Your future. Our focus.

DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Grades 6-8

2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Davidson County Schools Academic Calendar 2025-2026

DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
Your future. Our focus.

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Board Approved 4/14/25

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	[4]	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4 Holiday

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	16
17	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11-15 Non-Instructional/Optional
18 Non-Instructional/Optional
19,20,21 Non-Instructional/Required
22 Non-Instructional/Optional
25 First Day for Students
25 1st Quarter Begins

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	[1]	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Holiday

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	ER	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	(20)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

8 Early Release Day
17 1st Quarter Ends
20 Non-Instructional/Optional
21 2nd Quarter Begins

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	△	5	6	7	8
9	10	[11]	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	[26]	[27]	[28]	29
30						

4 Report Cards Released
11 Holiday
26 Annual Vacation Leave
27,28 Holiday

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	[22]	[23]	[24]	[25]	[26]	27
28	[29]	[30]	[31]			

16-19 High School Exam Window
19 End of 2nd Quarter
22,23 Annual Vacation Leave
24,25,26 Holidays
29,30,31 Annual Vacation Leave

JANUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				[1]	(2)	3
4	(5)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	[19]	△	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1 Holiday
2 Non-Instructional/Optional
5 Non-Instructional/Required
6 3rd Quarter Begins
19 Holiday
20 Report Cards Released

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	ER	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

11 Early Release Day

MARCH 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	(3)	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	(16)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	△				

3 Board of Elections - Primary
3 Non-Instructional/Required
13 3rd Quarter Ends
16 Non-Instructional/Optional
17 4th Quarter Begins
31 Report Cards Released

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	[3]	4
5	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	(10)	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

3 Holiday
6,7,8,9 Annual Vacation Leave
10 Non-Instructional/Optional

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	[25]	[26]	[27]	[28]	[29]	30
31						

26-29 High School Exam Window
25 Holiday
29 Students Last Day
29 4th Qtr Ends

JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	△	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Non-Instructional/Required
2,3 Non-Instructional/Optional
4,5 Non-Instructional/Optional
17 Report Cards Issued

NO ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS:

☐	Holiday	11
◯	Optional Teacher Work Day	15
☐	Annual Vacation Leave	10
◯	Required Teacher Work Day	6

OTHER NOTES:

ER	Early Release Day	2
△	Report Cards Issued	

Note: Students must have a minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction. The start date can be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date can be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. DCS is not eligible for an approved weather-related waiver/earlier start date for the 2025-2026 school year. The school calendar may be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional instructional time on student days, Saturdays, at the end of the school year, or on any other current non-instructional day to meet NC General Statute 115C-84.2 requirements. One or more inclement weather days can be waived (excused) for students if the instructional hours requirement will be met or exceeded.

OVERALL CALENDAR DAYS = 215

High School Graduation: Each school will establish the date and time per DCS Board Policy 2.7 (D).

TOTAL IN-CLASS STUDENT DAYS = 173

1st=	39	+	2nd=	40	=	79
3rd=	47	+	4th=	47	=	94

MAKE-UP DAYS

These days may not be used in the order listed below.

10/20 11/26 1/2 1/5 3/16
4/6 4/7 4/8 4/9 4/10
6/1 6/2 6/3 6/4 6/5

EARLY RELEASE DAY DISMISSAL TIME

Elementary 12:00 pm
Middle 12:45 pm
High 12:45 pm

AUGUST 2025 MEET THE TEACHER DATES

HIGH SCHOOLS - **AUGUST 19, 2025**
6pm - 8 pm (floating)
9th grade orientation meeting at 6 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOLS - **AUGUST 20, 2025**
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm (floating)
6th grade orientation meeting at 6:30 pm

ELEMENTARY - **AUGUST 21, 2025**
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm (floating)

SOUTH MS/HS - **AUGUST 19, 2025** - Extended Hours 5 pm - 8 pm
6th grade orientation at 6 pm & 9th grade orientation at 7 pm

STONER THOMAS - **AUGUST 22, 2025**
4 pm - 6 pm

Please always visit the DCS Website>Calendars>2025-2026 Traditional School Calendar for the most up-to-date version.

Student Name	
Grade	
Homeroom Teacher	

DAILY SCHEDULE

Period/Time	Teacher	Class	Room Number

Notes _____

_____

_____

_____

GENERAL INFORMATION

DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins at 8:00am.
Students are tardy after 8:05am.
School ends at 3:05pm.

ATTENDANCE AT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students who are absent or assigned out-of-school or in-school suspension on a particular school day are not allowed to attend extracurricular activities on that same day.

BUS SAFETY

Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right; behavior on buses that impacts safe travel can result in privileges being revoked. The following outlines general information for students who will utilize school bus transportation.

- Students may only ride the bus to which they have been assigned. Students are not allowed to ride a bus with a friend or family member.
- Students must follow board and school behavior policies while on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity and while waiting at any bus stop.
- School administrators may assign consequences from the following list for violation of expectations on buses or at bus stops. Additionally, consequences may extend to the school day for violation of some policies.
    - warning/conference with student
    - warning/conference with parent
    - 1 day suspension from bus
    - 3 day suspension from bus
    - 5 day suspension from bus
    - 10 day suspension from bus
    - Semester suspension from bus

Students who are not active riders for 10 consecutive days may be removed from the route and may need to resubmit a transportation request with the school.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Communication that school must be closed because of weather related concerns will include the following:

- A phone message using the district's automated system (*Parents should ensure that the school has the most up-to-date contact information*)
- Posts on the district/school websites
- Posts on district/school social media
- Announcements on local media outlets

Please use these outlets to find the information before contacting the school.

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students who arrive after 8:00 am must be signed in by a parent/guardian. When a student needs to leave before 3:05pm, a parent/guardian must provide identification and sign a student out in the administrative office. A written excuse signed by a parent or legal guardian should be presented upon the student's arrival at school or prior to dismissal.

SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIPS (Policy 7.4)

School sponsored trips, including athletics and other extracurricular groups, are extensions of school activities. Therefore, the same expectations for adhering to rules, procedures, and policies apply to students while on school sponsored trips. Likewise, violations of expectations will result in the same consequences for violations while on school grounds during the school day.

STUDENT FEES (Policy 6.26)
Each year the Davidson County Board of Education approves fees that will be assigned to students for various purposes. Students will be provided with an application to apply for a waiver of these fees on the first day of each school year. Fees must be paid or waived within a school year or the fees will carry over into the next school year. Parents may apply for a waiver of fees during the current year only.

ATTENDANCE (Policy 6.4)

Students will be considered in attendance if present at least half the instructional day. The half day point is 11:30am.

Students are expected to be at school on time and to remain at school until dismissed. During the school day, students are expected to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class and to remain until the class ends.

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner. Failure to submit appropriate documentation as to the reason for the absence(s) within **three (3) days** of returning to school will result in the absence being coded as unexcused.

When a student's absences exceed twelve (12) days in the same academic year for illness or injury and documentation from a medical professional has not previously been provided, further absences will be coded as unlawful unless documentation from a medical professional is provided to the school within three (3) days of the absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES
An absence may be **excused** for any of the following reasons with a written excuse from the parent or guardian. Excused absences for any of the reasons listed below are calculated as part of the sixteen (16) absences allowed in a school year.

1. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school
2. Quarantine which is isolation ordered by local health officer or the State Board of Health;
3. Death in the immediate family (including but not limited to the grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters) of the student;
4. Medical or dental appointments with appropriate documentation provided to the school;
5. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness;
6. Religious observance (school principals are required to authorize a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of a student or a student's parents or legal guardian. The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to these excused absences.);
7. Educational opportunity such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page with prior approval from the principal/designee not to exceed 5 days per year;
8. Child care for illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent (G.S. 115C-375.5);
9. A minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty or inactive member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 6.39.6, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES
Unlawful absences will be defined as the following:

1. A student's willful absence from school with or without the knowledge of the parent

2. A student's absence for any reason other than those listed above
3. When students are not allowed to attend school because they lack proper immunization
4. When students are not allowed to attend school for lack of a required health assessment

MAKEUP WORK AFTER AN ABSENCE
Students are permitted to make up all work missed during an absence. All work must be made up within five (5) days following the student's return to school unless the principal/designee determines that extenuating circumstances might support an extension of this time restriction.

ATHLETICS

Middle school students must meet and maintain eligibility standards to participate on school-sponsored athletic teams. Students begin establishing their eligibility when they enter middle school. For example, eligibility to participate in the 7th grade year is established **during** the student's 6th grade year. Please review this information carefully and if you have any questions, ask your principal, athletic director, or coach for clarification.

ELIGIBILITY

Per NCDPI Policy ATHL-005
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:

- The student attended at least 85 percent of the total number of instructional days in the PSU during the previous semester;
- The student passed at least 70 percent of the courses taken in the preceding semester; and
- The student is making 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.

Per Davidson County Schools Board Policy 6.4 Attendance
For the purpose of determining athletic/extracurricular eligibility, all middle and high school students will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) absences per semester. For the purpose of enforcement of this policy in determining athletic/extracurricular eligibility, two school quarters shall equal a semester.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A student shall not participate on a seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade team if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.
- A student who is not academically eligible at the beginning of a semester period is not eligible at any time during that semester. (Exception: A student who receives an "incomplete" in a course which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the course is satisfactorily made up and eligibility is restored.)
- No student may be eligible to participate at the middle school level for more than six (6) consecutive semesters beginning with the student's entry into sixth (6th grade).
- A student must have a current health physical within the last 395 days to be eligible for participation and concussion information sheets renewed annually.
- Students and their custodial parents must be domiciled within the attendance zone of the school for which the student-athlete is participating. Failure to adhere to the residency rule renders a student-athlete ineligible and results in the team forfeiting games during which that student-athlete was a member of the team.

