

## VI. Students

### 6.01 *Admissions and Attendance*

- 6.01.1 Compulsory Attendance and Entrance Age – All persons between the age of six (6) and seventeen (17) years of age are required by state law to attend school for the minimum number of scholastic days prescribed by the State Board of Education unless the person holds a certificate of exemption issued by the Superintendent or is otherwise exempt under state law.

[Reference ALA CODE § 16-28-3 (1975)]

### 6.01.2 Admission to Schools –

- a. *Resident Students* – School-aged children who reside within Lawrence County, Alabama, and not within the limits of a city operating an independent school system, may be admitted to Lawrence County Schools. For purposes of this policy, the residence of the student will be the residence of the custodial parent or legal guardian. No such presumption attaches to temporary transfers of parental powers under Ala Code § 26-2A-7.

If custody of the child is shared, alternating, or unclear, or if the child does not reside with a custodial parent or legal guardian, the domicile or actual physical residence of the child will control, except when there is evidence that the claimed residence of the child is not his actual residence or that the claimed residence is fraudulently given as a means of avoiding or violating admission, enrollment, attendance, residency standards, and requirements.

[ALA CODE §§ 16-28-3, 16-11-16]

- b. *Non-resident Students* – The Board may permit students who do not reside within the Lawrence County School District to attend schools within the school system in accordance with any applicable consent order or plan adopted to comply with desegregation requirements. Non-resident students must comply with the same admission and enrollment documentation requirements applicable to resident students. Additionally, the Board may establish criteria for admission of non-resident students and may require the payment of tuition as a prerequisite to enrollment. The Board is not obligated to provide transportation to and from school or homebound instruction outside of the county limits of Lawrence County.
- c. *Admission Policy for Homeless, Migrants, Immigrants and English Learner Students, and Children in Foster Care* – All homeless, migrant, immigrants, and English Learner students, and children in foster care will have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth and will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and

state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, immigrant, and English learner students, and children in foster care shall not be denied or delayed due to any barriers that are specifically prohibited by applicable law, which may include the following:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody requirements
- Lack of social security card

d. *Homeless Students –*

- i. *Enrollment.* Homeless students will be permitted to enroll without regard to residency status and will not be denied services offered to other students in the school system. Homeless students may also be entitled to other accommodations under federal law.

Homeless students will continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless for the duration of their homelessness, or for the remainder of the academic year if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year. Otherwise, a homeless student may be enrolled in any school in the system that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is living are eligible to attend.

- ii. *Dispute Resolution.* When a dispute arises regarding school placement, the system will immediately enroll the homeless student in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, pending resolution of the dispute. The school will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the decision, a statement of the right to appeal, and the procedure for appealing the placement decision. The principal of the school will notify the Board's Homeless Liaison of the dispute.

iii. The Homeless Liaison will expeditiously carry out the system's dispute resolution procedures as detailed in the Board's homeless student plan.

e. *Students in Foster Care* – A student in foster care will enroll or remain in the student's school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in such student's best interest.

If it is not in a student's best interest to stay in the school of origin, a student in foster care may be enrolled in any school in the system that serves the attendance area in which the student is living, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. The school system will immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain relevant academic and other records.

[Reference: 2011 S.C. §§ 6311(g)(1)(f)]

f. *Students Expelled or Suspended from Other School Systems* – Any student who is under suspension or expulsion from another school system or a private, parochial, or other school will not be permitted to enroll until the student has satisfied the conditions for readmission set by the expelling or suspending board or authority in addition to generally applicable admission requirements established by the Board, which may include temporary attendance at the alternative school.

g. *Enrollment Documentation* – Students entering the school system for the first time, regardless of grade level, are not required to submit a birth certificate, but may be requested to submit a birth certificate or another form of acceptable documentation to verify the student's age. The Board may also request a social security number. However, the parent's response is voluntary, and a social security number is not a requirement for enrollment.

In addition, students may also be required to submit other registration materials as school officials may reasonably require including, but not limited to, a certificate of immunization or an exemption as prescribed by the Department of Public Health and signed by a private physician or appropriate health department official. The Superintendent may accept alternate forms of evidence or modify otherwise applicable requirements as necessary and appropriate to accommodate migrant, immigrant, limited English proficient, or homeless students.

h. *Placement of Students* – The Board will determine the placement of newly enrolled students in accordance with state law.

### 6.01.3 Attendance Zone and Class Assignment –

a. *Attendance Zone Assignment* – Students will be assigned to the school serving the attendance zone in which his parent(s) or legal guardian

reside(s) or as otherwise required by any applicable order or plan adopted to comply with desegregation requirements. A student whose parent or legal guardian moves from one attendance zone to another during the school year will be transferred to the school attendance zone in which the new residence is located; provided however, that, with approval of the Superintendent, the student may be permitted to remain in the school attendance zone that serves the former residence until the end of the school year. A parent or legal guardian who has documented plans to move to a new attendance area during the school year must follow the transfer application process described in Section 6.02.1.

- b. *Class Assignment* – Principals will assign students to classes in keeping with school accreditation standards and any procedures or criteria that may be established at the system or school level.

6.01.4 Absences and Excuses – Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. Absences will be designated as excused or unexcused. Excused absences fall into these categories.

