



Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook

2026-2027 School Year

I. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Greene County School System is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment where all students can achieve academic success and develop into responsible, productive citizens. Discipline is a teaching tool, not merely a consequence. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to:

- Promote positive student behavior
- Ensure safe and secure schools
- Provide clear expectations and consequences
- Support students through interventions and behavioral supports (MTSS/PBIS)

Students are expected to:

- Respect themselves, others, and authority
- Participate actively in learning
- Follow school rules and procedures
- Contribute to a positive school climate

II. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

This Code of Conduct applies to student behavior:

1. On school property at any time
2. At school-sponsored events
3. On school transportation and bus stops
4. While traveling to/from school events
5. Off-campus when behavior impacts school safety or disrupts operations

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DISCIPLINE

Discipline decisions will be based on a progressive discipline model:

- Severity of the offense
- Student's age and grade level
- Prior disciplinary history
- Intent and circumstances
- Impact on school environment
- Disability status (IDEA/Section 504 compliance)

Administrators maintain final discretion in all disciplinary decisions.

IV. MULTI-TIERED STUDENT SUPPORTS (MTSS/PBIS)

Greene County Schools utilize the following:

- PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports)
- MTSS for Behavior

Supports may include but not limited to:

- Counseling services
- Behavior interventions

- Check-in/check-out systems
- Wraparound services

Discipline events may trigger additional support and interventions.

V. LEVELS OF MISCONDUCT

Level I – Minor Misconduct

Behavior that disrupts the learning environment but does not threaten safety.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Disruptive behavior
- Tardiness
- Dress code violations
- Minor disrespect
- Classroom misconduct
- Minor bus infractions

Possible Consequences but not limited to:

- Warning or redirection
- Parent contact
- Detention
- ISS (per progression chart)
- Behavior contract
- Loss of privileges

*Note- When a classroom teacher has made three (3) documented attempts to address and correct a student's behavior, and the student fails to comply, an office-level referral shall be submitted. The referral will be reviewed by school administration and addressed in accordance with the Greene County School System (GCSS) Progressive Discipline Model.

Level II – Moderate Misconduct

Behavior that interferes with safety or learning and may require administrative action.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying) (see O.C.G.A. 2020.29)
- Fighting (minor)
- Disrespect toward staff
- Academic dishonesty
- Theft (minor)
- Vaping/tobacco
- Repeated Level I violations

Possible Consequences but not limited to:

- ISS or OSS (up to 10 days) and Referral to MTSS
- Loss of privileges (parking, extracurriculars)

- Behavioral intervention
- Referral to Disciplinary Hearing (if warranted)

Level III – Major Misconduct

Serious offenses that threaten safety or violate law.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Weapons possession
- Drugs/alcohol
- Aggravated assault/battery
- Sexual offenses
- Major theft or vandalism
- Bomb threats or false alarms
- Gang activity
- Threats of violence

Possible Consequences but not limited to:

- Immediate OSS and Referral to MTSS
- Referral to Disciplinary Tribunal
- Long-term suspension or expulsion
- Alternative school placement (PREP)
- Law enforcement referral

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE MODEL (GRADES 6–12)

In alignment with district goals, Greene County will implement a graduated discipline model for behavioral infractions:

Referral Progression Chart

Referral #	Consequence Level I	Consequence Level II	Consequence Level III
1st	1 day ISS	1 to 5 Day(s) ISS/ Refer to MTSS	5 to 10 Days OSS/ Refer to MTSS/DISCIPLINARY HEARING POSSIBLE DEPENDING ON SEVERITY
2nd	2 days ISS	3 to 7 Days ISS	Disciplinary Hearing/Tribunal
3rd	3 days ISS/ Refer to MTSS	3 to 5 Days OSS	
4th	4 days ISS	5 to 10 Days OSS	
5th	1 day OSS	Disciplinary Hearing/Tribunal	
6th	2 days OSS		
7th	3 days OSS		
8th	Disciplinary Hearing/Tribunal		

***ISS- In-School Suspension**

***OSS- Out of School Suspension**

***MTSS- Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

Important Notes:

- Administrators may adjust based on circumstances
- Severe behaviors may bypass this progression
- All applicable state laws will be followed in lieu of progression chart warranted

VI. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND TRIBUNALS

A student may be referred to a disciplinary hearing for:

- Level III offenses
- Repeated Level II offenses
- Severe or dangerous conduct

Outcomes may include:

- Long-term suspension
- Expulsion with optional assignment to alternative school (PREP)
- General expulsion

Parents may waive hearing rights and accept consequences.