- A student shall not participate on a middle school athletic team after pleading guilty or "no contest" to, or being convicted (adjudicated as a delinquent) of, a felony under the laws of North Carolina, the United States, or any other state.
- **South Davidson Middle School-** Sixth grade students are allowed to participate on athletic teams (except football) at SDMS. Therefore, upon entry into 6th grade, students will be deemed eligible for 1st semester, and eligibility for 2nd semester will be determined based upon the student's academic and attendance records from 1st semester of 6th grade.

Additional information about middle school athletics can be found in the Student Handbook for Grades 6-8 and on the athletic page of each school's website. Additionally, the full and complete rules and requirements for students to participate in interscholastic athletics can be found in North Carolina State Board of Education Policy ATHL-005.

DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

All student-athletes and their parents must review and acknowledge that they have reviewed the Davidson County Schools Athletic Handbook prior to participation on a school-sponsored athletic team. Student-athletes are expected to represent their school, district, and community in a positive manner.

FORMS AND COMPLIANCE

In addition to the required medical documentation the athletic code of conduct, acknowledgement of risk, residency verification, and athletic travel release must be completed and on file at the school.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Any student who violates the DCS Board of Education policy on Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Stimulant Drugs (Including Drug Paraphernalia) and Other Prohibited Substances and is subsequently suspended as prescribed and will forfeit all rights to participate in the athletic program or extra-curricular activities program as set forth in the policy.

Additionally, if while off school grounds, and/or while not under the supervision of school personnel a student is arrested, receives a criminal citation, or other similar type charge, including but not limited to alleged to be delinquent, that would constitute a violation of this policy if committed while on school grounds, that student shall be disqualified from athletic and extracurricular activities participation for the time set forth herein. *See Davidson County Board of Education Policy 6.11 Rule 6 and Rule 11 for more information*

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SAY SOMETHING ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM (SSARS)

Students and parents are encouraged to use the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System to provide information to school and district officials when there is safety concern for a student who may harm himself/herself or harm others. Here is how to submit a tip:

- Through the secure website https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/
- Call the 24/7 Hotline 1-844-5SayNow (1-844-572-9669)
- Get the mobile app at Google Play or Apple Store

Live links to the website can also be found on the school website.

MEDICATION (POLICY 6.29.3)

To minimize disruptions to the school day, students should take medications at home rather than at school whenever feasible. School officials may deny a request to administer any medication that could be taken at home or when, in the opinion of the superintendent or designee in consultation with school nursing personnel, the administration of the medication by school personnel would pose a substantial risk of harm to the student or others.

Authorized school employees may administer medication to students when all of the following conditions are met:

- **Parental Consent:** The student's parent must make a signed written request that authorizes school personnel to administer the medication to the student.
- **Medication Authorization/Order**: A health care practitioner must prescribe the prescription medication for use by the student and provide explicit written instructions for administering the medication. For over-the-counter medications, the parent must provide written permission with instructions on dosage.
- **Certification of Necessity**: The student's health care practitioner must certify that administration of the prescription medication to the student during the school day is necessary to maintain and support the student's continued presence in school.
- **Proper Container/Labeling:** If the medication to be administered is available by prescription only, the parent must provide the medication in a pharmacy-labeled container with directions for how and when the medicine is to be given. If the medication is available over-the-counter, it must be provided in the original container or packaging, labeled with the student's name.
- **Proper Administration:** The employee must administer the medication pursuant to the health care practitioner's written instructions provided to the school by the student's parent, and in accordance with professional standards.

The form on which to provide all of the above information can be obtained from the school or from the district website.

Over-the-Counter Medication
Consistent with the above requirements, over-the-counter medications will only be given during school hours by school personnel if the medication sheet is complete with instructions and parent signature. Parents who want school personnel to administer over-the-counter medication must provide and deliver the medication to school personnel pursuant to the requirements of this policy.

Emergency Medication
Students who are at risk for medical emergencies, such as those with diabetes, asthma, or severe allergies, must have an emergency health care plan developed for them to address emergency administration of medication. Authorization and instructions from the health care practitioner and written consent of the parent are required for emergency medication to be administered by school personnel while the student is at school, at a school-sponsored activity, and/or while in transit to or from school or a school-sponsored event.

Authorization to Self-Administer Medication
Before a student will be allowed to self-administer medication pursuant to this section, the student's parent must provide to the principal or designee all of the documents listed below:

a. Written authorization from the student's parent for the student to possess and self- administer the medications;
b. A written statement from the health care practitioner verifying that:
    1) The student has diabetes or asthma, or an allergy that could result in anaphylactic reaction;
    2) The health care practitioner prescribed the medication for use on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events; and
    3) The student understands, has been instructed in self-administration of the medication, and has demonstrated the skill level necessary to use the medication and any accompanying device;
c. A written treatment plan and written emergency protocol formulated by the prescribing health care practitioner for managing the student's diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis episodes and for medication use by the student;
d. A statement provided by the school system and signed by the student's parent acknowledging that the board of education and its employees and agents are not liable for injury arising from the student's possession and self-administration of the medication; and
e. Any other documents or items necessary to comply with state and federal laws. Prior to being permitted to self-administer medication at school, the student also must demonstrate to the school nurse, or the nurse's designee, the skill level necessary to use the medication and any accompanying device.

A student who is authorized in accordance with this policy to carry medication for self- administration must carry the medication in the original labeled container with the student's name on the label. A student who uses his or her medication in a manner other than as prescribed or who permits another person to use the medication may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school disciplinary policy. However, school officials shall not impose disciplinary action on the student that limits or restricts the student's immediate access to diabetes, asthma, or anaphylactic medication.

The student's parent must provide backup medication that school personnel are to keep in a location to which the student has immediate access in the event the student does not have the required medication. All information provided to the school by the student's parent must be reviewed by the school nurse and kept on file at the school in an easily accessible location. Any permission granted by the principal or designee for a student to possess and self-administer medication will be effective only for the same school for 365 calendar days. Such permission must be renewed each school year. Parents are responsible for making the school aware of any potentially serious medical conditions their child may have (ex. allergic reactions, seizures, etc.).

SCHOLASTIC ACCIDENT INSURANCE

DCS carries basic/excess accident coverage for all students. This policy is **secondary** to insurance carried by parents and **primary** if students are not covered under another policy. This policy does not cover sport-related injuries and is only for basic medical services for accidents/injuries that occur during the school day on school property or at school sponsored/supervised events.

It is strongly recommended that parents review the voluntary scholastic accident insurance program available to students at a nominal cost. The voluntary scholastic insurance program offers extra coverage for both school-time activities and for extra-curricular activities excluding varsity football) for a nominal charge. An information brochure is available at each school and on the district website.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

The Davidson County School System participates in the National School Lunch Program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which permits the school system to offer free and reduced priced meals to students who qualify. Due to reporting requirements, the School Nutrition Department cannot permit excessive and recurring charges of meals. Customers may, however, pay for meals in advance.

Families who wish to apply for free or reduced meals must complete an application each year. The family of any DCS student may apply at any time. Applications are available in each school's cafeteria, main office, or on the DCS website. Applicants are responsible for meals until a free or reduced application is completed and approved.

	Reduced/Free	**Full Pay**
Breakfast	No cost	$1.50
Lunch	No cost	Elementary $2.75/Secondary $3.00

The following middle schools participate in Community Eligibility Provision and students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost:

- Brown Middle
- Central Davidson Middle
- Tyro Middle

STATE AND DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

All middle school students will participate in the following required state assessments during the last ten days of the academic year unless otherwise noted below. Each of these assessments are required to be taken in person.

ASSESSMENT	**6th GRADE**	**7th GRADE**	**8th GRADE**
Reading EOG	✔	✔	✔
Math EOG	✔	✔	✔
Math 1 EOC			For students enrolled in Math 1 the EOC will be given within the last 10 days of the school year and will be 20% of the final grade. These students will not take the 8th grade Math EOG.
Science EOG			✔

STUDENT EVALUATION AND PROGRESS

GRADING GUIDELINES

Davidson County Schools has established consistent grading procedures for grades 3-12. These procedures can be found on the DCS website>Departments>Curriculum and Instruction>District-wide Grading Procedures.

GRADING SCALE
Public schools in North Carolina use the following 10-point grading scale:

A= 90-100	C= 70-79	F= Below 60
B= 80-89	D= 60-69	

HOMEWORK (Policy 6.16.7)
The "10-Minute Rule" conveys to students and parents the expectation that homework assignments combined last about as long as 10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level. For example, first graders could expect 10 minutes per night, second graders could expect 20 minutes, third graders 30 minutes, etc. If you have questions or concerns about the amount of homework your child receives, you should contact your teacher or principal.

INFINITE CAMPUS
Parents are encouraged to establish an account for their student if they have not already done so. Infinite Campus Parent Portal allows parents immediate access to their child's most current academic progress and attendance data. Paper progress reports are available upon request.

PROMOTION STANDARDS (Policy 6.5)
Promotion for middle school students will be determined based on teacher standards and attendance standards. Each year to **meet promotion standards** in grades 6, 7, and 8, a student must have

- a final average of at least 60 in English Language Arts **and** Math
- a final average of at least 60 in Science **or** Social Studies
- no more than 16 absences

Additionally, a principal may use data gained from various assessments to determine a student's readiness to progress to the next grade. This is referred to as **administrative promotion** and does not meet the requirements for athletic eligibility: *NC General Statute § 115C-288: Powers and duties of principal* provides this authority to the principal.

STANDARDS FOR EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR

AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL (Policy 6.10.1)
Teachers and other school personnel have the authority to manage or remove disruptive or dangerous students from the classroom and other locations within the school building. School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations when necessary:

(1) to correct students;
(2) to quell a disturbance threatening injury to others;
(3) to obtain possession of a weapon or another dangerous object on the person, or within the control, of a student;
(4) for self-defense;
(5) for the protection of persons or property; or
(6) to maintain order on school property, in the classroom, or at a school-related activity whether on or off school property.

