate; and
5. Leaving the bench area and coming onto the playing area during a fight (whether or not they participate in the fight).
6. Leaving the bench area -- coming on to the playing area when there is not a fight
7. Flagrant contact, which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:
   A. Maliciously running over the catcher/fielder without attempt to avoid contact
   B. Excessive contact out-of-bounds or away from playing action than is unwarranted and extreme in nature
   C. Tackling/taking down a player dangerously in a malicious manner
   D. Illegally hitting or cross-checking an opponent in an excessive manner with the stick in lacrosse

E. Biting observed or determined by an official
F. Taunting, baiting or spitting toward an opponent or official
G. Profanity of any kind, inappropriate language, racial or ethnic slurs, sexist or homophobic language (Zero-Tolerance).
H. Obscene gestures, including gesturing in such a manner as to intimidate or instigate
I. Disrespectfully addressing an official (physically contacting an official is subject to automatic expulsion and can result in ineligibility for remainder of career).

Sportsmanship/Ejection Policy Penalties for an Ejection:

Ejection during scrimmages:

1. Coach or player is suspended from the remainder of the scrimmage-this is Inclusive of multiple scrimmage events on the same day (jamboree).
2. Players must complete the NFHS "Sportsmanship" course before being eligible to compete in the next scrimmage or contest.
3. Coaches must complete the NFHS-"Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course for any player or coach ejection during the scrimmage.
4. Football-ejection from the contest, miss the next two contests at that level and all contests in the interim (miss the next two contests for fighting).
5. All other sports-ejection from the contest, miss the next two contests at that level and all contests in the interim (miss the next four contests for fighting).
6. Individuals: Players or coaches receiving two ejections for unacceptable behavior as defined above will be suspended from all sports for the remainder of that sport season.
7. Receiving a third ejection in a school year will result in suspension from athletics for one calendar year (365 days from the date of the third ejection).
8. Teams: Teams in the following situations will not be allowed to participate in the playoffs:
9. A team whose players and coaches accumulate six or more individual ejections.
10. A team whose players and coaches accumulate three or more individual ejections for fighting (note: if a situation occurs where three or more players on one team are ejected during one fighting incident, those three individual ejections will cause the team to lose its playoff.

Note: If any of these actions occur prior to or after an athletic event, Hoke County High School will treat the student as if he/she had been ejected from the game. The coach will impose other less-severe penalties if an official disqualifies a student from a

game. A disqualification is not an ejection.

First Offense

Two games or two weeks probation, whichever is longest

Second Offense

Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of the school calendar year

Other Behaviors:

Other behaviors may be penalized if they are deemed by the athletic director to be detrimental to the goal of the athletic department to develop dignity, good character, and good sportsmanship among athletes.

A student who forges any documents that pertain to school or any medical documents may lose athletic eligibility for that school year.

- A student may not participate in an athletic event if he/she is not in school unless the principal or athletic director and coach validate the reason for the student not being in school. A student is not allowed to participate in practice or games that day unless he/she has attended school for a minimum of at least one half day (i.e. 8:00–11:30 am or 11:30–3:15 pm).

- Violation of athletic rules listed herein will be cumulative from grades 7-8 in the middle schools and 9-12 at the senior high level.

- If a penalty is not fully administered during a sport's season, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next sport's season in which the athlete participates.

- Any student who has been suspended shall not be eligible to attend the athletic banquet for that sport.

- Any athlete suspended from school will not be eligible to participate in practice or a game until the suspension has been lifted.

- A school suspension begins at the moment the student is informed and ends at the beginning of the next school day after the suspension. A suspension includes the transition period at Turlington Alternative School.

- Any athlete assigned to Turlington Alternative School may participate in games and practices at the discretion of the head coach.

- Any athlete charged with a criminal offense may be dismissed from a team or suspended from games or practices, at the discretion of the head coach.

- Any athlete who is in ISS may participate in games and practices but may not be released for any games that require early dismissal.