- Personal illness
- Students that are receiving healthcare, hospitalized, etc.
- Death in immediate family
- Legal quarantine
- Inclement weather as determined by the principal or Superintendent
- Emergency
- Court subpoena
- Religious holidays
- Absences approved by the principal
- Any other permissible reason for absence that is contained in the Student Handbook.

Documentation supporting an excused absence must be submitted in accordance with procedures contained in the Code of Conduct or the absence will be deemed to be unexcused.

Excessive unexcused absences may result in a loss of academic credit or referral of the matter to juvenile or other appropriate legal authorities for investigation.

6.01.5 Truancy – Parents or guardians are required to ensure that students under their care, custody, or control attend school regularly. Habitual or excessive absence from school may require Board officials to refer the matter to juvenile authorities or to initiate truancy proceedings.

[Reference: ALA CODE § 16-28-1, *et seq.* (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02]

6.01.6 Placement of Students Due to Criminal Charges – Students with prior criminal charges or who are under court supervision due to a pending criminal charge(s) will initially attend for up to ten (10) school days at the Judy Jester Center. Prior to the Student's successful completion of ten (10) school days in attendance at the Judy Jester Center, a determination meeting will be held to determine placement. Options for long-term placement may include, but are not limited to, alternative school, virtual school, home bound, or the student's home school, subject to court adjudication or court order.

## 6.02 *Transfers and Withdrawals*

6.02.1 Transfers – Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board may permit transfers between or into schools within the District for good cause and generally allowed up to the 95% capacity of the receiving school using the following priority: (1) administrative transfers; (2) in-county children of school-based employees; (3) out-of-county children of school-based employees; (4) hardship transfers; and (5) out-of-county students. Admission and/or enrollment requirements and limitations applicable to non-residents students may apply to all transfer students. Administrative transfers may be granted by the Board in extraordinary situations where the physical safety of a child is at issue or in other rare situations where the transfer is essential to the welfare of the student; these transfers may be permitted without regard to the 95% capacity limitation. Hardship transfers are subject to space availability and are effective for the remainder of the school year only; if the hardship is of a continuing nature, the parent or guardian must reapply annually. Transfer requests must be submitted in writing and must include detailed reasons for the request. The Superintendent may choose to recommend the approval of a transfer request in light of the stated reasons for the request, the capacity and resources of the schools, the student's record (including behavior, grades, attendance, and other factors), and the best interests of the student and of the school system or as otherwise required by any applicable consent order or law. The existence or availability of a transfer process does not create or give rise to any right to attend a particular school, and school assignment remains wholly with the discretion of the Board. The Superintendent is authorized by the Board to establish an application and notification process for transfer requests.

6.02.2 Withdrawals – No student of compulsory attendance age will be permitted to withdraw from school except in accordance with state law and any withdrawal procedures that may be developed by the Superintendent.

[Reference: ALA CODE 16-1-41.1 (2012); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02]

### **6.03 *Student Fees, Fines, and Charges***

Reasonable fees, fines, and charges not prohibited by law may be established by the Superintendent. All such fees, fines, and charges will be collected and accounted for in accordance with the procedures, rules, and regulations to be developed by the Chief School Financial Officer or as provided in the Board finance or local school finance manual(s).

### **6.04 *Concussions***

Drawing on such medical and other authoritative publications and resources as may be available, the Board will:

- a. Develop materials and information that are designed to educate students and their parents or guardians about the nature of concussion and brain injury and the risks of continuing to participate in athletics after receiving a concussion or brain injury;
- b. Suitably summarize such materials on a concussion and head injury information sheet which is to be provided annually to current and prospective student athletes and their parents or guardians. Prior to the student's participation in practice or competition, the head coach of the team must obtain, and keep on file, a copy of the information worksheet signed by the team member and his or her parent or guardian;
- c. Develop a program designed to educate coaches on how to learn to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The training shall be provided by qualified medical personnel or persons with special expertise in recognizing and responding to concussions and brain injuries and shall be offered to every coach prior to the beginning of practice for the athletic team that he or she coaches; and
- d. Promulgate or otherwise inform coaches of the statutory requirement that a youth athlete must be removed "from participation and may not return to play the day of the injury and until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician."

The Board may use information and forms prepared by the Alabama High School Athletic Association as they may be revised from time to time, but nothing in any such materials should be interpreted or otherwise understood to create a duty or standard of care on the part of any person charged with its implementation.

[Reference: ALA CODE § 22-11F-2 as amended by Act of Alabama 2012-314]

### **6.05 *Extracurricular Activities***

- 6.05.1 General – Students may be offered an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and organizations. Extracurricular activities must meet the following criteria:

- a. The organization or activity must be approved by the school principal and must have an assigned faculty supervisor or sponsor:
- b. The organization or activity must promote or serve the intellectual, cultural, personal, or physical development of the student in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of public education, the Board's legal mandate, mission statement, policies, and regulations, and with applicable requirements of state and federal law:
- c. The organization or activity must operate under and subject to general supervision of school officials; and
- d. The nature of the organization and its activities are not inconsistent with and do not interfere with instructional activities or requirements.

Student participation or membership in such organization activities may be governed by the specific policies of the organization and is subject to review and approval by the principal. Participation in extracurricular activities is also subject to any specific requirements contained in the Alabama Administrative Code.