Except as restricted by G.S. 115C-391.1, school personnel may use appropriate seclusion and restraint techniques reasonably needed in the circumstances described above as long as such use is consistent with state law and applicable board policies and procedures. Students must comply with all directions of principals, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions, during any period of time when they are subject to the authority of such personnel.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT (Policy 6.33.3)
Davidson County Schools prohibits bullying and harassing behavior, or the encouragement of bullying or harassing behavior, that takes place (1) in any school building or on any school premises before, during or after school hours; (2) on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity; (3) at any bus stop; (4) during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity; (5) at any time or place when the student, employee, or other person is subject to the authority of school personnel; or (6) at any time or place when the bullying has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

1. Bullying is deliberate conduct intended to harm another person or group of persons. It is characterized by repeated unwanted aggressive behavior that typically involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, such as a difference in physical size, strength, social standing, intellectual ability, or authority. It may consist of either physical, verbal, or nonverbal behavior. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that is carried out using electronic communication media, such as words, action, or conduct conveyed through email, instant messages, text messages, tweets, blogs, photo or video sharing, chat rooms, or websites, and may exist in the absence of a power imbalance typical of other forms of bullying.

2. Harassing behavior is conduct that is intimidating, hostile, or abusive, or is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing behavior may violate this policy even if no harm is intended to the target and no power imbalance is evident.
3. Bullying or harassing behavior includes conduct that is, or reasonably appears to be, motivated by actual or perceived differentiating personal characteristics, or by a person's association with someone who has or is perceived to have a differentiating personal characteristic. Differentiating personal characteristics include, but are not limited to race, color, religion, ancestry, National origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability. Bullying and harassing behavior can violate this policy regardless of a student's motivation.
4. Examples of behavior that may constitute bullying or harassing behavior are repeated acts of disrespect, intimidation, or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, epithets, derogatory or lewd comments, spreading rumors, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, offensive touching, physical interference with normal work or movement, visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons, and sharing intimate photos or video of a person or sharing photos or videos that may subject a person to ridicule or insult.
5. Other behaviors that may constitute bullying or harassing behavior under this policy are deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, pressure for sexual activity, offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, verbal remarks about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures, or written materials.
6. These examples are not exhaustive but are intended to illustrate the wide range of behavior that may constitute bullying and harassing behavior.
7. Conduct such as the following is not considered bullying or harassing behavior: legitimate pedagogical techniques, the exercise of legitimate authority, and academic or work performance monitoring and evaluation.

When Bullying or Harassing Behavior Violates Policy
Not all conduct that may be described as bullying or harassing behavior violates this policy. Bullying or harassing behavior violates this policy when any pattern of repeated gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or threatening communication:

- places a student, an employee, or other person in actual and reasonable fear of harm to their person or property; or
- creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

"Hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

The definition of bullying and harassing behavior in this section is intended to be no less inclusive than the definition of bullying and harassing behavior in G.S. 115C-407.15.

Bullying or harassing behavior based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion may also constitute discriminatory harassment in violation of federal law and other board policies as described in Section A, above.

Reporting Bullying and Harassing Behavior
The board encourages students or parents/guardians of students who have been the victim of or who have witnessed bullying or harassing behavior in violation of this policy to immediately report such incidents to a teacher, counselor, coach, assistant principal, or the principal. Reports may be made orally or in writing and may be made anonymously. All reports of serious violations and complaints made under this policy will be investigated expeditiously. Anonymous reports will be investigated to the extent reasonably possible under the circumstances. If, at any time, school officials determine that the alleged bullying or harassing behavior appears to be based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion, the matter will be investigated in accordance with the applicable policy listed in Section A above.

An employee who witnesses or who has reliable information that a student or other individual has been bullied or harassed in violation of this policy must report the incident to his or her supervisor or to the building principal immediately. If sexual harassment is suspected, the employee also must report the incident to the Title IX coordinator. An employee who does not promptly report possible bullying or harassing behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.
Other members of the school community may report incidents of bullying or harassment to the school principal or the superintendent or designee.

It is a violation of board policy to knowingly report false allegations of bullying or harassing behavior. A student or employee found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to disciplinary action.

Reports of Bullying or Harassing Behavior Based on Sex, Race, Color, National Origin, Disability, or Religion

Bullying or harassing behavior that is based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion may constitute discriminatory harassment that is a violation of the individual's civil rights. A school employee who receives a report of bullying or harassing behavior that may constitute sexual harassment must immediately contact the Title IX coordinator. If the reported behavior appears to be based on any other such personal characteristic, the employee must immediately notify the appropriate civil rights coordinator designated in policies 1.7, 4.19, and 6.33, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law. Uncertainty as to whether alleged bullying or harassing behavior is based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion should be resolved by notifying the Title IX Coordinator.

Response to Reports of Bullying or Harassing Behavior

1. Reports of bullying and harassing behavior or the encouragement of such behavior under this policy will be investigated promptly by the principal or the principal's designee and addressed in accordance with this policy and policy 6.12, School-Level Investigations. If the principal is the alleged perpetrator, the superintendent will designate an appropriate investigator.
2. If at any time before, during, or after the investigation under this policy, the principal or designee determines or suspects that the alleged bullying or harassing behavior is based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion, the principal or designee shall notify the appropriate civil rights coordinator and proceed in accordance with the applicable board policy as described in Section A, above. However, referral to the civil rights coordinator will not preclude appropriate disciplinary consequences for a violation of this policy if, following the designated investigation and resolution process under the appropriate board policy, the behavior is determined not to constitute discriminatory harassment in violation of federal law.
3. No reprisals or retaliation of any kind are permitted as a result of good faith reports of bullying or harassing behavior. An employee who engages in reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. A student who does so is subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in Section G, below.

Consequences

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy should take into consideration the frequency of incidents, the developmental age of the student involved, and the severity of the conduct and must be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

A student who is convicted under G.S. 14-458.2 of cyberbullying a school employee will be transferred to another school. If there is no other appropriate school within the school system, the student will be transferred to a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as a victim of the cyberbullying. The superintendent may modify the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis and shall provide a written statement of this modification in the student's record.

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 1)

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school activities, or any other lawful function of the school or school district. The following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:

- intentional verbal or physical acts which result or have the potential to result in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the convening or continuation of school- related functions;
- appearance or clothing which (1) violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school, or (2) is substantially disruptive, or (3) is provocative or obscene; or (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others;
- possessing or distributing literature or illustrations which significantly disrupts the educational process or which is obscene or unlawful;
- failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations, including on buses and in the hallways; and
- interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.
- although school personnel generally do not monitor student's internet activity conducted on non-school system computers during non-school hours, when a student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be subject to discipline in accordance with this policy.

DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 2)

A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause substantial damage, as determined by appropriate school officials, to valuable property, or steal or attempt to steal valuable public property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds. Repeated damage or theft involving public property of small value also shall be a basis for long-term suspension or expulsion from school.

DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 3)
A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause substantial damage, as determined by appropriate school officials, to valuable property or steal or attempt to steal valuable private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds. Repeated damage or theft involving private property of small value also shall be a basis for long-term suspension or expulsion from school.

ASSAULTS, THREATS, AND HARASSMENT (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 4)
The board will not tolerate assaults or threats from any student. Any student engaging in such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning. Prohibited behavior includes:

- assaulting, physically injuring, attempting to injure or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to any other person. Assault includes engaging in a fight. Neither self-defense nor action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person is to be considered an intentional act under this rule. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to free oneself from the attack and notify proper school authorities.
- directing toward any other person any language that threatens force, violence or disruption, or any sign or act that constitutes a threat of force, violence or disruption.

A student who is long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education services as a result of assaulting or injuring a teacher shall not return to that teacher's classroom without the teacher's consent.

WEAPONS, BOMB THREATS, TERRORIST THREATS, AND CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 5)
The board will not tolerate the presence of weapons or destructive devices, bomb or terrorist threats, or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students or employees. Any student who violates this policy will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning.

Prohibited Weapons and Weapon-Like Items
Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon.

- loaded and unloaded firearms, including guns, pistols and rifles;
- destructive devices as described in subsection of the policy, including explosives, such as dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades and mines;
- nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons of mass destruction as defined in G.S. 14-288.21(c);
- knives, including pocket knives, bowie knives, switchblades, dirks and daggers;
- slingshots and slung shots;
- leaded canes;
- blackjacks;
- metal knuckles;
- BB guns;
- air rifles and air pistols;
- stun guns and other electric shock weapons, such as tasers;
- icepicks;
- razors and razor blades (except those designed and used solely for personal shaving);
- fireworks;
- gun powder; ammunition, or bullets;
- any sharp pointed or edged instruments except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance; and
- mace, pepper spray, and other personal defense sprays (*The mere possession of a personal defense spray is not a violation of this policy unless (1) the device is used for a purpose other than self-defense, as defined under state law or (2) the principal or designee determines that the student intended to use it to harm, threaten harm, or create a disturbance.)*

Examples of other objects that may be considered weapons are box cutters and other types of utility blades and blowguns and starter pistols. No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to possess, handle or use any of the weapons or weapon-like items listed above. A student who finds a weapon or weapon- like item, who witnesses another student or other person with such an item, or who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to possess, handle or use such an item, must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

Effective with the 2019-2020 school year, middle and high school students may also utilize SSARS tip line for reporting risks to the school population (see page 5). Principals will contact the School Resource Officer immediately upon the discovery of any of the weapons or weapon like items listed above for legal investigation and the consideration of criminal charges. Principals will request that criminal charges be levied for students who knowingly and willingly bring any of the weapons or weapon like items listed above to school. The final decision to bring criminal charges is the responsibility of the investigating officer and/or District Attorney's Office. Suspensions for any such violation will be issued in accordance with N.C.G.S. §115C-390.1- 390.11 and School Board Policy. Parents who are suspected of or are known to be in violation of law by allowing illegal access to firearms or weapons by their children will be reported to law enforcement by the school principal. Students who bring to school any weapons or weapon like items listed above or who have been directly affected by the incident will be referred to counseling by the principal. The principal will maintain a record of the time and date of the referral. This section does not apply to board-approved and -authorized activities for which the board has adopted appropriate safeguards to protect student safety.