VIII. TEACHER AUTHORITY (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738)

Teachers have the authority to:

- Manage classrooms
- Remove disruptive students (based on school-level administrative protocols)
- Refer students to administration

Students who repeatedly disrupt learning may be removed and assigned consequences.

IX. STUDENT SEARCHES

School officials may search:

- Lockers, desks, vehicles
- Individuals and/or their personal belongings (with reasonable suspicion)

The district may use:

- Metal detectors
- Drug detection dogs
- Additional electronic safety measures

X. BUS CONDUCT

Transportation is a privilege, not a right.

Misbehavior may result in:

- Seat reassignment
- Bus suspension
- Referral to administration

XI. STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to:

- A safe learning environment
- Due process in disciplinary matters

Students are responsible for:

- Following rules
- Respecting others
- Accepting consequences

XII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All discipline will comply with:

- IDEA
- Section 504

Manifestation determinations will be conducted when required.

XIII. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are expected to:

- Review student behavior expectations
- Participate in conferences
- Support school discipline decisions

Strong school-family partnerships are essential.

XIV. REPETITIVE DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

Students identified with repetitive discipline concerns may:

- Require behavioral interventions
- Require behavior contracts
- Require parent conferences
- Be assigned alternative placement

XV. LEGAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The district will report required offenses under:

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184, including:

- Weapons violations
- Drug offenses

- Violent acts

XVI. RESTRICTIONS DURING DISCIPLINE

Students assigned:

- ISS, OSS, or alternative placement

May NOT:

- Attend extracurricular activities
- Be on school property (OSS)
- Alternative school students are only allowed on the property of the Alternative School Facilities.

XVII. FINAL AUTHORITY

The Greene County School System reserves the right to:

- Modify disciplinary actions based on circumstances
- Update this Code of Conduct as needed

Level I Misconduct

An act of misconduct at Level 1 generally requires staff intervention but does not seriously endanger the health or safety of others. For a first time Level 1 offense, disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to the following: loss of privileges, parent/teacher conferences, assignment of a school service or project related to the misbehavior, a behavior contract, detention, in-school suspension (ISS) short-term out-of-school suspension (OSS, less than 10 days), administrative probation contract or other reasonable disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal or his or her designee. For Level 1 bus misbehavior, the school bus driver may reassign the student's seat, notify the parent/guardian, or refer the matter to a school administrator.

Level II Misconduct

Level II misconduct may result in an immediate disciplinary action by a school -level administrator up to and including short-term (10 days or less) out-of-school suspension pending a hearing before the Student Disciplinary Hearing Officer. In addition to the above, school administrators may also impose such lesser disciplinary measures as appropriate. Examples of such measures may include, but are not limited to: an Administrative Probation, revocation of parking privileges, school bus suspension, and assignment to ISS. Following a student disciplinary hearing, a student found to have committed an act of Level II misconduct may be subject to long-term suspension, expulsion, or given the option to attend the alternative program. A subsequent Level II offense may be considered to be an aggravating factor by the Student Disciplinary Hearing Officer when determining the appropriate level of discipline to impose.

Level III Misconduct

Misconduct at Level III may result in immediate disciplinary action by a school-level administrator up to and including short-term out-of-school suspension (10 days or less) pending a hearing before the Student Disciplinary Hearing Officer. In addition, school administrators may revoke a student's parking privileges, impose a school bus suspension and assign the student to in-school suspension. If a student is found to have committed a Level III offense by a Student Disciplinary Hearing Officer, the student may be given additional days of in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled for a designated period of time expelled on a permanent basis and given the option to attend the alternative education program.

The Hearing Officer is also authorized to impose additional sanctions, including revocation of bus privileges, restrictions on participation in extracurricular activities and imposition of re-enrollment conditions for students involved in drug or alcohol offenses, and/or assign administrative probation.

XVIII. Student Athlete Expectations

GCSS Athletics: Code of Ethics

The Athletic Director and Head Coach should make sure all athletes understand the Code of Ethics. All coaches must enforce on a consistent basis the expectations set on the code of ethics.