- Other rules for athletes are listed on the physical form and must be agreed to and signed prior to the first practice. The head coach will determine policies and penalties in other areas in which he/she feels they are needed for their sport.

- Students who play varsity sports may be selected to receive letters, trophies, and awards.

- Eligibility requirements and a complete copy of the rules and regulations may be obtained from the athletic director or by visiting www.nchsaa.org.

Transportation

1. All Transportation should be on vans or buses belonging to Hoke County Schools and driven by the team's coach or someone approved by Hoke County Schools.

2. Students should return from a contest on the school provided transportation unless the coach has written permission 24 hours in advance from a parent and the parent picks up the student form the coach.

3. Students should not be permitted to ride with others unless the principal gives permission prior to leaving for a contest.

4. Conduct while traveling to and from contests should be defined and controlled.

5. Teams should come together, stay together, and leave together at all away contests. Any athlete who comes to a contest by means other than with the team should not play unless given permission by the principal.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate on any athletic team, a student must be both academically and medically eligible. These students are established by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and Hoke County Public School policies. For more details on eligibility, please refer to the NCHSAA Handbook online at https://www.nchsa.org/students-and-parents/rules-and-regulations Reference numbers are located beside the policies below.

Scholastic Requirements

1. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student must be in good academic standing. For purposes of this Policy, a student shall be deemed to be in good academic standing under the following circumstances:
    A. The student attended at least 85 percent of the total number of instructional days in the PSU during the previous semester;
    B. The student passed at least seventy (70) percent of the courses taken in the preceding semester; and
    C. The student makes sufficient progress toward meeting the academic and curricular requirements of the PSU and the State Board of Education to be promoted to the next grade level or to graduate within the next calendar year.
2. For the purpose of determining good academic standing during the fall semester, a student may count courses that the student passed in a summer school session in which the student was enrolled during the same calendar year toward the total number of courses passed in the preceding spring semester, provided that summer school courses shall not affect the total number of courses attempted in the preceding spring semester.
3. A student who is promoted from Grade 5 to Grade 6 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements set forth in this Paragraph to participate in the first semester of Grade 6.
4. A student who is promoted from Grade 8 to Grade 9 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements set forth in this Paragraph to participate in the first semester of Grade 9.
5. For interscholastic athletic activities occurring between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, any student who has satisfied the requirements of 16 NCAC 06E .0204(d), as it was written on June 30, 2024, shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this Paragraph.

Biological Requirements: All students participating in interscholastic athletics shall comply with the biological participation requirements as provided in G.S. 115C-407.59.

Medical Requirements: To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student shall receive a medical examination every 395 days by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, subject to the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

Legal Requirements: A student shall not participate in interscholastic athletics after pleading guilty or “no contest” to, or being convicted of, a felony under the laws of North Carolina, the United States, or any other state. Prior to deeming the student ineligible, an administering organization shall receive a certified copy of a criminal record reflecting the conviction and verify that the student is the same individual identified in the criminal record.

An administering organization shall, in an individual student's case, waive any eligibility requirement contained in this Policy if it finds that enforcing the requirement:

- fails to promote academic progress, health, safety, and fair play;
- works an undue hardship on a student who has lost eligibility due to circumstances that made participation impossible, such as prolonged illness or injury; or
- prevents the reasonable accommodation of a student's disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

TICKET TO PLAY

Student-Athletes & Parents must complete online registration w/ Final Forms via Hoke County High School Athletics Website. ALL forms will be verified for completion by the Athletic Trainer & Athletic Director.

- Valid/Current Pre-Participation Physical Exam
- Concussion Agreement Forms
- Assumption of Risk/Medical Treatment Release
- Student-Athlete & Parent Pledge Signatures

The Hoke County Student Code of Conduct covers policies approved by the Hoke County Board of Education and House Bill 736. Each principal has the discretion to vary some consequences to meet the individual needs of students.

North Carolina Public School Laws give the principal of each school the authority to provide appropriate consequences for student misbehavior in order to maintain a safe and orderly environment or for concerns for school safety. The principal of each school has the authority to suspend students for incidents of misbehaving for up to ten (10) days.