Bomb Threats
Students are prohibited from making a bomb threat, regardless of whether the student intends to or has the means to carry out the threat; perpetrating a bomb hoax against school property by making a report, knowing or have reason to know the report is false, that a bomb or other device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning is located on school system property or at a school system event; perpetrating a bomb hoax by concealing, placing, or displaying any device on school property or at a school system event, so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a bomb or similar device intended to cause injury to persons or property; and knowingly or willfully causing, encouraging, or aiding another student to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb, make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

Terrorist Threats
Students are prohibited from making a terrorist threat or perpetrating a terrorist hoax by threatening to commit an act of mass violence on school property or at a school system event, regardless of whether the student intends to or has the means to carry out the threat; making a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that an act of mass violence is going to occur on school property or at a school system event; making a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that a device, substance, or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person is located on school system property or at a school system event; or concealing, placing, disseminating, or displaying on school system property or at a school system event any device, substance, or material, so as to cause a reasonable person to believe the same to be a weapon of mass destruction or to be intended to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person, make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

Clear Threats to Student and Employee Safety
Students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. Behavior constituting a clear threat to the safety of others includes, but is not limited to:

- theft or attempted theft by a student from another person by using or threatening to use a weapon;
- the intentional and malicious burning of any structure or personal property, including any vehicle;
- an attack or threatened attack by a student against another person wherein the student uses a weapon or displays a weapon in a manner found threatening to that person;
- an attack by a student on any employee, adult volunteer or other student that does not result in serious injury but that is intended to cause or reasonably could cause serious injury;
- an attack by a student on another person whereby the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, such as broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injuries, laceration requiring stitches, loss of consciousness, or significant bruising or pain; or whereby the victim requires hospitalization or treatment in a hospital emergency room as a result of the attack;
- any intentional, highly reckless or negligent act that results in the death of another person;
- confining, restraining or removing another person from one place to another, without the victim's consent or the consent of the victim's parent, for the purpose of committing a felony or for the purpose of holding the victim as a hostage, for ransom, or for use as a shield;
- the possession of a weapon on any school property, including in a vehicle, with the intent to use or transmit for another's use or possession in a reckless manner so that harm is reasonably foreseeable;

- taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of another person or persons, by force, threat of force, or violence, or by putting the victim in fear;
- any unauthorized and unwanted intentional touching, or attempt to touch, by one person of the sex organ of another, including the breasts of the female and the genital areas of the male and female;
- the possession, manufacture, sale or delivery, or any attempted sale or delivery, of a controlled substance in violation of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes;
- any behavior resulting in a felony conviction on a weapons, drug, assault or other charge that implicates the safety of other persons; and
- any other behavior that demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of others in the school environment.

Consequences

As required by law, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event must be suspended for 365 days, unless the superintendent modifies, in writing, the required 365-day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The superintendent shall not impose a 365-day suspension if the superintendent determines that the student (1) took or received the firearm or destructive device from another person at school or found the firearm or destructive device at school, (2) delivered or reported the firearm or destructive device as soon as practicable to law enforcement or school personnel and (3) had no intent to use the firearm or destructive device in a harmful or threatening way. For the purpose of this subsection, a firearm is (1) a weapon, including a starter gun that will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon or (3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. A firearm does not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, a stun gun, an air rifle or an air pistol. For the purposes of this subsection, a destructive device is an explosive, incendiary or poison gas (1) bomb, (2) grenade, (3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (5) mine or (6) similar device.

A student may not be suspended for 365 days for a weapons violation except in accordance with this subsection.

This policy applies:

- On school grounds at any time, or
- Off the grounds at a school activity, function, or event, including buses.

NARCOTICS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, STIMULANT DRUGS AND OTHER PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 6)

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, conspire to transmit or distribute, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, prescription medication, synthetic stimulants, such as MDPV and mephedrone (e.g. "bath salts") and synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. "Spice", "K2), "counterfeit drugs" (substances claimed to be a prohibited substance) alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, inhalant or intoxicant of any kind, any chemicals, substances or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior or any controlled substance as defined in Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, or any substance containing cannabidiol (CBD) or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), regardless of whether it constitutes a controlled substance under state or federal law.

Students are additionally prohibited from possessing, using, selling, delivering, distributing or manufacturing drug paraphernalia, including but not limited to rolling papers, roach clips, vaping devices, vape liquid containers, pipes, syringes, and other delivery devices for prohibited substances; Students are prohibited from possessing, using, selling, delivering, or sharing prescription or over-the-counter drugs, except in accordance with Policy 6.29.3, Administering Medicines to Students. A student who possesses or uses a prescription or over-the-counter drug in accordance with policy 6.29.3 does not violate this policy. A student is not in violation of this policy for being under the influence of a prohibited substance following its proper use as a medication lawfully prescribed for the student by a licensed health care practitioner. Students may not participate in any way in selling or delivering of drug paraphernalia or prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or delivery ultimately occurs on school property. Law enforcement officials will be notified when any substance is found on or under the control of the student, and is suspected to be one that is prohibited under this policy.

(1) Any substance that is believed to be a prohibited substance confiscated by a principal or other school officials shall be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement agency for proper identification. Principals should request a signed affidavit from the law enforcement agency attesting to the results of the test.
(2) In no event shall a principal request or accept the return of any prohibited substance from law enforcement officials. The report of the law enforcement agency attesting to the nature of any confiscated substance shall be sufficient evidence for the purpose of due process suspension hearings.

This policy applies:

- On school grounds at any time, or
- Off the grounds at a school activity, function, or event, including buses.

Selling or Distributing Prohibited Substances
A student who sells or otherwise distributes any prohibited substance shall be suspended for no less than ten (10) days. Legal authorities shall be notified and a complaint shall be filed. If readmission is allowed, the student will be referred to a student assistance team.

Prescription Medication
The use of prescription medication is to be deemed as an exception to this policy when used by the individual for whom it is prescribed, when used in the manner and amount prescribed, and when used in accordance with other school policies governing student medications. As all prescription medications must be registered and stored in a designated area, supervised by the principal, along with a required medical form, students should check with their principal prior to self- administering any prescription medications.

Acute Intoxication
Because of the potential dangers to the student as a result of acute intoxication with alcohol and other drugs, emergency personnel will be notified when students exhibit evidence of acute intoxication, incapacitation, or a drug overdose in school or at school sponsored events. Parents or legal guardians will be notified in the event of such an emergency. Following the student's return to school, immediate referral will be made to a student assistance team, and any appropriate disciplinary action will occur.

Reasonable Suspicion/Referral to SSMT/Smart Team
School authorities have the right to search individuals when there is reasonable suspicion that the individual may be in possession of a "prohibited substance." When there is reasonable suspicion, the student will be referred for case management to a student assistance team. The student may also be subject to and prosecuted by the juvenile and criminal laws of the state.

Possession, Use, Consumption or Under the Influence
First Offense: The student shall be suspended for five days. Parental/Guardian notification and a conference will occur. Parents or guardians will be provided with information on substance abuse, interventions, and treatment. The student will automatically be referred to a student assistance team.
Second Offense: The student shall be suspended for ten days. Parental and student assistance team notification will occur.
Third Offense: The student may be subject to long-term suspension for the remainder of the academic year.

ABUSE OR DISTRIBUTION OF OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 7)
Distribution (for sale or otherwise) of over-the-counter medications (OTC), consuming an excessive quantity (more than the recommended dosage) of an over-the-counter medication and/or receiving (for money or otherwise) any over-the-counter medication from other students in any quantity is considered a violation of this policy.

Any student who violates this policy may be suspended in the Principal's discretion up to, but not to exceed, the guidelines on possession, use, consumption or under the influence as set forth in Rule 6, Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, and Stimulant Drugs, Including Drug Paraphernalia and Other Prohibited Substances. The reference herein to policy 6.11, Rule 6 is not intended to create a mandatory minimum out of school suspension for any student who is found to be in violation of this rule.

High School students may possess only the recommended dosage sufficient for a single school day of over-the-counter medication, and the medication must be kept in the original product container.

Elementary and Middle School students are prohibited from possessing and self-administering over-the-counter medication and may be suspended pursuant to this policy for any violation. Elementary and Middle School students who need to take over-the-counter medication during school hours must comply with the requirements of policy 6.29, Administering Medicines to Students.

REPEATED SCHOOL VIOLATIONS (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 8)
A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with directions of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, principals, or other authorized school personnel during any period of time when he is properly under the authority of school personnel.

STUDENT TOBACCO USE (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 9)
Students shall not use, possess, sell, distribute or deliver any type of tobacco products in any school building, on any school campus or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board, including school vehicles. This includes other educational activities, school sponsored events, field trips, and athletic functions while participating in an activity or being under the direct supervision of a

school staff member. For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, bidis, hookahs, smokeless or spit tobacco, snuff, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, electronic pipes. The use, possession, distribution and/or delivery of vaping devices, vaping products and vaping paraphernalia shall be governed pursuant to 6.11 Rule 14: Vaping Devices and Vaping Paraphernalia Prohibited.