- 6.05.2 Athletics – Participation in Board-sanctioned athletic programs will be on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Board and any athletic association of which the Board or the applicable local school is a member. Schools may establish terms and conditions for participation in such programs as long as school eligibility criteria are not inconsistent with system-wide eligibility or participation criteria, rules, regulations, or standards established by any athletic association or organization of which the Board or the applicable local school is a member, or any rule, principle, or provision of applicable law.

## 6.06 *Off-Campus Events*

Student participation in and travel to off-campus events, concerts, functions, and activities, and the use of school buses or other Board provided transportation for such purposes may be authorized under and subject to the following terms and conditions:

- a. The destination is an activity, event, or function that serves a *bona fide* educational or related extracurricular purpose, or is an athletic event or function sponsored or sanctioned by the school or the school system and the state athletic association:
- b. Adequate information regarding the trip (e.g., destination, duration, purpose, educational purpose, mode of transportation, nature, and extent of student participation) has been provided in writing to the principal, program director, and Superintendent:
- c. Adequate arrangements are made for supervision and other risk management considerations (e.g., parental permission, medical treatment authorization, special insurance requirements):

- d. Properly certified and qualified drivers have been selected and arrangements for the costs of the trip (e.g., salary, fuels, maintenance, lodging) have been made; and
- e. Superintendent approval of the trip is obtained for in-state travel and Board approval is obtained for out-of-state travel.

The Board does not assume responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of vehicles that are not owned or operated by the Board.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop additional specific requirements for participation in and travel to and from official events and activities that are consistent with the terms of this policy.

#### **6.07 *Student Publications***

The Superintendent is authorized to develop rules and regulations regarding student publications. Student publications are subject to and will be expected to meet standards associated with responsible journalism. The principal and student publication sponsor are responsible for the content of such publications.

#### **6.08 *Equal Educational Opportunities***

No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status.

#### **6.09 *Title IX***

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.*, ("Title IX") provides that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." In accordance with Title IX, the Board strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in its programs or activities, which includes sex-based harassment and/or discrimination as defined by law and Board policy. Complaints by students based on sex-based harassment and/or discrimination should be filed and reviewed under the Board's Title IX Policy, which can be found at Section 4.06.

#### **6.10 *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment***

6.10.1 Consent – The Board will obtain parental consent before students are required to participate in a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):

- a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s):

- b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- c. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- e. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- f. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent(s); or
- h. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

6.10.2 Notice and Option to Opt Out – Parents will be provided notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any of the following:

- a. Any survey that is designated to obtain protected information from a student, regardless of the source of funding;
- b. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, that is administered by the school or its agent, and that is not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law; and
- c. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or for the purpose of selling or otherwise distributing the information to others.

6.10.3 Inspection – Parents will be allowed to inspect, upon request and before administration or use, the following:

- a. Protected information surveys of students;
- b. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- c. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

6.10.4 Special Provisions for Certain Students – Students who are at least 18 years old and emancipated minors under state law will be allowed to take the above actions in lieu of their parents or guardians.

6.10.5 Additional Policies and Procedures Authorized – In consultation with parents, the Superintendent is authorized to develop additional policies and arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and

in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The Board will directly notify parents of these policies and procedures at the beginning of each school year and after any substantive changes are approved.

[Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98]

### **6.11 *Student Records***

Educational records as defined by law or Board policy will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by law. Except where the context requires otherwise, the term “educational records” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. §1232g(a)(4). Copies of such records may likewise be provided to the extent required and under circumstances specified by applicable law or regulation. The Superintendent is authorized to establish administrative standards and procedures respecting access to such records, including a schedule of reasonable charges for the reproduction thereof. Parents will be provided required annual notification regarding educational records through the student handbook or by other appropriate means.

[Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(4); 34 CFR 99.3]

### **6.12 *Student Health Services***

The Board may offer limited student health services that are designed to address minor medical issues that may arise during the school day or to assist with special or chronic health problems. In cases of acute or contagious illnesses, parents or guardians may be notified and required to pick up the student. School officials are authorized to take reasonable and appropriate steps to provide or arrange for the provision of emergency medical services to students who require immediate medical attention. In the case of illness or accidental injury not requiring immediate medical attention, standard first aid procedures may be followed. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and promulgate procedures, rules, and regulations concerning the taking, administration, and handling of medication and anaphylaxis at school, and the prevention of communicable disease consistent with state law and appropriate health standards.

### **6.13 *Student Conduct***

The Superintendent will prepare and present to the Board for adoption and periodic revision, a Code of Conduct, with input from teachers, school personnel, students, parents and guardians, and other members of the education community and, as appropriate, the community at large. The Code of Conduct will comprehensively describe the rules and standards of conduct and discipline that will be maintained and enforced within Lawrence County Schools. The Code of Conduct will set forth the specific grounds for disciplinary action, the penalties, sanctions, or consequences that may be imposed for a violation of the Code of Conduct, the methods and procedures by which violations of the Code of Conduct will be determined, and any appeal or review procedures that are available to students. The Code of Conduct will incorporate applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and the hearing and appeal procedures specified in it will conform to applicable statutory and

constitutional standards and requirements. The Code of Conduct may be incorporated in a student handbook and will be made available to all teachers, school personnel, students, parents and guardians at the beginning of each school year. The Code of Conduct will be deemed an extension of Board policy and will have the force and effect thereof.