The athlete is expected:

- To abide by the GCSS Student Code of Conduct.
- To display a sense of pride and commitment when representing GCSS
- To respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.
- To be a positive role model for other students and athletes in academics, language, dress, behavior, both on and off the playing area. Remember that a student athlete assumes a leadership role and that younger students emulate their behavior.
- To be a positive role model to other students and athletes by not attending nightclubs, or other places of entertainment, which serve alcohol.
- To be respectful of those in authority.
- To attend school regularly and be punctual to class.
- To always be a good sport and demonstrate self-control and mutual respect at all times.
- To use self-discipline in coping with stressful situations.
- To avoid the use of profanity, abusive language or gestures in dealing with opponents, officials or spectators.
- To abstain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco at all times.
- To accept decisions of officials without question.
- To accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity; poor winners or losers do a disservice to themselves. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.
- To avoid displays of self-glorifications and always put the team first.
- PLAY FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME.

Violators of this code are subject to suspension/dismissal from the team.

Student Athlete Attendance Requirements

1. A student athlete must be in attendance for at least a half day in order to participate in a practice or game.
2. A student athlete who goes on a field trip is not considered absent.
3. All student athletes are required to attend all scheduled team practices and contests unless specifically excused for medical, religious, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the coach and/or athletic director.
4. Student athletes should be prepared to practice on weekends and during school vacations. Outside commitments that restrict practice attendance on weekends and during school vacations are not acceptable. Student athletes who miss practice will be subject to discipline by the coach. This policy does not apply to absences for religious reasons.

5. Student athletes cannot miss practices or events to attend other extra-curricular activities. This is one of the sacrifices student athletes must make and is essential to team building.
6. It is recommended that parents plan vacations so as not to conflict with their son's/daughter's participation on a team.

Student Athlete Behavior Requirements

A student athlete that has been assigned to OSS or ISS may not participate in a practice or a game until the OSS/ISS has been satisfactorily completed.

- OSS is effective from the time the disposition is assessed until the beginning of the first day that the student is back in school.
- ISS is effective from the time of the disposition until the end of the last day of the ISS assignment.
 - Additional discipline referrals resulting in ISS or OSS will follow the standard procedures listed above with and additional:
 - 3rd discipline referral results in an additional 3-day suspension from all sport activities.
 - 4th discipline referral results in an additional 3-day suspension from all sport activities.
 - 5th discipline referral results in an additional 3-day suspension from all sport activities.
- An athlete removed for the semester will have the opportunity to participate during the next semester. This athlete will be on athletic probation.
 - 2nd referral in the semester resulting in ISS/OSS will result in suspension for the rest of the semester.

Loss of Eligibility: Students assigned to an alternative school or on out-of- school suspension for disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

Student Athlete Academic Requirements

Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSA)

A student athlete may participate in extra-curricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student athlete meets the following GHSA requirements:

1. **First year students - Rising 9th graders** are eligible academically. Second semester first- year students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units the previous semester in order to participate.
2. **Second year students - Rising 10th graders** must accumulate five (5) Carnegie units in the first year and must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
3. **Third year students- Rising 11th graders** must accumulate eleven (11) Carnegie units in the first and second years and must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
4. **Fourth year students - Rising 12th graders** must have accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units in the first three years and must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.

Greene County School System Athletic Policy

Greene County School System has created a policy for student athletes to further ensure their academic success. If a student athlete fails one or more classes at any academic check point starting with 4.5 weeks, they will meet with their teacher and coaches to set up a tutoring plan. The student athlete will have 2 weeks to bring all grades up to 70 or higher.

- Within that 2-week period, if the student athlete improves grades and is now passing all of their classes, they will return to good academic standing.
- After 2 weeks, if the student athlete fails one or more classes, they will go on academic probation in which they can practice but not play games or travel until the student athlete has brought grades up to 70 or higher.
- The two-week process continues at this point throughout the remainder of the semester. The process begins again at the 4.5-week check point of the following semester and repeats until graduation.
- The Principal and Athletic Director have the right to waive the 2-week requirement for extenuating circumstances.

CODE OF CONDUCT- DESCRIPTIONS- ALL STUDENTS

Level I Offenses

- **Bus Misbehavior**

A student shall not disregard the directions of school bus drivers or school bus aides or otherwise fail to comply with the Student Code of conduct while on the bus. In addition to the other rules in this Student Code of Conduct, students will (a) load and unload the school bus in a safe and orderly manner; (b) be at the bus stop on time; (c) go directly to an available or assigned seat upon entering the school bus; (d) refrain from bringing oversized or potentially dangerous objects onto the school bus; (e) keep the school bus aisle free of all objects; (f) refrain from eating, drinking, or chewing gum; (g) keep seating area clean and in good, safe condition; and (h) refrain from distracting the driver.