Consequences

First Offense: One day assignment to In-School Suspension, completion of district approved education program, and parent contact
Second Offense: Two days assignment to In-School Suspension and referral to a student assistance team
Third Offense: One day assignment to Out-of-School Suspension and development of interventions by a student assistance team
Fourth Offense: Two days assignment to Out-of-School Suspension
Fifth Offense: Three to five days assignment to Out-of-School Suspension with administrator discretion for further actions

All offenses require that students forfeit all tobacco products as defined by this policy in their possession. A student shall not use or possess matches or lighters while on school premises, while under the direct supervision of school personnel on or off school grounds, on field trips, or while on school buses of any kind. Students who violate this provision will be subject to school-imposed penalties at the discretion of the principal.

INTEGRITY AND CIVILITY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 10)

In addition to any standards or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are in violation of the standards of integrity and civility and are specifically prohibited:

- cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work;
- plagiarizing, including copying the language, structure, idea, and/or thought of another person or of a work produced by artificial intelligence and representing it as one's own original work;
- violating copyright laws, including the unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material;
- cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language toward another person;
- playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or an employee to personal indignity;
- engaging in behavior which is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable or of an overly sexual nature, whether on or off school property, including, but not limited to sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device;
- students are strictly prohibited from engaging in sexting. Sexting shall be defined as the sending, taking, disseminating, transferring, sharing, or receiving of obscene, pornographic, lewd, indecent, or otherwise sexually explicit messages, photographs or images on or by electronic devices;
- students shall not make or publish false statements on the internet, by Fax, or by any other means of communication that defame the character or reputation of a school employee or student. While students have a constitutional right to criticize school personnel or students, that right does not include making false statements accusing school personnel or students of engaging in criminal or immoral acts that are intended to injure, harass and/or harm an individual;
- students shall not use profanity, obscenity, fighting or abusive words, or otherwise engage in speech that disrupts (written, symbolic or verbal) and/or materially and substantially disrupts the classroom or other school activities.

Nothing herein is intended to limit a student's right to express his or her thoughts and opinions at reasonable times and places, consistent with the protections of the First Amendment. In general, schools may place restrictions on a student's right to free speech when the speech is obscene, abusive, promoting illegal drug use, or is reasonably expected to cause a substantial disruption to the school day.

SUSPENSION FROM ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 11)

Criminal Activity

Participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities choose to do so, and as a result, those students are expected to make many proper choices as they represent themselves, their families, their school, and their community at all times, not just on the field of competition. A student's eligibility to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities is dependent upon compliance with all applicable Board policies, rules and regulations. This policy shall apply to both and on and off campus behavior.

A. Felonies

Therefore, notwithstanding any other Board of Education Policy, any student who (1) is convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law; or (2) is adjudicated delinquent ("convicted" in juvenile court) for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult; is not eligible to participate on a school athletic team from the date of conviction or adjudication of delinquency through the end of the student's high school career. In a similar manner, a middle school student will be declared ineligible for athletic participation through the end of his/her middle school career and will be subject to review by the principal for reinstatement of eligibility for such activities upon entering high school. Upon being charged with a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law or alleged to be delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, said student athlete shall immediately be ineligible to participate on a school athletic team pending the outcome of said charge/allegation of delinquency. In the event the criminal charges or allegation of delinquency are completely dismissed without leave of court, or the student is found not guilty, said student athlete shall be reinstated immediately.

Any student convicted of a felony or adjudicated delinquent as set forth above shall be ineligible to participate in any current or other extracurricular school activity from the date of conviction or adjudication of delinquency through the end of the student's high school career. In a similar manner, a middle school student will be declared ineligible for extra-curricular participation through the end of his/her middle school career and will be subject to review by the principal for reinstatement of eligibility for such activities upon entering high school. Upon being charged with a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law or alleged to be delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, said student shall immediately be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities pending the outcome of said charge/allegation of delinquency. If a student is charged with a felony but is convicted of, pleads guilty or no contest to a misdemeanor, the student will be ineligible to participate on a school athletic team or extra-curricular club or activity as set forth below in Section B, to include any period of time the student was deemed ineligible pending the outcome of the matter.

B. Misdemeanors

Therefore, notwithstanding any other Board of Education Policy, any student who is charged with a crime classified as a misdemeanor under North Carolina or federal law or alleged to be delinquent for an offense that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, shall immediately be ineligible to participate on a school athletic team/extra-curricular activity as set forth below:

Class 3 Misdemeanor	15 days of participation
Class 2 Misdemeanor	30 days of participation
Class 1 Misdemeanor	45 days of participation
Class A1 Misdemeanor	60 days of participation

In the event the criminal charges or allegation of delinquency are completely dismissed without leave of court, or the student is found not guilty, said student shall be fully reinstated to athletic and/or extra-curricular activities immediately.

In the event a student is charged with multiple offenses on the same day or as a result of the same event, said student will receive a period of suspension based on the highest level of criminal charge for which the student is charged. (Example: if a student is charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor and Class 1 misdemeanor, the days of suspension shall be 45 days of participation.)

Any subsequent criminal charges filed against the student will result in additional days of suspension consistent with this policy, in addition to any days of suspension previously imposed. (Example: if a student is charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor and receives 45 days of participation suspension and the student is subsequently charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor for an unrelated incident, said student will receive an additional 15 days of participation suspension.) All days of suspension shall be served consecutively as opposed to concurrently.

C. Miscellaneous Provisions

"Alleged to be delinquent" as used in this policy shall mean the approval of filing of a juvenile petition by a juvenile court counselor alleging delinquency under the North Carolina Juvenile Code.

A violation of this this rule that also constitutes a violation of Davidson County Board of Education Policy 6.11, Standards of Expected Student Behavior Rule 6: Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Stimulant Drugs (Including Drug Paraphernalia) and Other Prohibited Substances shall be governed and administered in accordance with Rule 6.

"Days of participation" are defined as days on which the athletic team/squad or other such extra-curricular activity is actually conducted, including practices and games that may occur on the weekends. If a scheduled activity is canceled for reasons such as inclement weather, said day shall not count towards the days of suspension. Additionally, off or out of season skill development, workouts, camps etc. shall not count towards the days of disqualification, even though said student shall be prohibited from participating in said activities while under a period of disqualification.

At the time of the offense, if the student is not currently participating in an athletic or extra-curricular activity program subject to this policy, the disqualification will begin on the start date for the next athletic or extra-curricular activity season with which the recognized student is affiliated. A student cannot attempt to evade the intent of this rule by joining a new athletic program or extra-curricular activity specifically to allow their disqualification days to run their course. Any determination that a student is attempting to evade the intent of this rule shall be made by the principal, athletic director, or faculty supervisor. If the student has not completed his or her disqualification period at the end of the season or school year, the remaining days will be completed at the beginning of the next affiliated athletic or extra-curricular activity season.

Any student whose athletic eligibility is suspended for more than 30 days of participation pursuant to this policy may request a review of that decision by the Athletic Review Committee as set forth in Board Policy, 6.18. The request for review must be in writing and must be submitted to the principal within three (3) school days of when the student/parent received notification of the disqualification. Failure to request a review within three (3) school days shall waive the opportunity for a review of the disqualification.

A student's request for review or appeal of a student's disqualification or suspension from extra-curricular activities shall be governed according to the rules, policies, and/or bylaws associated with that particular extra-curricular activity or organization.

The initial determination that conduct in violation of this rule has occurred is to be made collectively by the athletic coach, faculty supervisor of the extra-curricular activity, and principal of the student's school. Additionally, said offense that may otherwise result in a disqualification as set forth in this policy must have occurred within 365 days of being brought to the attention of the athletic coach, faculty supervisor of the extra-curricular activity or the principal.

This policy shall not prohibit or otherwise preclude individual schools, athletic departments, or coaches or faculty supervisors of extra-curricular activities from developing their own similar type rules and guidelines concerning eligibility for participation, continued participation, including discipline or disqualification from participation. These standards of expected behavior and consequences shall be in writing and provided to all students prior to the beginning of the athletic season or extra-curricular activity.

Transferring from one Davidson County school to another does not relieve the student from the consequences for a violation of this Rule. Should a student choose to transfer outside of the Davidson County Schools, the designated school administrator or the school athletic director will contact the new school to inform them of the violation and the resulting penalty. The Davidson County Schools may also honor the activity consequences from other private or public school systems.

This policy shall apply year-round, 365 days a year, including but not limited to between semesters and during the summer break in the school calendar.

GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 12)

Gang-related activity is strictly prohibited within the schools. For the purposes of this policy, "gang-related activity" means: (1) any conduct that is prohibited by another board policy and is engaged in by a student on behalf of an identified gang or as a result of the student's gang membership; or (2) any conduct engaged in by a student to perpetuate, proliferate or display the existence of any identified gang. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes:

- wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang;
- communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang;
- tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey membership or affiliation in a gang (see Rule 13, Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property);
- requiring payment of protection, insurance or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity (see policy Rule 4, Assaults, Threats and Harassment);
- inciting others to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity;
- soliciting others for gang membership; and
- committing any other illegal act or other violation of school system policies in connection with gang-related activity.

Consequences
Before being punished for a violation of subsection A.1 or A.2, a student shall receive an individualized warning as to what item or conduct is in violation of this policy and shall be permitted to immediately change or remove any prohibited items. A student may be punished only if he or she previously received notice that the specific item or conduct is prohibited. Disciplinary consequences for violations of subsections A.1, A.2 and A.6, shall be consistent with 6.11.1, Rules of Conduct and Consequences of Actions. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of these subsections.

In a situation where a student has violated this policy or is otherwise suspected of gang affiliation through other circumstantial evidence, the principal shall conduct an intervention involving the principal and/or assistant principal, the student and the student's parent. Such intervention also may include the school resource officer and others as appropriate. The purpose of an intervention is to discuss school officials' observations and concerns and to offer the student and his or her parent's information and an opportunity to ask questions or provide other information to the school officials.

This policy shall be applied in a non-discriminatory manner based on the objective characteristics of the student's conduct in light of the surrounding circumstances.