[Reference: Ala. Code §§ 16-28-12, 16-28A-1 to 3 (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02, 290-8-9-.09]

#### **6.14 Searches (Students)**

- a. *Board Property* – All school system property, facilities, and grounds may be entered, inspected, and searched for any lawful purpose by Board officials or their designees at any time, without prior notice and to the fullest extent permitted by law. The right to enter, inspect, and search includes and extends to (but is not limited to) Board owned or controlled offices, desks, file cabinets, lockers, computers, files, documents, data, and devices however and wherever kept, stored, or maintained.
- b. *Personal Property* – Personal property including, but not limited to, vehicles, purses, wallets, gym bags, book bags, cell phones, computers, and electronic devices may be searched by authorized school officials, including school principals or their designees, when reasonable suspicion exists that the property contains prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety or welfare of the school community, provided that the nature and extent of the search shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.
- c. *Personal Searches* – Students may be searched whenever reasonable suspicion exists that the student possesses prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety and welfare of the school community. Student searches must be conducted by a school administrator in the presence of another certified school employee and may include a private pat down of the student, a search of personal items and clothing, or a more thorough search upon specific approval of the Superintendent. Personal searches will be conducted with due regard for the age and gender of the student. Searches that require physical contact between the school official and the student, removal of clothing, or examination of the student in a way that would implicate privacy concerns must be conducted and witnessed by officials of the same gender as the student and in a way that preserves the dignity of the student to the extent practicable under the circumstances. Refusal to submit to a search or to cooperate in a search as provided in this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.
- d. *Use of Recovered Items* – Property, material, substances, information, or records that are obtained, discovered, or recovered as a result of a search may be retained and used for any lawful purpose.

## **6.15 *Corporal Punishment***

The Board allows reasonable corporal punishment of students under the following terms and conditions. Corporal punishment will be administered only as a disciplinary measure, with due regard for the age and physical condition of the student, and without excessive force. Corporal punishment will be administered by the school principal or his representative in the presence of another adult professional school system employee. Corporal punishment should not be administered in the presence of another student. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement procedures for administering and documenting corporal punishment, consistent with the terms of this policy.

[Reference: ALA. CODE § 16-28A-2 (1975)]

## **6.16 *Physical Restraint***

The Superintendent is authorized to develop written procedures governing the use of physical restraint as required by state law. The procedures will be published in accordance with the requirements of state law.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code §§ 290-3-1-.01, 290-3-1-.02]

## **6.17 *Student Suspension (including Students with Disabilities)***

In order to maintain order, minimize the risk of potential personal injury, property damage or disruption, or to permit an orderly investigation and evaluation of a suspected violation of school or school system rules, standards, or policies, principals may impose out-of-school suspension for up to 10 days pending a conference with the parent or guardian of the student and a final disciplinary decision. Out-of-school suspension may also be imposed as a disciplinary measure as provided in the Code of Conduct. Out-of-school suspensions will be counted as excused absences. Out-of-school suspension of students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and its implementing regulations.

## **6.18 *Student Expulsion (including Students with Disabilities)***

Students may be expelled from school for offenses serious enough to warrant such action as provided in the Code of Conduct or other Board disciplinary policies. Students who are recommended for expulsion may be suspended until the recommendation for expulsion is considered and in accordance with the disciplinary procedures set forth in the Code of Conduct. The term of an expulsion may extend to the maximum permitted by law. The Board may impose such reasonable limitations on the student's right to re-enroll in the school system following expiration of expulsion as may be permitted by law. A student who withdraws from school prior to the Board's consideration of a proposed expulsion may not re-enroll in the school system until the Board holds a hearing or other appropriate proceedings regarding the recommended expulsion. Expulsion of students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and its implementing regulations.

## 6.19 *Wireless Communication Devices*

### 6.19.1 Definitions

#### a. Instructional Day –

- When school is open and in session;
- During class time, lunch, transition between classes, and any non-instructional periods;
- Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices by the Code of Conduct or other school rules; or
- Any time students are instructed to store their devices by school staff.

#### b. Wireless Communication Devices – A “Wireless Communication Device” shall be any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device, including, without limitation:

- a cellular telephone;
- a tablet computer;
- a laptop computer;
- a pager;
- a gaming device;
- a smart watch;
- earphones of any type; and
- headphones of any type.

6.19.2 Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are allowed to bring – but not use or operate – Wireless Communication Devices in school buildings and onto school grounds, subject to the limitations in sections 6.19.3 and 6.19.4 below. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus.

6.19.3 Storage of Devices – During the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any Board campus or in any Board school must turn the Wireless Communication Device off and store the Wireless Communication Device of their person in a locker, car, or other location as authorized by the Superintendent or designee. This possession is subject to the exceptions listed in 6.19.4.

6.19.4 Prohibition on Use and Exceptions – Students cannot use, operate, or possess a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day except under the following limited circumstances:

- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan;
- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and
- The use, operation, and/or possession occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for the implementation of these exceptions. All such guidelines will be communicated to students, parents/guardians, and teachers through typical mechanisms such as the Code of Conduct or Student-Parent Information Guide.

6.19.5 Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any Wireless Communication Device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, or inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

6.19.6 Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

6.19.7 Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy, including the procedures that would require students to store Wireless Communication Devices in specific locations within a given school.