Suspensions of more than 10 days require the approval of the superintendent. Parents have the right to appeal a long-term suspension. Procedures for appealing a suspension may be found in the Hoke County Board of Education Policy Manual (Policies 4360, 4361, 4362, and 4370). A copy of the appeal can be obtained from the school's principal and must be filed according to the deadlines established in the policy manual.

All rules contained in these handbooks are minimum standards. The coaches, athletic directors, and principals maintain the discretion to require additional expectations.

PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Temporary Suspension - The principal/assistant principal may impose a temporary suspension prior to a hearing if the presence of the student creates a direct and immediate threat to the safety of other students or staff, or substantially disrupts or interferes with the education of other students or the maintenance of discipline at the school. In such cases, the principal shall give notice of the charges and an opportunity for an informal hearing as soon as practicable.

B. Short-Term Suspension - The exclusion of a student from school attendance for disciplinary purposes for up to 10 school days from the school to which the student was assigned at the time of the disciplinary action. A short-term suspension does not include the removal of a student from class by the classroom teacher, principal or other authorized school personnel for the remainder of the subject period or one-half of a school day and/or changing the student's location to another room or place on the school premises (4353). A student subject to short-term suspension shall be provided the following:

1. The opportunity to take textbooks or Chromebook home for the duration of the suspension.
2. Upon request, the right to receive all missed assignments and, to the extent practicable, the materials distributed to students in connection with the assignment.
3. The opportunity to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period.

C. Long-Term Suspension – suspension from school, school activities, and school grounds in excess of 10 school days but not exceeding the time remaining in the school year except as provided in G.S. 115C-390.1(b)(7). This long-term suspension must have the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

D. Long-Term Suspension – 365 Days – suspension from school, school activities, and school grounds for a period of 365 days as specified in G.S. 115C-390.10 Gun Possession. This long-term suspension must have the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

E. Expulsion – indefinite exclusion from the Hoke County School system of a student (1) who is 14 years of age or older and (2) whose behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of employees or other students. Also, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §115C-390.11(a)(2), a local Board of Education may expel any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. §14-208.18. Expulsion can only be authorized by the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the principal and the superintendent.

F. Disciplinary Reassignments – Reassignment to an alternative program

G. Calculation of Days – number of days refers to days when schools are in session for students except for reference to a 365-day suspension, which refers to calendar days.

H. Mandatory Offenses Reportable to Law Enforcement When the principal has personal knowledge, a reasonable belief, or actual notice from school personnel that an act listed below has occurred on school property, regardless of the age or grade of the perpetrator or victim, the school principal must immediately report to law enforcement officials and the Security Director. The principal shall also notify the superintendent or his/her designee (Safety/Security Director) in writing or by electronic mail regarding any report made to law enforcement under this section. The superintendent or his/her designee

shall provide the information to the local Board of Education. The mandatory reportable offenses are as follows:

1. Assault resulting in serious personal injury
2. Assault involving use of a weapon
3. Kidnapping
4. Possession of controlled substance in violation of the law
5. Possession of a firearm in violation of the law
6. Possession of a weapon in violation of the law
7. Rape
8. Sexual assault (not involving rape or sexual offense)
9. Sexual offense
10. Taking indecent liberties with a minor

I. Mandatory Reporting of Other Serious Violations – In addition to the 10 reportable offenses listed above any Class III, IV, or V violation must be immediately reported to the Safety/Security Director.

J. Authority to Search – School officials have authority to conduct reasonable searches and seizures in accordance with HCS' Board Policy 4342 for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and of upholding standards of conduct established by the Board or school.

K. Questioning of Students by School Personnel – District administrators or the principal of each school, or his/her authorized representative(s), possess legal authority to question students in any reasonable manner in order to investigate possible student misconduct, student health, safety or academic issues, possible child abuse, neglect, or dependency, or possible violations of Board of Education policy.