THEFT, TRESPASS, AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 13)
The board will not tolerate theft, trespass or damage to property by any student. Any student engaging in such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning.

Students are prohibited from

- stealing or attempting to steal school or private property and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property.
- damaging or attempting to damage school or private property.
- trespassing on school property. A student will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted in any of the following circumstances
    - the student is on the campus of a school to which he or she is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school;
    - the student is loitering at any school after the close of the school day without any specific need or supervision; or
    - the student has been suspended from school but is on the property of any school during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

Consequences
The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with 6.11.1, Rules of Conduct and Consequences of Actions. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

VAPING DEVICES AND VAPING PARAPHERNALIA (Policy 6.11.1 Rule 14)
The use of vaping devices, vaping products and vaping paraphernalia in school by students connotes school approval, if not sponsorship of such habits. The use of vaping devices, vaping products and vaping paraphernalia at an early age is a definite health hazard and often a social liability. The Davidson County School System has a legal and moral obligation to our students to develop policies that protect the health and future of our students. Additionally, in recent years there has been a significant and marked increase in the number of incidents involving student use of vaping devices, vaping products, e-cigarettes, Juuls and other similar type vaping paraphernalia within and without the school system. In particular, there has been a significant increase in the use of such devices to inhale, ingest or otherwise introduce a substance of unknown or undeterminable ingredients or chemical compound for the purpose and intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior, often times resulting in an unattended or an adverse medical reaction, some of which have been and can be life-threatening. These devices are often illegal for students to possess and/or use, are significantly harmful to their health and well-being and a distraction to the learning environment.

In the event the use, possession, distribution, delivery of a vaping device or vaping paraphernalia is in connection with a prohibited substance as described or otherwise contained in 6.11 Rule 6: Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Stimulant Drugs (including Drug Paraphernalia) and other Prohibited Substances, said Rule 6 and its stated consequences shall apply. In the event the use, possession, distribution, delivery of a vaping device or vaping paraphernalia is in connection with a prohibited substance as described or otherwise contained in 6.11 Rule 9: Tobacco Products-Students, said Rule 9 and its stated consequences shall apply.

In order to assist students in understanding the dangers and seriousness of these devices that may contain a substance of unknown or undeterminable ingredients or chemical compound not otherwise described or contemplated by 6.11 Rule 6 and/or 6.11 Rule 9, or contained no substance at all, the consequences for vaping devices and related paraphernalia are as follows:

Parent contact/notification and conference and:

For Secondary (6-12)

1st Offense for Possession/Use	The student will receive three days of in school suspension, be required to complete an educational program, and be referred to the Student Assistance Team. Parent contact will be made.
2nd Offense for Possession/Use	The student will receive three days of out of school suspension.
3rd Offense for Possession/Use	The student will receive five days of out of school suspension.
4th Offense for Possession/Use	The student will receive 10 days of out of school suspension.
5th Offense for Possession/Use	The student will receive 10 days of out of school suspension with the possibility of a recommendation for long term suspension.

Distribution/Delivery Consequences

Parent contact/notification and:

No less than 10 days OSS, legal authorities are notified and a complaint filed. If readmission is allowed, the student will be referred to the student assistance team.

Additionally, any student found to be in violation of this policy shall be referred to a Student Assistance Team. All offenses contemplated or otherwise covered by this policy shall require that the student forfeit all vaping devices and related vaping paraphernalia as defined by this policy in their possession. The principal, or designee, shall either deliver said vaping devices and/or vaping paraphernalia to the appropriate law enforcement agency or shall destroy said vaping devices and/or vaping paraphernalia at their sole discretion. This policy shall apply on school grounds at any and all times and/or off school grounds at any activity, function, or event, including buses.

1st Offense for Distribution/Delivery/Sharing/Providing to Another/Selling	The student will receive three days out of school suspension, be required to complete an educational program, and be referred to the Student Assistance Team. Parent contact will be made.
2nd Offense for Distribution/Delivery/Sharing/Providing to Another/Selling	The student will receive five days of out of school suspension.
3rd Offense for Distribution/Delivery/Sharing/Providing to Another/Selling	The student will receive 10 days of out of school suspension.
4th Offense for Distribution/Delivery/Sharing/Providing to Another/Selling	The student will receive 10 days of out of school suspension with the possibility of a recommendation for long term suspension.

USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES (6.46)

The Board recognizes that cell phones and similar wireless communication devices (hereinafter may be referred to as "devices") have become important tools through which people communicate with their children. These devices serve families well. though inappropriate use at school may challenge student engagement in classrooms and disrupt safe and orderly school environments. The Board prioritizes safe and orderly schools and engaging classroom environments conducive to learning. Accordingly, the Board seeks to minimize distraction and disruption for students and teachers. including those brought about by inappropriate use of personal wireless communication devices. Therefore, students are permitted to possess devices on school property subject to this policy as required by North Carolina Session Law 2025-38 / N.C.G.S. § I ISC-76.100.

For the purpose of this policy. "wireless communication devices" or "devices'· shall include any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, which may include, but is not limited to: cellular telephones. paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices, smartphones. smart watches, smart glasses, tablet computers. laptop computers, gaming devices. and other such internet access devices {whether bv cellular. wired. or wireless connection).

The appropriate use of cell phones and other devices covered bv this policy on all yellow school buses and activity buses during the instructional day should be monitored by supervising adults. Appropriate use is generally defined as for communication, texting or talking

with parents, and/or listening to recorded music. Inappropriate use is generally defined as distracting behavior to the driver and others in safely transporting students; for example, listening to music without earphones, taking pictures and/or videos of others, and wearing earphones boarding and departing of the bus. Students are allowed to use devices on yellow buses during transit from home to school or school to home and activity buses being operated in connection with extracurricular activities such as student organizations, band participation, and interscholastic athletics. In the event the driver and/or faculty member responsible for the supervision and safe operation of the activity bus determines that these devices are being used inappropriately, in violation of this policy, or in such a way that the noise or the use of such devices may interfere with the safe operation of the bus, said use may be prohibited for the duration of the trip.

Authorized Use During School Hours
The Board supports clear expectations for student behavior. To promote student classroom engagement, prevent disruptions to safe and orderly school environments. and to assist students in making healthy choices about their learning and digital habits, the Board establishes these parameters for the authorized student use of personal wireless communication devices during the school day.

Middle Schools
Students are permitted to possess personal wireless communication devices at school but must keep them turned off/silenced/in airplane mode between morning and afternoon bells and may not display, wear, use, or make them visible during this time period unless one of these exceptions applies:

a. Use of the personal wireless communication device during school hours is specifically authorized or required by a student's individualized education program (lEP) or Section 504 plan or bv the individualized health plan (IHP)developed by school nursing staff for that particular student.
b. The school administration has elected to allow classroom teachers, through the development of a school-wide policy or procedure, to authorize such devices to be displayed, worn, used, or visible for instructional purposes during instructional time, provided that teachers supervise students during such use, and the use is consistent with the teacher's authorization.
c. The student needs to use the device to communicate with parents/guardians or emergency service personnel in the event of a sudden emergency.

Aggravating factors may subject a student to more stringent disciplinary consequences, up to and including long term suspension. Examples of such factors include, but are not limited to using wireless communication devices:

1. to reproduce images of tests, to access unauthorized school information, or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation, or school rule; and
2. to take, send, share, view or possess illicit photographs, text messages, emails or other material of a sexual nature.

- If a student elects to use his/her personal device, the Davidson County Schools network cannot be accessed and the student must use the personal phone data plan for access to the internet. Neither the individual school nor the Davidson County Board of Education shall be responsible for any data charges, costs or expenses associated with such use.
- If the student's personal device has a "Hot Spot" capability, this function cannot be turned on or used while on Davidson County School property.
- If social media is used as an instructional tool, staff members must use a professional account, not a personal account, to communicate with students.

In accordance with school board policy 6.12. l Student Searches, a student's cell phone and similar wireless communication devices and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages, and digital photos may be searched when a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law or school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction

Liability
Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phone and wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any other wireless communication device.

STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE (Policy 6.37)
The following attire is considered **inappropriate** for secondary students:

- Clothing or attachments that are disruptive to the teaching learning process or are revealing, indecent, vulgar or obscene
- Clothing which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or the use of controlled substances by words or symbols, or is of a disruptive nature
- Hats, sweatbands, bandannas, or sunglasses inside school buildings (*unless allowed as part of a school-sponsored event)*
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses shorter than mid-thigh
- Shirts and blouses that do not cover the waist, midriff or go past the waistline
- Clothing that contains profanity, nudity, depicts violence or is sexual in nature by words or symbols
- Clothing that is sheer or mesh/undergarments that are visible
- Skin-tight clothing such as athletic/dance/exercise attire
- Footwear that may present a hazard to health and safety
- Oversized shirts due to the potential for concealment of disruptive/violent items/weapons
- Pants not worn at appropriate height (at the waist) or worn in such a manner that underwear is exposed to view or which are generally revealing in nature
- Pajamas
- Hoods

The principal or the principal's designee shall handle student violations of this policy. Before being disciplined, a student who is not in compliance with this policy will be given a reasonable period of time to adjust so that the student will be in compliance. The student will be required to change attire found in violation of the dress code.

Consequences:
1st offense: Warning
2nd offense: Detention
3rd offense: 2 Detentions
4th offense:1 day ISS
5th offense: OSS

As dress should not be a factor in providing an optimal instructional program, schools may elect to enact additional restrictions as deemed appropriate by the principal.

EXPECTATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Policy 7.6)
General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to use of school technological resources, including access to the Internet. In addition, anyone who uses school system computers or electronic devices, accesses the school's electronic storage or network, or connects to the Internet using school system-provided access must comply with the additional rules for responsible use listed in Section B, below. These rules are intended to clarify expectations for conduct but should not be construed as all-inclusive.