- **Disregarding Instructions of a School Official**

A student shall not disregard the instructions of school personnel. Examples of noncompliant conduct include continued refusal to complete assignments, violating classroom rules and decorum, and failing to follow instructions and guidelines during extracurricular activities and field trips.

- **Disrupting the School Environment**

A student shall not engage in any conduct which is reasonably likely to distract students from learning or disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or any other instructional setting.

- **Excessive Tardiness**

A student shall not report late to school or class without a valid excuse from his/her parent/guardian. Excessive tardies may subject a student to discipline under this rule.

- **Failure to Serve a Teacher Assigned Detention**

A student shall not fail to serve teacher assigned detention.

- **Gambling**

A student shall not participate in any form of gambling or be in possession of any gambling device or item which can be used to promote or facilitate gambling; provided, however, nothing in this section shall prohibit a student from participating in school-sponsored raffles. Students who participate in gambling activities involving amounts of \$100.00 or more may be charged with violating Rule 2.30.

- **Inappropriate Physical Contact**

A student shall not engage in an inappropriate physical contact with another student to include pushing and shoving. Students who participate in more severe levels of physical contact may be charged with Rule (Fighting).

- **Inappropriate Public Display of Affection**

A student shall not engage in an inappropriate public display of affection.

- **Use of Profanity or Obscene Language**

A student shall not use profanity or obscene language, even if the profanity or obscene language is not directed toward another or intended to be heard by another. A student who directs profanity or obscene language or gestures toward another person shall be charged with rule 2.04.

- **Littering**

A student shall not throw, leave or dispose of litter or waste except in a designated trash can or recycling container.

- **Minor Parking Violation**

A student shall not violate any published rules or regulations related to driving on campus.

- **Minor School Disturbance**

A student shall not engage in any conduct which is reasonably likely to distract other students or interfere with learning for a short duration. A student who engages in conduct which disrupts the education process for any significant duration may be charged with a violation of Rule 2.28. A student who creates a material or substantial disruption may be charged with rule 3.11.

- **Dress Code Violation**

Students are expected to follow school and agenda specific descriptions for dress code. A student shall not violate the published dress code of his or her school.

- **Sleeping in Class**

A student shall not sleep in class or engage in any other off-task behaviors.

- **Subsequent Level I Offense**

A student who commits a second violation of a Level 1 offense within the same school year may be subject to Level II and/or Level III disciplinary action.

Level II Offenses

- **Bus Misbehavior**

A student shall not disregard the directions of school bus drivers and school bus aides or otherwise fail to comply with the Student Code of Conduct while on the bus. In addition, students will (a) not use loud voices, profanity, or obscene gestures; (b) remain properly seated until they are instructed to unload the school bus; (c) not push and shove other students or engage in horseplay while waiting to load the school bus, while loading or unloading the school bus, or while on the school bus; (d) not extend head, arms, hands, or other objects out of the bus windows; (e) not throw objects from the school bus or while inside the school bus; (f) not use any electronic devices which might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus, including cell phones, pagers, and CD or MP3 players or similar devices; (g) not intentionally ignore or refuse to comply with the safety-related directive of a school bus driver or other school district employee; (h) not use mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective device in any manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

- **Bullying**

A student shall not bully another student. Bullying is defined as (1) any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by a present ability to do so; (2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or (3) any intentional written, verbal or physical act(s) which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass or intimidate, that: (a) causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; (c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or (d) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Upon a finding by the Disciplinary Hearing Officer that a student in grades six through 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be given the option to attend the alternative program in lieu of expulsion. (4) Retaliation by a student against another who made a bullying report is strictly prohibited. The retaliating student will be subject to a disciplinary hearing with possible law enforcement charges filed. Some examples of bullying are listed, but are not limited to the following, direct bullying (e.g., hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, taunting, hazing, making degrading racial or sexual comments, using threatening speech or threatening behavior or obscene gestures) and indirect bullying (e.g., getting another person to assault a student, spreading rumors, deliberate exclusion from a group or activity and cyber bullying).