L. Questioning of Students by Law Enforcement, DSS, or Health Department Personnel Law Enforcement, Department of Social Services, or Health Department personnel may question students in order to discharge their official duties, with or without parents present as allowed by law, and those personnel are responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of the students who are questioned. Parents are advised that authorities may question students in a variety of situations, including when a student is suspected of committing a crime, when a student may have been a victim of a crime or child abuse or neglect or dependency, or when a student may possess information regarding criminal activities.

TICKET TO PLAY

Student-Athletes & Parents must complete online registration w/ Final Forms via Hoke County High School Athletics Website. The Athletic Trainer & Athletic Director will verify ALL forms for completion.

- Valid/Current Pre-Participation Physical Exam
- Concussion Agreement Forms
- Assumption of Risk/Medical Treatment Release

- Student-Athlete & Parent Pledge Signatures

The Hoke County Student Code of Conduct covers policies approved by the Hoke County Board of Education and House Bill 736. Each principal has the discretion to vary some consequences to meet the individual needs of students.

North Carolina Public School Laws give the principal of each school the authority to provide appropriate consequences for student misbehavior in order to maintain a safe and orderly environment or for concerns for school safety. The principal of each school has the authority to suspend students for incidents of misbehaving for up to ten (10) days.

Suspensions of more than 10 days require the approval of the superintendent. Parents have the right to appeal a long-term suspension. Procedures for appealing a suspension may be found in the Hoke County Board of Education Policy Manual (Policies 4360, 4361, 4362, and 4370). A copy of the appeal can be obtained from the school's principal and must be filed according to the deadlines established in the policy manual.

All rules contained in these handbooks are minimum standards. The coaches, athletic directors, and principals maintain the discretion to require additional expectations.

PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Temporary Suspension - The principal/assistant principal may impose a temporary suspension prior to a hearing if the presence of the student creates a direct and immediate threat to the safety of other students or staff, or substantially disrupts or interferes with the education of other students or the maintenance of discipline at the school. In such cases, the principal shall give notice of the charges and an opportunity for an informal hearing as soon as practicable.

B. Short-Term Suspension - The exclusion of a student from school attendance for disciplinary purposes for up to 10 school days from the school to which the student was assigned at the time of the disciplinary action. A short-term suspension does not include the removal of a student from class by the classroom teacher, principal or other authorized school personnel for the remainder of the subject period or one-half of a school day and/or changing the student's location to another room or place on the school premises (4353). A student subject to short-term suspension shall be provided the following:

1. The opportunity to take textbooks or Chromebook home for the duration of the suspension.
2. Upon request, the right to receive all missed assignments and, to the extent practicable, the materials distributed to students in connection with the assignment.
3. The opportunity to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period.

C. Long-Term Suspension – suspension from school, school activities, and school grounds in excess of 10 school days but not exceeding the time remaining in the school year except as provided in G.S. 115C-390.1(b)(7). This long-term suspension must have the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

D. Long-Term Suspension – 365 Days – suspension from school, school activities, and school grounds for a period of 365 days as specified in G.S. 115C-390.10 Gun Possession. This long-term suspension must have the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

1. Re-Entry meeting coordinated by the school of origin administrative team.

E. Expulsion – indefinite exclusion from the Hoke County School system of a student (1) who is 14 years of age or older and (2) whose behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of employees or other students. Also, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §115C-390.11(a)(2), a local Board of Education may expel any student subject to sex offender registration pursuant to N.C.G.S. §14-208.18. Expulsion can only be authorized by the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the principal and the superintendent.

F. Disciplinary Reassignments – Reassignment to an alternative program.

G. Calculation of Days – number of days refers to days when schools are in session for students except for reference to a 365-day suspension, which refers to calendar days.