All students must be trained about appropriate online behavior as provided in policy 7.6, Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety.

Failure to adhere to the requirements of this policy will result in disciplinary action, including revocation of user privileges. Willful misuse may result in criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law, disciplinary action for students, and/or adverse personnel action for employees.

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible, efficient, and legal activities that support learning and teaching. Use of school system technological resources for commercial gain or profit is prohibited. Student personal use of school system technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited unless approved for special situations by the teacher or school administrator. Because some incidental and occasional personal use by employees is inevitable, the board permits infrequent and brief personal use by employees so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with school system business and is not otherwise prohibited by board policy or procedure.
2. Unless authorized by law to do so, users may not make copies of software purchased by the school system. Under no circumstance may software purchased by the school system be copied for personal use.

3. Users must comply with all applicable laws, board policies, administrative regulations, and school standards and rules including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and public records. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incident of plagiarism, as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
4. Users must follow any software, application, or subscription services terms and conditions of use.
5. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing, or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages, or other material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive, or considered to be harmful to minors.
6. Users must not circumvent firewalls. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.
7. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.
8. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).
9. Users must respect the privacy of others.
    a. Students must not reveal any personally identifying, private, or confidential information about themselves or fellow students when using e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication. Such information includes, for example, a person's home address or telephone number, credit or checking account information, or social security number. For further information regarding what constitutes personal identifying information, see policy 6.14.1, Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information.
    b. School employees must not disclose on school system websites or web pages or elsewhere on the Internet any personally identifiable, private, or confidential information concerning students (including names, addresses, or pictures) without the written permission of a parent or guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or policy 6.14, Student Records.
    c. Users may not forward or post personal communications without the author's prior consent. Students may not use school system technological resources to capture audio, video, or still pictures of other students and/or employees in which such individuals can be personally identified, nor share such media in any way, without consent of the students and/or employees and the principal or designee. An exception will be made for settings where students and staff cannot be identified beyond the context of a sports performance or other public event or when otherwise approved by the principal.
10. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software, computer networks, or data of any user connected to school system technological resources. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance, including by streaming audio and video for non-instructional purposes. Users may not disable antivirus programs installed on school system-owned or issued devices.
11. Users may not create or introduce games, network communications programs, or any foreign program or software onto any school system computer, electronic device, or network without the express permission of the technology director or designee.
12. Users are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities, such as "hacking" or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.
13. Users are prohibited from using another individual's ID or password for any technological resource or account without permission from the individual. Sharing of an individual's ID or password is strongly discouraged. If an ID or password must be shared for a unique classroom situation, students must have permission from the teacher or other school official.
14. Users may not read, alter, change, block, execute, or delete files or communications belonging to another user without the owner's express prior permission.
15. Employees shall not use passwords or user IDs for any data system (e.g., the state student information and instructional improvement system applications, time-keeping software, etc.) for an unauthorized or improper purpose.
16. If a user identifies or encounters an instance of unauthorized access or another security concern, he or she must immediately notify a teacher, school system administrator, or the technology director or designee. Users must not share the problem with other users. Any user identified as a security risk will be denied access.
17. It is the user's responsibility to back up data and other important files.
18. Employees shall make reasonable efforts to supervise students' use of the internet during instructional time.
19. Views may be expressed on the Internet or other technological resources as representing the view of the school system or part of the school system only with prior approval by the superintendent or designee.
20. Users who are issued school system-owned-and-maintained devices for home use (such as laptops, Chromebooks, etc.) must adhere to any other reasonable rules or guidelines issued by the superintendent or technology director for the use of such devices.

Restricted Material on The Internet

The Internet and electronic communications offer fluid environments in which students may access or be exposed to materials and information from diverse and rapidly changing sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The board recognizes that it is

impossible to predict with certainty what information on the Internet students may access or obtain. Nevertheless, school system personnel shall take reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic, or otherwise harmful to minors, including violence, nudity, or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The superintendent shall ensure that technology protection measures are used as provided in policy 7.6, Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety, and are disabled or minimized only when permitted by law and board policy. The board is not responsible for the content accessed by using a cellular network to connect a personal device to the Internet.

Privacy
Students, employees, visitors, and other users have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive, or display when using the school system's network, devices, Internet access, email system, or other technological resources owned or issued by the school system, whether the resources are used at school or elsewhere, and even if the use is for personal purposes. Users should not assume that files or communications created, transmitted, or displayed using school system technological resources or stored on servers, the storage mediums of individual devices, or on school managed cloud services will be private. Under certain circumstances, school officials may be required to disclose such electronic information to law enforcement or third parties, for example, as a response to a document production request in a lawsuit against the board, in response to a public records request, or as evidence of illegal activity in a criminal investigation.

The school system may, without notice, (1) monitor, track, and/or log network access, communications, and use; (2) monitor and allocate file server space; and (3) access, review, copy, store, delete, or disclose the content of all user files, regardless of all medium, the content of electronic mailboxes issued by the school system, and system outputs, such as printouts, at any time for any lawful purpose. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, maintaining system integrity, security, or functionality, ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations, protecting the school system from liability, and complying with public records requests. School system personnel shall monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned device. By using the school system's network, Internet access, electronic devices, email system, devices, or other technological resources, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized school system personnel as described in this policy.

Use of Personal Technology on School System Property
Users may not use private WiFi hotspots or other personal technology on campus to access the Internet outside the school system's wireless network. Each principal may establish rules for his or her school site as to whether and how other personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus. Students' devices are governed also by policy 6.46, Use of Wireless Communication Devices. Use of personal technology devices is also subject to any rules established by the superintendent under a bring your own device plan authorized by Section C of policy 7.6.1, Technology in the Educational Program, and for employees, policy 4.11.13, Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business. The school system assumes no responsibility for personal technology devices brought to school.

Personal Websites
The superintendent may use any means available to request the removal of personal websites that substantially disrupt the school environment or that utilize the school system or individual school names, logos, or trademarks without permission.

1. Students-Through school personnel generally do not monitor students' Internet activity conducted on non-school system devices during non-school hours, when the student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy to the extent consistent with law.
2. Employees-Employees' personal websites are subject to policy 4.28, Section 1, Employee Use of Social Media. Employees may not use their personal websites to communicate with students, as prohibited by policy 4.28 and policy 4.11.3, Staff-Student Relations.
3. Volunteers-Volunteers are to maintain appropriate relationships with students at all times. Volunteers are encouraged to block students from viewing personal information on volunteer personal websites or online networking profiles in order to prevent the possibility that students could view materials that are not age-appropriate. An individual volunteer's relationship with the school system may be terminated if the volunteer engages in inappropriate online interaction with students.

Use Agreements
All students, parents, and employees will be informed annually of the information in this policy. Prior to using school system technological resources, students and employees must agree to comply with the requirements of this policy and consent to the school system's use of monitoring systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use of technological resources. In addition, the student's parent must consent to

the student accessing the Internet and to the school system monitoring the student's Internet activity and electronic mailbox issued by the school system.

GENERATIVE AI STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RELATED POLICY

Students will adhere to the parameters set by teachers on the acceptable level of Generative AI use on assignments. Failure to adhere to assignment expectations will be in violation of Board policy 6.11.1 which states that utilizing Generative AI and representing it as your own work is considered plagiarism.

USE OF GENERATIVE AI TOOLS

1. Students and teachers must adhere to the age restrictions outlined in Terms of Service for any digital tool including Generative AI tools.
2. Students must always start by asking the teacher for permission to use GenAI for assigned work.
3. Once obtaining permission, students should document their usage of the GenAI and specify which information was contributed by AI and which was the student's original work.
4. Cite the tool used when the work is submitted.

Examples:

Appropriate Use of GenAI	Inappropriate Use of GenAI
Research Assistance: Use AI to help brainstorm topics, questions, and collect information **Personalized Learning:** Use AI as a tutor for individualized support with specific topics **Feedback:** Submit your work (without personally identifiable information) for feedback, grammar checks, etc. **Creative Projects:** Create original music, images, and text using AI to represent your learning **Accessibility:** Students may use tools such as text-to-speech, translation, vision capabilities, etc.	**Bullying and Harassment:** Using AI to manipulate media to bully, harass, or conduct any other form of intimidation is strictly prohibited. **Plagiarizing** Using AI to rephrase content instead of using your own words **Not asking permission** Teachers must give permission for AI tools to be used on assignments **Submitting work entirely generated by AI** If your voice is not a part of the work and AI did all of the "thinking" **Misinformation** Not fact-checking the information provided by AI (these tools are not always accurate)

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF STUDENTS (Policy 6.11.2)
North Carolina General Statutes gives the principal of a school the authority to grade and classify students and to exercise discipline over the students. In exercising the authority concerning suspensions granted by this statute, the principal shall follow the procedures hereinafter set forth in order to ensure that any student who is to be suspended is afforded due process of law.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the policies and procedures for the discipline of students with disabilities shall be consistent with federal laws and regulations. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 115C-390.11, the board of education may expel a student from school who is at least 14 years old and whose behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees.

Pre-Suspension Rights of the Student
A student must be provided with an opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal before a short-term suspension is imposed. The principal or designee may hold the hearing immediately after giving the student oral or written notice of the charges against him or her. At the informal hearing, the student has the right to be present, to be informed of the charges and the basis for the accusations against him or her, and to make statements in defense or mitigation of the charges.

The principal may impose a short-term suspension without first providing the student with an opportunity for a hearing if the presence of

the student (1) creates a direct and immediate threat to the safety of other students or staff or (2) 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 the student notice of the charges and an opportunity for an informal hearing as soon as practicable.

Student Rights during the Suspension
A student under a short-term suspension must be provided with the following:

- the opportunity to take textbooks home for the duration of the suspension;
- upon request, the right to receive all missed assignments and, to the extent practicable, the materials distributed to students in connection with such assignments; and
- the opportunity to take any and all tests including any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period.