- **Cheating**

A student shall not engage in any act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes (1) cheating; intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise (e.g., copying another student's work); (2) fabrication; intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise; (3) facilitation of academic dishonesty; intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty; or (4) plagiarism: intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

- **Directing Obscene, Offensive or Profane Language**

A student shall not direct any vulgar, profane, indecent or obscene language or gestures at any person.

- **Disrespectful Behavior/Disregard for Directions or Commands**

(a) A student will not disregard the directions or commands of teachers, administrators, other faculty or staff, or other school officials. Disregard for directions or commands includes without limitation failure to follow school rules and/or Board policy. (b) A student will not engage in disrespectful behavior, including without limitation rude behavior; profanity; ethnic, racial, religious, or sexual slurs, or derogatory statements; name calling; indecent, lewd, or vulgar language or conduct; defamatory statements; and/or taunting.

- **Electronic/Communication Device**

Use during school hours of a beeper, pager, cellular phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), any visual and/or audio recording device or other electronic equipment is prohibited except where the student receives prior permission from the principal or principal's designee for use of the item. Phones and other electronic devices must remain off during instructional classes. Failure to silence an electronic device shall be a violation of this rule. Schools are not responsible for loss, theft or replacement of items. Electronic devices used without permission may be confiscated by the administration. Possession and transmission of pornographic materials via electronic devices can result in violations of other provisions of the Student Code of Conduct (e.g., rules 2.16 and 2.17) and may result in a recommendation of suspension, option to attend the alternative program, or expulsion.

- **Fighting and/or Simple Battery**

No student shall intentionally make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with another person, or intentionally cause physical harm to another. A student may be charged with violating this rule even if the victim does not suffer any visible bodily harm. Examples of prohibited conduct include punching, slapping, wrestling, spitting/use of bodily fluids between students; or participating in an altercation.

- **Fleeing a School District Employee/Interference with School Operations**

A student shall not prevent, interfere with, resist or intimidate school personnel in the performance of their duties or attempt to do so. A student shall not prevent or attempt to prevent another student from participating in educational activities, disciplinary hearings or administrative investigations. Prohibited conduct under this rule includes, but is not limited to, fleeing or running from school personnel, refusing to cooperate with a search to recover dangerous or contraband items and threatening to retaliate against a student or other person who cooperates or provides testimony related to an investigation or disciplinary hearing.

- **Gang Activity**

A student shall not engage in conduct that is reasonably viewed as promoting or advertising participation in a street gang, as defined by O.C.G. A. § 16-16-3. A student who causes property damage as a result of any act of gang-related painting, marking, or writing on or tagging of school property may also be charged with a violation of rule 2.13 (Destruction of Property) or rule 3.15 (Damage to Property).

- **Inappropriate Use of Technology**

A student shall not use technology resources to:

- Send, display, access, publish or download material or content that is obscene, offensive, vulgar, and/or pornographic by electronic means;
- Engage in any violation of the school district policies or the Student Code of Conduct, including bullying, cyber bullying, harassment or threats of violence;
- Use obscene, profane, discriminatory, threatening or inflammatory language;
- Damage computers, computer systems, software/programs or computer networks (this includes changing workstation and printer configuration).
- Engage in “hacking” or any other attempt to compromise the security or configuration of any computer system, including the use of proxy servers or other filter avoidance measures;
- Violate copyright laws or engage in any illegal activity;
- Use or access another users’ computer ID, file folders, work or password;
- Participate in or use electronic mail, instant messaging, chat rooms or other forms of direct electronic communication unless expressly authorized by and under the direct supervision of school personnel;
- Publish, display or share material that is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the school environment;
- Use a non-teacher approved site on the internet.

- **Intentionally Providing False Information**

A student shall not: (a) provide a false name when requested to identify himself or herself; (b) falsify school records; (c) make false statements or provide other false information to school personnel; (d)

engage in any act of deception or falsification; or (e) forge another person's signature or present a document with a forged signature. A student who knowingly and intentionally falsifies, misrepresents, omits or erroneously reports information regarding an instance of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator or other school employee toward a student may be charged with violating rule 3.25.

- **Destruction of Property (\$500 or less)**

A student shall not intentionally damage or deface the property of another, including school district property, without the consent of the owner. If the value of the property is more than \$500.00, the student will be charged with a violation of Rule 3.12

- **Possession of Contraband**

A student shall not possess any item expressly prohibited in the classroom or at school level by teachers, administrators or other school personnel. In addition to any contraband identified at the school level, all students shall be prohibited from possessing laser light pointers.