H. Mandatory Offenses Reportable to Law Enforcement When the principal has personal knowledge, a reasonable belief, or actual notice from school personnel that an act listed below has occurred on school property, regardless of the age or grade of the perpetrator or victim, the school principal must immediately report to law enforcement officials and the Assistant Superintendent of Operations. The principal shall also notify the superintendent or his/her designee in writing or by electronic mail regarding any report made to law enforcement under this section. The superintendent or his/her designee shall provide the information to the local Board of Education. The mandatory reportable offenses are as follows:

1. Assault resulting in serious personal injury
2. Assault involving use of a weapon
3. Kidnapping
4. Possession of controlled substance in violation of the law
5. Possession of a firearm in violation of the law
6. Possession of a weapon in violation of the law
7. Rape
8. Sexual assault (not involving rape or sexual offense)
9. Sexual offense
10. Taking indecent liberties with a minor

I. Mandatory Reporting of Other Serious Violations – In addition to the 10 reportable offenses listed above any Class III, IV, or V violation must be immediately reported to the superintendent or designee.

J. Authority to Search – School officials have authority to conduct reasonable searches and seizures in accordance with HCS' Board Policy 4342 for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and of upholding standards of conduct established by the Board or school.

K. Questioning of Students by School Personnel – District administrators or the principal of each school, or his/her authorized representative(s), possess legal authority to question students in any reasonable manner in order to investigate possible student misconduct, sexual allegations, student health, safety or academic issues, possible child abuse, neglect, or dependency, or possible violations of Board of Education policy. Parents are advised that administration may question students in a variety of situations,

including when a student is suspected of committing a crime, when a student may have been a victim of a crime or child abuse or neglect or dependency, or when a student may possess information regarding criminal activities (**Senate Bill 49 (2025-2026 Session).**

L. **Questioning of Students by Law Enforcement, DSS, or Health Department Personnel** – Law Enforcement, Department of Social Services, or Health Department personnel may question students in order to discharge their official duties, with or without parents present as allowed by law, and those personnel are responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of the students who are questioned. Parents are advised that authorities may question students in a variety of situations, including when a student is suspected of committing a crime, when a student may have been a victim of a crime or child abuse or neglect or dependency, or when a student may possess information regarding criminal activities.

STUDENT ADMISSIONS

In accordance with G.S. 115C-366

(4) When a student transfers into the public schools of a local school administrative unit, that local Board of Education shall require the student's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide a statement made under oath of affirmation before a qualified official indicating whether the student is, at the time, under suspension or expulsion from attendance at a private or public school in this or any other state or has been convicted of a felony in this or any other state. This subsection does not apply to the enrollment of a student who has never been enrolled in or attended a private or public school in this or any other state.

(5) Notwithstanding any other law, a local Board of Education may deny admission to or place reasonable conditions on the admission of a student who has been suspended from a school under G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.10 or who has been suspended from a school for conduct that could have led to a suspension from a school within the local school administrative unit where the student is seeking admission until the period of suspension has expired. Also, a local Board of Education may deny admission to or place reasonable conditions on the admission of a student who has been expelled from a school under G.S. 115C 390.11 or who has been expelled from a school for behavior that indicated the student's continued presence in school constituted a clear threat to the safety of other students or staff as found by clear and convincing evidence, or who has been convicted of a felony in this or any other state. If the local Board of Education denies admission to a student who has been expelled or convicted of a felony, the student may request the local Board of Education to reconsider that decision in accordance with G.S. 115C-390.12.

STUDENT READMISSIONS

In accordance with G.S. 115C-390.12 and Policy 4362 - Requests for Readmission of Students Suspended for 365 Days or Expelled, all students suspended for 365 days or expelled may, after 180 calendar days from the date of the beginning of the student's suspension or expulsion, request in writing readmission to Hoke County Schools.

USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY ON SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPERTY

Each principal may establish rules for his or her school site as to whether and how personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus. The school system assumes no responsibility for personal technology devices brought to school.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Hoke County Board of Education (Board) believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students subject to Policies 4316/4302/4315 and Regulation 4316. The Board requests that parents outfit students in clothing that will be conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the Board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school,
2. is substantially disruptive;
3. is provocative or obscene;
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others;
5. promotes products or activities that are illegal for use by minors

Each local school will establish and publish a dress code applicable to that school. A student who does not comply with these policies or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Examples of prohibited clothing include without limitation attire that depicts, promotes, or advertises gang affiliation, offensive words or designs, illegal activity, or the sale, possession, or consumption of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, sagging pants, or clothing which contains messages or images which cause, contribute to, or constitute sexual harassment.