Notice to Parent or Guardian
When imposing a short-term suspension, the principal or designee shall provide the student's parent or guardian with notice that includes the reason for the suspension and a description of the student conduct upon which the suspension is based. The principal or designee must give this notice by the end of the workday during which the suspension is imposed when reasonably possible, but in no event more than two days after the suspension is 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 initial notice may be by telephone, but it must be followed by timely written notice. The written notice must include all of the information listed above and may be sent by fax, e-mail or any other method reasonably designed to give actual notice. School officials also shall maintain a copy of the written notice in the student's educational record.

Multiple short-term suspensions for a student with disabilities will be addressed in accordance with the Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities and other applicable state and federal law.

STUDENT SEARCHES (Policy 6.12.1)
School administrators have the authority to conduct reasonable searches and seize students' unauthorized materials for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and for upholding standards of conduct established by the board or school. Any searches or seizures must be conducted in accordance with the standards described in this policy and any other applicable legal requirements. All school officials carrying out a search or seizure are expected to be knowledgeable about the legal rights of students and the appropriate procedures for conducting the search or seizure. A search must be justified at its inception, permissible in scope, and conducted using methods that are narrowly tailored to be minimally intrusive. School officials shall make reasonable, good faith efforts to investigate allegations of misconduct before a student search is conducted. This policy does not apply to investigations conducted by law enforcement officials or to investigations conducted exclusively for the purpose of criminal prosecution. This policy applies to searches conducted on school grounds, in school facilities, or at school-sponsored events.

A. Searches Based on Individualized Reasonable Suspicion
A student or the student's possessions may be searched when a school official has reasonable suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, school board policy, or a school rule. This reasonable suspicion must be based upon specific and articulable facts, which have been acquired through reliable and/or corroborated information from employees, students, law enforcement officers, or other credible sources, or upon visual or other evidence (e.g. the smell of alcohol or marijuana, an alert from a metal detector or drug dog) viewed in light of the totality of the circumstances and the school official's professional judgment. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search, and the methods used to conduct the search must be narrowly tailored to be minimally intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. Reasonable suspicion is not required if a student freely, voluntarily, and knowingly consents and agrees to the search of his or her person or personal effects. A student's failure to permit reasonable searches and seizures as provided by this policy will be considered a violation of the expected standard of behavior and appropriate consequences may be imposed.

In accordance with the standards described above, the board authorizes the following types of searches based on reasonable suspicion:
1. Searches of Personal Effects
School officials may search a student's desk, locker, and/or personal effects, including but not limited to purses, book bags, and clothing (for example, coats or jackets) not currently being worn by the student. Policy 6.46, Use of Wireless Communication Devices, addresses the circumstances under which searches of student cell phones and other electronic devices may be conducted.

2. Searches of Motor Vehicles
School officials may search the interior of a student's motor vehicle.

3. "Pat-down" Searches
A school official may conduct a frisk or "pat-down" search of a student's person. The search must be conducted in private by a school official with an adult witness present. Both the school official conducting the search and the adult witness must be the same sex as the student.

4. More Intrusive Personal Searches
More intrusive personal searches are discouraged and are to be used only in very limited circumstances. A personal search is more intrusive when it extends beyond a student's personal effects and outer clothing and potentially exposes intimate body parts and/or undergarments. Such intrusive personal searches will be permissible only if: (1) the school official has reasonable suspicion that a search of a particular student will yield dangerous contraband (e.g., drugs or weapons); and (2) the school official has reasonable suspicion that the student has hidden the contraband in his or her undergarments. This search must be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only with the prior approval of the superintendent or designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay that might be caused by following these procedures. Body cavity searches and searches that require a student to completely disrobe are strictly prohibited.

5. Metal Detector Searches
Except as provided in Section B.2, below, a metal detector may be used to search a student's person and/or personal effects. The search must be conducted by a school official and will be done in private, when feasible.

B. Suspicionless General Searches
In an effort to maintain a safe, drug-free, and weapon-free learning environment, school officials may conduct certain types of general, suspicionless searches in the schools. All general searches must be conducted in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner (e.g., all students in randomly selected classrooms, every third individual entering a school-sponsored extracurricular activity) and may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals. The searches must be conducted in accordance with standardized procedures established by the superintendent or designee. Absent exigent circumstances (e.g., a report of a weapon on campus), prior to conducting general searches, school administrators must: (1) demonstrate to the superintendent or designee the need for general searches based upon a pattern or expectation of violence, drug activity, or disruption; and (2) provide written notice to students and parents of the school policy and/or procedures governing general searches, but not of specific times when or places where searches will be conducted. When conducted in accordance with the standards described above and any corresponding procedures, the board authorizes the following types of general, suspicionless searches.

1. Searches of Desks and Lockers
School officials may conduct routine searches of student desks and lockers. Student desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their desks and lockers. Student desks and lockers may not be used to store illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials. A student's personal effects found within a desk or locker, such as a backpack, gym bag, or purse, may be searched only in accordance with the guidelines for individualized searches of personal effects described in Section A, above.

2. Point-of-Entry Metal Detector Searches
Due to the increasing problem of weapons in schools, school officials may use metal detectors to conduct general point-of-entry searches of students and other persons for weapons.

3. Use of Trained Dogs
With the prior approval of the superintendent, and in conjunction with local law enforcement, school officials may use trained dogs (canines) to locate illegal materials. All dogs must be accompanied by a certified and authorized trainer who is responsible for the dog's actions and who is able to verify the dog's reliability and accuracy in sniffing out illegal material. Trained dogs may sniff lockers, desks, book bags, motor vehicles, and other inanimate objects. Dogs may not be used to sniff students or other persons under any circumstances. No students should be present during a dog search. Before a search occurs in a classroom, students will first be moved to a location outside the classroom.

C. Seized Items
Any illegal contraband seized by school officials must be promptly turned over to the proper law enforcement authorities.

D. Failure to Cooperate
A student's failure to cooperate with a reasonable search or seizure as provided in this policy will be considered a violation of the expected standard of behavior, and will subject the student to appropriate consequences. Any person who is not a student who refuses to permit a general metal detector search of his or her person and/or belongings at the point-of-entry to a school-sponsored activity may be denied entry to the activity.

E. Notice
School principals shall take reasonable steps to provide notice of this policy to students and parents at the start of each school year.

NOTIFICATIONS

More information about each of the following notifications can be found on the Davidson County Schools website under School Board Policy.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES (1.7/4.19/6.33) & EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (Policy 6.39.4)
Davidson County Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability or age (40 or over), and will provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law. Davidson County Schools will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination or harassment in any of its educational activities or programs. Every student should be given an equal opportunity for a sound basic education.

Students, visitors, and other non-employee individuals who believe that they may have been discriminated against or harassed should report such conduct as soon as possible through the process provided in Section B of policy 6.33.

Title IX coordinator: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Section 504 Coordinator: Coordinator for Student Services
ADA coordinator: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Davidson County Schools ~ P.O. Box 2057, Lexington, NC 27293 ~ (336) 249-8182

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN
This notice is to inform you, as required by the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), that the documentation for the Davidson County Schools (DCS) Asbestos Management Plan, the semiannual surveillance inspections and the three-year re-inspections are available for your review. These documents are on file at each school and with the Operations Department. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director of Operations (336) 249-8182.

HOMELESS STUDENTS (Policy 6.1.2)
School social workers are a primary resource for assisting families with services. For information about the educational rights for homeless students, please consult Policy 6.1.2 and/or contact the Director of Student Services (336) 249-8182.

PEST MANAGEMENT (Policy 3.7.4)
Davidson County Schools has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a holistic, preventive approach to managing pests that minimizes pesticide use in our schools and on school grounds. Our school system may find it necessary to use pesticides to control pests at your school or other school system sites. North Carolina state law gives you the right to be notified 72 hours in advance of pesticide applications. In order to do so you must complete a request form. The form can be obtained from your school or it can found on the Davidson County Schools webpage:

>Departments
>Operations
>Pest Management Information
>Request for Notification

STUDENT RECORDS (Policy 6.14)
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of students' education records. FERPA gives parents/guardians the right to refuse release of directory information by filing a note of "Don't Release" in the school's office at the beginning of the school year. Parents/guardians (or eligible students) have the right to inspect their child(ren)'s records. These rights transfer to the student when the student becomes 18 years of age. Parents/eligible students have the right to request a correction to records. If the parents/eligible students do not feel the school's response is adequate, a formal hearing may be requested. A rebuttal

statement by the parents/eligible student(s) may be placed within the record. FERPA protects the release of directory information except in the following circumstances:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest
- Other schools to which a student is transferring
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation
- Appropriate parties offering financial aid to a student
- Approved agencies conducting research in DCS
- Accrediting organizations
- Judicial order or subpoena compliance
- Health, safety, court and law enforcement officials

STUDENT SURVEYS (Policy 6.14.2)
Various federal and state programs (School Improvement, Safe Schools, etc.) require schools to conduct surveys of students and parents. The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. More information can be found in Policy 6.14.2 Surveys of Students.

STUDENT WELLNESS (Policy 7.11)
Davidson County Schools has adopted a policy to encourage students to be healthy and active, including compliance with the State Board of Education's Healthy Active Children. More information about the content and implementation of the policy can be found on the district website or by contacting the Director of Student Services (336) 249-8182.

Your future. Our focus.
DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Davidson County Schools

Middle School Handbook Signature Page

Student Name _____

HR Teacher _____

I have reviewed the information in this student handbook and understand the expectations for me to be successful as a student in Davidson County Schools. I will do my best to meet these expectations and accept responsibility when I fail to do so.

Student Name (Printed)_____

Signature _____ Date_____

I have reviewed the information in this student handbook with my student and understand the expectations for them to be successful as a student in Davidson County