- **Possession of Obscene and/or Offensive Materials or Use of Obscene and/or Offensive Manifestations**

A student shall not possess, display, publish or share any obscene, lewd, vulgar or pornographic material. A student shall not direct obscene, vulgar or profane forms of expression (verbal, written or gesture) toward another person.

- **Possession of Stolen Property**

A student shall not possess property which the student knows or reasonably should know to be stolen.

- **Sexual Harassment**

A student shall not engage in any act of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct that is sexual in nature and/or conduct that is directed at another person based on sex. Sexual harassment which involves threats of violence or any other criminal act will result in the student being charged with an appropriate Level III violation. Pending a student disciplinary hearing, the accused student may be subject to certain restrictions, including but not limited to OSS, ISS, reassignment to a different school, class reassignment, and/or bus reassignment in order to eliminate or minimize contact with the victim.

- **Possession and/or use of Tobacco**

A student shall not possess or distribute any type of cigarette, tobacco, tobacco product, tobacco related object or look-alike objects which appear to be cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products or tobacco related objects. Tobacco related objects include any object or device which may be used to consume tobacco, including smoking paraphernalia, wrapping or rolling papers, matches, and lighters.

- **Simple Assault**

No student shall (1) attempt to inflict a violent injury upon another person; or (2) commit any act which places another in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury.

- **Theft (\$1500 or less)**

A student shall not take, be in possession of or dispose of the property of another, including school district property, without the consent of the owner. If the value of the property is more than \$1,500.00, the student will be charged with a violation of Rule 3.20.

- **Threats and/or Extortion**

A student shall not threaten, either verbally, electronically or in writing, to cause injury to the person or property of another person, either directly to the intended victim or to another person (see 2.02 Bullying). Additionally, a student shall not attempt to obtain anything of value from another by threatening to (a) inflict bodily injury; (b) commit a criminal offense; (c) accuse another of committing a criminal offense; (d) disseminate any information tending to harm the reputation of another. Completion of the threat constitutes a LEVEL III offense.

- **Trespassing**

A student shall not enter any school district property without permission when neither school nor a school related activity is in session; remain on school district property when directed to leave by a school or law enforcement official; or enter upon school district property or attend a school sponsored function (whether or not on school property) while under expulsion, OSS, ISS, or assignment to the Alternative Educational Program.

- **Truancy and/or Unauthorized Leaving Class/Campus**

A student shall not be absent from or late to school, class, or any required assembly without proper authorization or excuse. A student shall not arrive late or leave early without following sign in or sign out procedures through the attendance office.

- **Unauthorized and/or Inappropriate Use of School or Personal Property**

A student shall not access or use school property or the property of another person in a way that constitutes mis-use or is not authorized.

- **Encouraging or Assisting Another to Engage in a Level II Violation**

A student shall not encourage or assist another student to engage in any Level II prohibited conduct.

- **Unauthorized Entry / Access or Out of Area**

A student shall not leave his or her assigned area without permission, access restricted areas of the school without permission, or enter school buses when a driver is not present.

- **Reckless Conduct/Reckless Endangerment of Other Students**

Reckless conduct or reckless endangerment occurs:

(1) When a student accidentally or unintentionally causes harm to another person, to the property of another person, or to school district property; (2) When a student possesses any potentially dangerous item, including without limitation, those described in 3.08, 3.09, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, or 3.26. The principal or principal's designee, in his or her discretion, may charge a student with a violation of 2.27, instead of Level III offense, where there is evidence that the student did not intend to bring such item to school, on to school district property, or to a school sponsored event. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, the student's self-reporting to school officials that he or she accidentally brought such item to school; or (3) When a student commits an act which reasonably could have caused harm to another person, damage to the property of another person or to school district property or otherwise endangers the safety of the person or property of another person. (4) The principal must report on the possession of a weapon in accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-1184(b) even though the student is punished under this section.

- **Inciting or Participation in a Minor Student Disruption**

A student shall not engage in or initiate conduct which is reasonably likely to disrupt or interfere with the educational process. A minor disruption is one that does not result in a material or substantial disruption to the educational process but only minimally interferes with the operations of the schools. Such a disruption is one which does not last for a sustained period of time while a teacher is delivering

instruction, does not result in personal injury or property damage, does not require any kind of “lock down” or evacuation of students, or does not require the involvement of law enforcement. A student who causes material or substantial disruption will be charged with violating rule 3.11.