Although individual school dress codes may contain certain restrictions on head coverings, consistent with Board of Education Policies 1710, 1730, 3510 and 3515, the Hoke County Schools will allow students to wear head coverings if they are an expression of a sincerely held religious belief or to reasonably accommodate medical or disability-related issues.

Notwithstanding any other provision of an individual school dress code or this Student Code of Conduct, NO student will receive an out of School Suspension SOLELY based on a dress code violation.

In the event of any conflict between this Student Code of Conduct and an individual school dress code, this Student Code of Conduct shall control.

The Wearing of Masks in Response to COVID-19 or Other Health Concerns

Any masks worn in schools in response to COVID-19 or other health concerns may not contain or depict messages or images that would otherwise be prohibited under Policy Code 4316, "Student Dress Code." Examples of prohibited messages or images are those which are provocative or obscene, substantially disruptive, or which promote or depict illegal activity.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT PLAN OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Each school must have a plan for managing student behavior that incorporates effective strategies consistent with the purposes and principles established in policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. School officials are encouraged to implement a system of positive behavior support and to seek other positive, innovative and constructive methods of correcting and managing student behavior in an effort to avoid repeated misbehavior and suspension.

COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

The plan should address: (1) the process by which student behavior will be addressed, including any use of a disciplinary committee and the means by which students at risk of repeated disruptive or disorderly conduct are identified, assessed and assisted; (2) positive behavioral interventions and possible consequences that will be used; and (3) parental involvement strategies that address when parents or guardians will be notified or involved in issues related to their child's behavior (see policy 4321, Parental Involvement in Student Behavior Issues).

No school plan for managing student behavior may authorize the use of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the body of a student as a disciplinary measure. It includes, but is not limited to, spanking, paddling and slapping. The board prohibits corporal punishment, believing that other consequences are more appropriate and effective for teaching self-control. No teacher, substitute teacher, student teacher, bus driver, or other employee, contractor or volunteer may use corporal punishment to discipline any student. Reasonable force that is necessary to protect oneself or others is not considered corporal punishment. (See also policy 4301, Authority of School Personnel.)

Principals shall avoid removing students from the classroom for a long period, including in-school or out-of-school suspension, unless necessary to provide a safe, orderly environment that is conducive to learning. The principal is authorized to remove students in accordance with board policies for prohibited or criminal conduct or for other behavior that interferes with a safe, orderly environment.

B. PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING THE PLAN

Principals are encouraged to use a team approach in developing and evaluating the school's plan to manage student behavior. On at least an annual basis, the plan should be evaluated based upon data on disciplinary actions taken and the impact on student academic performance. Principals shall report on at least an annual basis to the superintendent and the board on the effectiveness of the plan in minimizing classroom disruptions, referrals to the principal's office and the use of out-of-school suspension. The report also will address the plan's effect on academic performance.

RESOURCES

SAY SOMETHING ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM

Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a national nonprofit, developed the *Say Something Anonymous Reporting System* (SS-ARS), which allows Hoke County Schools (HCS) youth and adults to securely submit anonymous safety concerns. The system enables school administrators and law enforcement to create effective interventions and to help prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm and other forms of threatening behavior.

Designed specifically for use by students in grades 6-12, SS-ARS provides three reporting platforms (mobile app, website, and 24/7 phone hotline) for users to submit tips. When credible tips are received, the crisis center will notify school-based representatives. In cases of an imminent threat, the crisis center will contact local 911 dispatch and involve law enforcement.

For more information on Sandy Hook Promise or to make an anonymous report, visit www.saysomething.net or call the reporting hotline at 1-844-572-9669.

https://988lifeline.org