[Reference: Ala. Act 2025-386]

[Reviewed and Approved July 7, 2025]

## 6.20 *Driver's Licenses*

6.20.1 Driver's Licenses – Unless exempted from the requirement by Board policy, a person under the age of 19 years may not under state law obtain a driver's license or a learner's permit without being enrolled in school or meeting alternative criteria established by law. Additionally, a driver's license may be suspended or revoked if a student withdraws or fails to attend school. Students may be exempted or excused from otherwise applicable statutory requirements if their withdrawal or nonattendance is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student. Circumstances beyond the control of the student may be found with respect to:

- a. Students who are mentally or physically unable to attend school;
- b. Students who are regularly and legally employed in compliance with the provisions of the Child Labor Law; and
- c. Students who, because of the lack of public transportation, are compelled to walk more than two miles to attend a public school.

Students who are denied a driver's license by virtue of their non-enrollment may appeal a decision affecting the student's eligibility for a driver's license to the Superintendent. The appeal should be in writing and filed with the school principal within fifteen (15) days of the decision from which the appeal is taken and should set forth the reasons on which the appeal is based. An appeal should be promptly forwarded to the Superintendent for review and final decision.

6.20.2 Administrative Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures to implement the provisions of this policy and to comply fully with state law.

[Reference: ALA. CODE § 16-28-40, *et seq.* (1975)]

**6.21 *Student Parking Privileges – Substance Abuse Policy***

In order to promote the safety and welfare of students and others who work on or visit school campuses, to encourage the development of safe and responsible driving practices, and to serve the general purposes of maintaining a drug and alcohol-free school environment, students will be granted the privilege of driving and parking on school property only if they are free of the effects of alcohol or other illegal or controlled substances. Accordingly, any student who desires to drive a vehicle on school property or park on school property may be required to submit to periodically or randomly administered sobriety or drug tests as a condition to issuance of a permit authorizing the operation or parking of a motor vehicle on school grounds. Principals may impose reasonable additional conditions or requirements for the privilege of driving or parking a vehicle on school property including, for example, conditions relating to maintenance of academic and attendance standards and the payment of fees. Principals may also establish priorities for the issuance and assignment of parking permits. The Board reserves the right to require that sobriety or drug tests or screenings be passed as a condition to maintaining parking or vehicle permits, or privileges relating to use of a motor vehicle. Such testing or screening may also be performed whenever a school official observes or is made aware of circumstances that provide reasonable suspicion or belief that the student has used alcohol, illegal drugs, or other substances in violation of the Board’s substance abuse policies. All such testing or screening will be performed in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and procedures that are developed by the Superintendent for approval by the Board.

**6.22 *Student Competitive Extracurricular Activity Substance Abuse Policy***

In order to promote the safety and welfare of students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities, to ensure that such participation is neither impaired nor any risk of injury exacerbated, to provide incentives to students to maintain safe and healthful practices, and to promote a school environment that is free of alcohol and illegal drugs or controlled substances, the Board reserves the right to require any student who participates in extracurricular competitive programs or activities to submit to sobriety tests or screening for illegal drugs or controlled substances prior to, during, or following a competitive event, practice, competition, or at any other time while the student is under the supervision of the school system. Such testing or screening may also be performed whenever a school official observes or is made aware of circumstances that provide reasonable suspicion or belief that the student has used alcohol, illegal drugs, or other substances in violation of the Board’s substance abuse policies. All such testing or screening will be performed in accordance with local, state and federal laws, and procedures that are developed by the Superintendent for approval by the Board.

**6.23 *Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act Policy***

6.23.1 Bullying, Intimidation, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited – No student shall engage in, nor should any be subjected to, bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics set forth in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct and applicable law, subject to the investigating school administrator's authority and decision.

6.23.2 Definitions – In this policy, these terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. "Bullying" means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior on or off of school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to: cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical actions that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics contained in this policy. To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
  - Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property;
  - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student;
  - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school whether the conduct occurs on or off school property, online, or electronically;
  - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function; or
  - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
- b. "Hostile environment" means the perception by an affected student that the conduct of another student constitutes a threat of violence or bullying and that the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, would agree that the conduct constitutes bullying, threat of assault, or assault.
- c. "Violence" means the unjustified infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.

- d. "Threat" means a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action to cause fear of harm. The intention may be communicated through an electronic, written, verbal, or physical act to cause fear, mental distress, or interference in the school environment. The intention may be expressly stated or implied and the person communicating the threat has the ability to carry out the threat.
- e. "Threat of violence" means an unjustified expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
- f. "Intimidation" means an unjustified threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student.
- g. "Student" as used in this policy means a person who is enrolled in Lawrence County Schools.

#### 6.23.3 Description of Behavior Expected of Students –

- a. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting bullying, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student, and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.
- b. Bullying, intimidation, violence, or threats of violence are prohibited and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences and/or sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the student:
  - Race
  - Sex
  - Religion
  - National origin
  - Disability

6.23.4 Consequences for Violations – A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

#### 6.23.5 Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures –

- a. Complaints alleging violations of this policy may be made on a Board-approved complaint form available in the handbook, on the website, or at the school's office. The complaint must be delivered to the principal or the principal's designee either by mail or personal delivery. Incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.