- **Subsequent Level II Offense**

A student who commits a second violation of a Level II offense within the same school year may be subject to Level III disciplinary action.

- **Gambling**

A student shall not participate in any form of gambling or betting or possess a gambling device; provided, however, nothing in this section shall prohibit a student from participating in school-sponsored raffles. Students who participate in gambling activities involving amounts of less than \$100.00 may be charged with violating rule 1.06.

Level III Offenses

- **Arson**

A student shall not knowingly damage the property of another by means of fire or explosive.

- **Battery**

No student shall intentionally cause substantial physical harm (i.e., harm that requires medical attention) or visible bodily harm to another. Any student who commits an act of physical violence against a teacher, administrator or other school district employee will be suspended or expelled in accordance with O.C. G.A. § 20-2-751.6. A student who places bodily fluid or other foreign substances in food, drink or other items for human consumption by another person is in violation of this section.

- **Bomb Threats/False Alarms**

A student shall not activate a fire alarm signaling system or any audible alarm which results in a response by the fire department and/or law enforcement or evacuation of the school unless directed to do so by a school district employee or in response to a fire or other emergency. A student shall not report a fire or threatened act of school violence (e.g., bomb threat or school shooting) which the student does not reasonably believe to exist.

- **Burglary**

A student shall not enter any school building, vehicle or structure for the purpose of committing theft, damaging property or committing any felony.

- **Bus Misbehaviors from Level III Offenses**

- **Chronically Disruptive Student**

A student who has been identified as a chronic disruptive problem student and who hereafter violates any provision of the Student Code of conduct shall also be in violation of this rule.

- **Off Campus Felony Conduct**

A student who engages in any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult and which makes the student’s continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process shall be in violation of this rule.

- **Drugs/Alcohol**

(a) A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any controlled substance, including without limitation marijuana (broadly defined to include any product that contains

cannabidiol (CBD), whether hemp or cannabis, and regardless of whether same is legal under state or federal law, which can be ingested or consumed through vaping or otherwise), cocaine or other drug; prescription drug that is not prescribed for the student; prescription drug in violation of Board Policy JGCD and JGCD-R; inhalant; or other intoxicant; drug paraphernalia and/or drug related objects; counterfeit substance or substances presented as drugs; or alcohol. "Drug paraphernalia and/or related objects" include any object or device that may be used to consume, use, or ingest drugs or alcohol.

(b) A student shall not possess, sell, use, or distribute any over-the-counter medication or student prescribed medication except as follows: (i) this rule shall not apply to students who are authorized to self-administer certain school-authorized medications (e.g., asthma inhalers and auto-injectable epinephrine) and who do so in accordance with Board policy and school rules; and (ii) this rule shall not apply to students who are using over-the-counter and/or lawfully prescribed medication in accordance with Board policy and/or school rules.

- **Explosives**

A student shall not possess, manufacture, use or threaten to use a destructive device, detonator, explosive (including fireworks or ammunition), hoax device, incendiary, over-pressure device, or poison gas (including tear gas devices), or attempt to create or prepare any such device, or any other object that could reasonably be construed to be an explosive. A student shall not falsely claim (a) to have an explosive device in his or her possession; (b) that another person has an explosive device in his or her possession, or (c) that another person is bringing an explosive device onto school property or to a school function.

- **Homicide**

A student shall not engage in any conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter.

- **Inciting or Participating in a Material or Substantial Disruption**

A student shall not engage in behavior which is reasonably likely to (1) disrupt the learning environment; (2) create a threat to the health and/or safety of others; or (3) interfere with the normal operation of the school, class, program, or activity.

- **Destruction of Property (more than \$500.00)**

A student shall not intentionally damage or deface the property of another, including school district property, without the consent of the owner. If the value of the property is \$500.00 or less, the student will be charged with a violation of Rule 2.13.

- **Kidnapping**

A student shall not abduct or seize another person and hold such person against his or her will.