The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the principal or the principal's designee is authorized to inform the student's parent or guardian of the report unless, at the discretion of the school principal or the principal's designee, the apparent cause of the threat of suicide is child abuse or other significant harm from a parent or guardian.

- b. Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal's designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or the principal's designee will undertake a reasonably prompt investigation of the complaint. The investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.
- c. A person reporting a violation who is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal the decision within ten (10) calendar days in writing to the Superintendent or designee.
- d. Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation may be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

6.23.6 Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules, and Forms – This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published on the website of each local board of education and school, shall be available at each school office, and shall be included in the student handbook that is distributed to each student at the beginning of each school year.

6.23.7 Construction of Policy – This policy is supplemental to other Board policies and procedures and does not repeal, replace, or supersede any other prohibition on bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation found elsewhere in Board policy or procedure, including the Code of Student Conduct. This policy shall not be construed to allow bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation for any reason not specifically listed in this policy or to prohibit the Board from disciplining students for acts of harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically listed herein. Students who engage in bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically covered by this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

[Reference: ALA CODE § 16-28B-1, *et seq.* (1975)]

## 6.24 *Voluntary Religious Expression*

The Board does not discriminate against students or their parents or guardians on the basis of their religious viewpoints or their expression of such viewpoints. Such views and expressions are treated in the same manner as nonreligious viewpoints, activities, or expressions.

Students may express their religious beliefs in all phases of their schoolwork without penalty or reward based upon the religious nature or content of such expression. Schoolwork is evaluated according to the academic standards and pedagogical objectives that otherwise apply to the work or activity in question. These standards and objectives include, but are not limited to, acquisition and/or mastery of factual information; development of analytical problem solving, learning, critical thinking, communication, organizational, and social skills; college preparatory and career readiness training; proficiency in and appreciation of the performing arts; and the development of personal skills that are designed to facilitate attainment of the foregoing objectives, future academic success, and employability. The scholastic work of the system's students will be evaluated in light of the foregoing standards and objectives, academic and curricular guidelines and criteria established or approved by the Board and/or State Board of Education, and determined by evaluation, achievement, assessment, and testing materials, instruments, methods, and measures that have been generally recognized as appropriate for such purposes within the educational community and applied successfully in public school settings.

Students may organize and participate in religious activities before, during, and after school and have access to school facilities to the same extent students are permitted to organize and participate in other noncurricular activities to the extent that such access to or use of Board facilities does not constitute a constitutionally impermissible endorsement or sponsorship of the organization or violate any right established or imposed by either the Alabama or United States Constitutions.

[Reference: ALA CODE § 16-1-20.5]

## 6.25 *Suicide Awareness and Prevention*

6.25.1 Program Authorized – To the extent that the Legislature appropriates funds or the Board provides funds from other sources, the Superintendent is authorized to develop a program to implement the following statutory requirements of the Jason Flatt Act in an effort to prevent student suicide:

- a. Foster individual, family, and group counseling services related to suicide prevention.
- b. Make referral, crisis intervention, and other related information available for students, parents, and school personnel.
- c. Foster training for school personnel who are responsible for counseling and supervising students.
- d. Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and suicide.
- e. Educate students in recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of suicide.
- f. Inform students of available community suicide prevention services.
- g. Promote cooperative efforts between school personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel.
- h. Foster school-based or community-based, or both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.
- i. Develop a strategy to assist survivors of attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the death of a student, and healing.
- j. Engage in any other program or activity which the Board determines is appropriate and prudent in the efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.
- k. Provide training for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students on the Board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence.
- l. Develop a process for discussing local board policies relating to the prevention of student suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence with students.
- m. Provide annual training for all certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This training may be provided within the

framework of existing in-service training programs or as a part of required professional development offered by the school system.

Students may be required to participate in curricular activities developed to implement the statutory requirements of the Jason Flatt Act and are encouraged to participate in any other activities or strategies developed by the Board for that purpose.

6.25.2 Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules, and Forms – This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes.

[Reference ALA CODE § 16-28B-8 (1975)]

## 6.26 *Supervision of Low-Risk Juvenile Sex Offenders*

Pursuant to Annalyn's Law, the Superintendent shall be notified by local law enforcement when a low-risk juvenile sex offender is enrolled or attending school within the Board's jurisdiction for the purpose of appropriate supervision during the school day and during school activities.

6.26.1 Definitions – In this policy, these terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. "Plan" refers to the "individualized student safety plan" developed following the Student's adjudication and/or enrollment in the school to serve as a behavior contract between the Student and the School.
- b. "School" refers to "all school property and school-sponsored functions including, but not limited to, classroom instructional time, assemblies, athletic events, extracurricular activities, and school bus transportation" related to the Student's current school of record.
- c. "Student" refers to "the low-risk juvenile sex offender" designated by a juvenile court judge as having a low risk of re-offense.
- d. "Teachers and staff with supervision over the student" or "Supervision team" refers to school officials or staff who have a specific responsibility for the Student, including the school principal, the Student's assigned teachers and/or coaches, the Student's counselor, and if applicable, the Student's bus driver, during the subject school year and who will be privy to information regarding the Student's status. Teachers and staff with only passing and/or general contact with the Student shall not be privy to information regarding the Student's status.
- e. "Victim" refers to the victim, if known by and attending the same school as the Student, of the offense for which the Student was adjudicated delinquent.

#### 6.26.2 Notification –

- a. *Current Students* – In the event a currently enrolled Student is adjudicated delinquent and designated “low risk” by the juvenile court, local law enforcement is expected to notify the local Superintendent and principal of the Student’s school in writing.
- b. *Newly Enrolled Students* – In the event a Student seeks to enroll in the district as a new student and that Student has been previously designated as a low-risk juvenile sex offender, local law enforcement is expected to notify the local Superintendent and principal of the Student’s school in writing.
- c. *Students That Change Schools Within the District* – In the event a currently enrolled Student transfers to another school in the district or is promoted to another school in the district, the principal of the original school should notify designated law enforcement of the change as soon as practicable.

Following that notification, the principal of the original school should orally, or in writing, brief the principal of the new school regarding the original Plan and the transferring Student’s status and circumstances. Regardless, the principal of the prior school must provide the Student’s records and Plan to the principal of the new school as soon as practicable.

The new principal should review the Plan and meet with the Student, the Student’s parent or guardian, and the anticipated new Supervision Team to determine whether the current terms are sufficient or should be adjusted based on the Student’s circumstances.

- d. *School Staff Changes* – In the event the principal or a member of the Supervision Team leaves his position or is no longer responsible for supervising the Student, a replacement team member should be named, if member of the Supervision Team regarding the Student’s status and Plan. The Student, his parent or guardian, and other members of the Supervision Team should be notified of changes to the Supervision Team within a reasonable timeframe.

6.26.3 Plan Development and Maintenance – Upon proper notification from law enforcement, the Student’s principal or designee will call together the anticipated Supervision Team to meet with the Student and/or the Student’s parent or guardian to develop an appropriate Plan. This meeting should take place within ten (10) school days or as soon as practicable. In the event the Student’s parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to meet, the principal or designee and the Supervision Team should meet with the Student within a reasonable timeframe to develop an appropriate Plan.

In the event the Victim attends the same school as the Student, the Plan should include measures to reduce the likelihood of Victim and Student interaction.

The terms of the Plan and any updates to it must be memorialized in writing and

approved by the principal or designee before being distributed to the Student and the Student's parent or guardian, as well as the Supervision Team.

The principal or designee should meet with the Student, the Student's parent or guardian, and the Supervision Team at least annually, but as often as deemed necessary by the principal or designee to assess the Student's status and to determine whether adjustments should be made to the Plan.

- 6.26.4 Supervision – The Student will be subject to the general Student Code of Conduct and any other conditions deemed necessary by the principal or designee as incorporated in the Student's Plan. Members of the Supervision Team should report any suspected violations of the Plan to the principal or designee.

The school officials and staff responsible for supervising the Student on a daily basis should do so in a manner that is discrete and unobtrusive.

- 6.26.5 Students with Disabilities – Discipline of Students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and implementing regulations.

- 6.26.6 Violations of the Plan – In the event the Student violates the Student Code of Conduct or the Plan, the Student may be subject to discipline pursuant to Board policy and/or reassessment of the Plan's conditions.

- 6.26.7 Challenges to the Plan – In the event the Student and/or his parent or guardian object to conditions of the Plan or the application of a sanction, a challenge must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or his designee to consider whether adjustment of the Plan or response modification is warranted. The Superintendent's decision shall be final. A response that constitutes disciplinary action will adhere to the applicable School disciplinary policies and procedures and the Student will be afforded process due thereunder.

- 6.26.8 Confidentiality – Information received by school officials or staff related to the Student's delinquent status must be treated as confidential from other students, staff members, officials and stakeholders. Any document identifying the Student's status should be safeguarded from unintentional disclosure by the members of the Supervision Team. Any school official or school employee who improperly discloses the Student's status to any other person may be subject to school discipline and/or criminal charges as provided by law.

- 6.26.9 Retaliation – Members of the Supervision Team should make every effort to treat the Student with the same respect and courtesy to which every student is entitled. The Team is reminded that the Student has been deemed by the juvenile court as not likely to reoffend and should be encouraged to fully integrate into the student body as a successful student. Mistreatment of any student may be cause for discipline.

6.26.10 Procedures – The Superintendent shall have the authority to develop appropriate training and additional procedures for staff members in furtherance of this policy.

[Reference: Ala. Act No. 2018-528, ALA CODE § 16-1-51.1 (1975)]

## 6.27 *Opt-In for Mental Health Services by Parent or Legal Guardian*

No student under the age of fourteen (14) may participate in ongoing school counseling services including, but not limited to, mental health services, unless (1) the student's parent or legal guardian has submitted a written opt-in granting permission for the student to participate; or (2) there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others.

For purposes of this policy, "mental health services" includes services, treatment, surveys, or assessments relating to mental health; however, it does not include instructional activities designed to educate students regarding topics related to mental health (1) contained in the school system's approved curriculum; or (2) otherwise required to be taught by law (e.g., Erin's Law, Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act, etc.). Furthermore, "ongoing school counseling services" shall not include those school counseling services which are split into domains not requiring a mental health therapist or other mental health therapeutic license."

This policy is not applicable to any school counseling services or "mental health services" contained in a student's PST, IEP, or Section 504 plan. Consent for those services will be obtained in accordance with the specific procedures required by federal and/or state law, and information regarding any mental health services will be provided in the pertinent plan.