- **Possession of Weapons**

A student shall not possess, use, encourage the use of, give to another person, or threaten to use any gun, firearm, or other weapon, including without limitation a stun gun, Taser, pepper spray or other chemical spray, pellet gun, bb gun, air-soft gun, toy guns and/or replica of a weapon, or any object that could be used as, or reasonably construed to be, a weapon. This rule expressly extends to weapons which have been rendered inoperable, or any components thereof, which may be readily assembled. A student shall not falsely claim: (a) To have a weapon in his or her possession; (b) That another person has a weapon in his or her possession; or (c) That another person is bringing a weapon onto school property or to a school function.

- **Possession of Weapons (Knife)**

A student shall not possess, manufacture, use or threaten to use any weapon, including but not limited to a bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, straight-edge razor, box cutter, razor blade, or bludgeon-type weapon, ice pick or any other object that could reasonably be construed to be a knife. A student shall not falsely claim: (a) to have a knife in his or her possession; (b) that another person has a knife in his or her possession; or (c) that another person is bringing a knife onto school property or to a school function.

- **Possession of Other Dangerous Instruments**

A student shall not use any object as a weapon to intimidate or inflict harm on another, or possess or use metal pipes, metal chains, brass knuckles, body piercing instruments, tattooing devices, scissors, pepper spray or other substantially similar dangerous instruments.

- **Robbery**

A student shall not take the property of another by use of force (including a weapon), by intimidation, by use of threat or coercion or by sudden snatching.

- **Sexual Misconduct**

A student shall not:

(a) Commit, or attempt to commit, a sexual offense under state or federal law; (b) Engage in or attempt to commit any act of indecency; (c) Engage in an act of sexual harassment involving a threat of violence or other criminal act. (d) Perform any act of lewd exposure or public indecency; (e) Perform any act of lewd caressing or indecent fondling/touching of a student's own body or the body of another and/or (f) Engage in consensual sexual activity.

- **Theft (more than \$1500.00)**

A student shall not take, be in possession of or dispose of the property of another, including school district property, without the consent of the owner. If the value of the property is \$1,500.00 or less, the student will be charged with a violation of Rule 2.20.

- **Threats of Violence**

A student shall not threaten to commit any act of violence including threatening to burn or damage property or otherwise communicating an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence against a particular individual or group of individuals. This includes knowingly communicating false information that could reasonably be perceived as a threat of school violence, including fabricating a threat stating falsely that an act of violence will or may occur.

- **Threats/Intimidation**

A student shall not (a) threaten to engage in any conduct which is reasonably likely to materially and substantially disrupt the educational environment; (b) threaten to bring or use weapons or explosive devices on school property or at a school related activity; (c) take action that could reasonably be perceived as planning or preparing to commit an act of school violence; (d) threaten a Walton County School District employee; or (e) communicate any desire or intent to take the life of another.

- **Violation of Administrative Probation**

A student shall not violate assigned administrative probation.

- **Promoting or Advertising Illegal Conduct**

A student shall not: (a) engage in conduct that is reasonably viewed as promoting or advertising the use of drugs, alcohol, or any other illegal substance; or (b) encourage or assist another to commit a Level III violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

- **Making False Report**

A student shall not knowingly and intentionally falsify, misrepresent, or erroneously report alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student or omit information which makes such report false or misleading.

- **Felony / Enrollment**

Each local board of education is authorized to refuse to readmit or enroll any student to the Greene County School System if that student: (a) Has been indicted or otherwise charged with a felony; (b) Has been convicted of a felony; (c) Has entered a guilty plea or a plea of "nolo contendere" or "no contest," or has entered a plea under the Georgia First Offender Act or similar law; and/or (d) Has been adjudicated a delinquent based on commission of a felony by the Juvenile Court or other court of competent jurisdiction. - If refused enrollment or re-admission under this rule, the student or student's parents or guardian may request a hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-754.

Disciplinary Hearing / Tribunal Appeal Procedures

Students and parents have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions in accordance with Georgia Code Section 20-2-754.

Appeal Process Overview

Appeals of decisions made by a disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal must be submitted to the Greene County Board of Education in writing.

Filing Deadline

- Appeals must be filed within 30 calendar days of the disciplinary decision in writing.

Submission Requirements

All appeals must:

- Be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of Greene County Schools
- Clearly outline the specific issues or grounds for the appeal
- Include a certified transcript of the original disciplinary hearing (available upon written request to hearing officer/ tribunal)

State-Level Appeal

If the student or parent/guardian is not satisfied with the decision of the Greene County Board of Education, an additional appeal may be filed with the Georgia State Board of Education in accordance with state guidelines.