6.27.1 Written Notification - At least annually, the school system shall provide parents and legal guardians with a written notification regarding school provided or sponsored mental health services. The notification will include the purpose and general description of each of the mental health services available; information regarding ways parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs available to students; and information regarding ways parents may allow, limit, or prevent their student's participation in the programs.

The written notification may be provided electronically, including through the school system's online enrollment portal or by such other means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes.

### 6.27.2 Opt-In To Participate in Mental Health Services --

- a. *General Requirement* – For a student under the age of fourteen (14) to participate in mental health services, written permission by the student's parent or legal guardian is required annually. The written permission must be specific as to any treatment and not broad in nature. Parents and legal guardians may be provided the opportunity to opt-in electronically during online enrollment or by other such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes.

- b. *Rescinding Permission* – A parent or guardian may rescind permission for a student to participate in mental health services at any time by providing written notice to school administration.
- c. *Requests for Opt-In and Referrals Authorized* – If a parent or legal guardian does not initially opt-in to mental health services, school officials may contact the parent or legal guardian to (1) attempt to obtain permission for the student to participate in mental health services if the school official believes that the student would benefit from services or if circumstance arise for which services could be beneficial; and/or (2) provide a parent or legal guardian with a referral or information regarding mental health services that may be available to a student through other agencies or providers.
- d. *Exception for Imminent Threat* – If a parent or legal guardian has not opted-in to mental health services, a student may be provided mental health services if there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others. School employees may determine in their discretion whether such an imminent threat exists and provide any mental health services they deem necessary under the circumstances.

6.27.3 Information for Parents/Legal Guardians – If a student’s parent or legal guardian elects to opt-in to mental health services, the counselor providing services shall keep the parent fully informed regarding any diagnosis and any recommendations for additional counseling or treatments beyond the services for which the parent or legal guardian has already opted in. The parent shall have the authority to make final decisions regarding any such recommended counseling and treatments. Nothing in this Opt-In for Mental Health Services shall be construed to limit the fundamental rights of parents to direct the care, custody, and control of their children.

6.27.4 Recordkeeping – Written records maintained by the school system and directly related to a student’s mental health services will be treated in the same manner as health care records and are subject to the confidentiality protections applicable to education record generally. Such records will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by federal and/or state law.

Records pertaining to a student’s mental health services will be kept separately from academic records unless including such record(s) in the student’s academic record is necessary to implement a state and/or federal law (e.g., special education referral process).

## 6.28 *Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention*

The purpose of this policy is to establish a vape awareness, education, and prevention program to prohibit the possession and use of prohibited tobacco, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, e-liquids, and alternative nicotine products by students.

6.28.1 Prohibition – The possession or use of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, e-liquids, and alternative nicotine products is prohibited by any student at a public K-12 school, on a school bus, or at any school sponsored function.

6.28.2 Violation – Any student who violates the prohibition contained within this policy shall be subject to graduated consequences which may include:

- a. Notification of the student's parent or legal guardian regarding the violation;
- b. Required participation in the Alabama State Board of Education approved vaping awareness, education, and prevention class;
- c. In-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or placement in an alternative school program;
- d. Referral of the matter to the juvenile court for disposition; or
- e. Any combination of the foregoing.

Disciplinary actions for violations of this policy will be administered in accordance with the current Student Code of Conduct.

### 6.28.3 Complaint Procedure

- a. *Violations Reported by School Employees:* When a violation of the prohibition is observed and reported by a school employee in the course of his or her duties, the disciplinary referral shall follow the normal procedures for reporting student violations of the Code of Conduct. In such cases, employees are not required to complete a separate complaint form.
- b. *Violations Reported by Others:* When a complaint is lodged against a student for violating the prohibition, the complaint must be memorialized using the approved complaint form. An anonymous report may not be used as the sole basis for imposition of formal disciplinary action. Once a complaint is made against a student for a violation, the complaint form is then forwarded to the principal or assistant principal for investigation. The complaint form must include all of the following information:
  - i. Name of student who has violated the policy.
  - ii. Date, time, and location of violation.
  - iii. Description of conduct that violates the policy.
  - iv. Name(s) of witness(es) to violation of the policy.
  - v. Any other pertinent information.

- 6.28.4 Investigation Procedure – Once a principal or assistant principal receives a complaint of a serious violation, they must promptly investigate the violation. The principal or assistant principal must be the individual responsible for the school system’s investigation.
- 6.28.5 Response Procedure – If the student has violated the prohibition, the student shall immediately, and without delay, be subject to the graduated consequences. Any and all consequences shall conform with applicable disability, antidiscrimination, education laws, and school discipline policies. Additionally, a copy of the complaint form and the disposition shall be placed in the student's permanent record.
- 6.28.6 Notice Requirement – The policy adopted by a local school board shall be included in the code of conduct policy of the local board of education and included in the student handbook so as to give adequate notice to students and parents of prohibited behaviors occurring on school property, school buses, and at school sponsored events and the punishments attached thereto.
- 6.28.7 Interaction with Federal Laws –Nothing in this policy shall be construed to infringe on any right provided to a student pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, provided that student information related to this policy shall be included as necessary into any and all Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), behavioral intervention plans, and other similar documents.
- 6.28.8 Administrative Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures to implement this policy.

[Reference: Ala. Act 2025-403]  
[Adopted and Approved November 3, 2025]