

Bright Futures begin in **HCS**



OPPORTUNITIES | ACCESS | OUTCOMES

SCHOOL
YEAR **2026-2027**

STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

Together, we are improving outcomes for our kids.
Find out what we've been up to! Check out the HCS

2026-2031 Strategic Plan

Inspired by our community and developed by the Henry County Board of Education. Join us in our work!



Unified
Governance

In Pursuit of
Exceptional



www.henry.k12.ga.us

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Community-Inspired 2026-2031 Strategic Plan

In Pursuit of *Exceptional* | A message from the Superintendent

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year in Henry County Schools!

The start of a school year is an exciting time filled with new opportunities. Our goal is to ensure every child remains inspired throughout the year.

Creating the best educational experience for nearly 42,000 students across our 53 schools remains our top priority, and we are committed to providing innovative programs and a nurturing environment that drive growth and success for every child.

Our more than 6,000 dedicated employees work every day to create schools where our students can reach their fullest potential.

We are wrapping up the district's 2021-2026 Community-Inspired Strategic Plan and eagerly embarking on a new strategic plan, which will shape our efforts to promote student well-being and achievement over the next five years. In keeping with those objectives, the Board of Education invests in resources and personnel to promote academic excellence and learning environments that support the whole child.

At the end of last school year, Henry County voters approved a renewal of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST), which will fund safety and security enhancements at our schools, among other projects.

As we begin this school year, we reaffirm our promise to ensure a high-quality, world-class education for every student. We encourage our students to fully embrace the school experience and make regular attendance a priority.

The following pages contain important information about Henry County Schools' policies, procedures, and programs for the upcoming school year. I encourage all students and parents to read the Handbook prior to the start of the school year.

Whether you are a new or returning student, we are excited to have you as a member of our school community and look forward to a productive, rewarding year filled with memorable experiences.

Regards,



TAKING ACTION TO ADVANCE

OPPORTUNITIES | ACCESS | OUTCOMES

IN PURSUIT OF **AMBITIOUS GOALS**

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

July 2026					August 2026					September 2026					October 2026				
M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31	31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30

November 2026					December 2026					January 2027					February 2027									
M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F					
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4					1	1	2	3	4	5					
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	10	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12					
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19					
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26					
30					28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29										
March 2027					April 2027					May 2027					June 2027									
M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F	M	Tu	W	Th	F					
1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4					
8	9	11	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11					
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18					
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25					
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	31					28	29	30							
1st/Last Day of Semester					Early Release					School System Closed					Students/Teachers Out					Students Out Only				
Student - Asynchronous Learning & Teachers - 1/2 District PD and 1/2 Workday										Student - Asynchronous Learning & Teachers - District PD														

IMPORTANT DATES

August 3
1st Day of School
Oct. 5-9
Fall Break
Nov. 23-27
Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21 - Jan. 5
Semester Break

Jan. 6
2nd Semester Starts
Feb. 15-19
Winter Break
Apr. 5-9
Spring Break
May 26
Last Day of School

IMPORTANT STAFF DATES

District-Based Professional Learning Days
July 27-28, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 (1/2 Day),
Nov. 3, Jan. 5, Feb. 12, Mar. 19 (1/2 Day)
School-Based Professional Learning Days
July 23-24, July 29, Jan. 4 (1/2 Day), **May 27**
Teacher Workdays
July 30-31, Oct. 2 (1/2 Day), **Dec. 18** (1/2 Day),
Jan. 4 (1/2 Day), **Mar. 19** (1/2 Day),
May 26 (1/2 Day), **May 28**



The Henry County Board of Education has authorized the publication of this Handbook in accordance with School Board policies and applicable laws. It contains important information for parents, students, school personnel, visitors, and residents.

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS DIRECTORY



Dutchtown Cluster

Dutchtown Elementary 770-471-0844
Pate's Creek Elementary 770-389-8819
Red Oak Elementary 770-389-1464
Dutchtown Middle 770-515-7500
Dutchtown High 770-515-7510



Eagle's Landing Cluster

Birch Creek Elementary 470-483-0477
Flippen Elementary 770-954-3522
Eagle's Landing Middle 770-914-8189
Eagle's Landing High 770-954-9515



Hampton Cluster

Hampton Elementary 770-946-4345
Mt. Carmel Elementary 770-897-9799
Rocky Creek Elementary 770-707-1469
Hampton Middle 770-707-2130
Hampton High 770-946-7461



Locust Grove Cluster

Locust Grove Elementary 770-957-5416
Unity Grove Elementary 770-898-8886
Locust Grove Middle 770-957-6055
Locust Grove High 770-898-1452



Luella Cluster

Bethlehem Elementary 770-288-8571
Luella Elementary 770-288-2035
Oakland Elementary 770-954-1901
Luella Middle 678-583-8919
Luella High 770-898-9822



McDonough Cluster

Tusshaw Elementary 770-957-0964
Walnut Creek Elementary 770-288-8561
Wesley Lakes Elementary 770-914-1889
McDonough Middle 470-615-3460
McDonough High 470-615-3450



Ola Cluster

New Hope Elementary 770-898-7362
Ola Elementary 770-957-5777
Rock Spring Elementary 770-957-6851
Ola Middle 770-288-2108
Ola High 770-288-3222



Stockbridge Cluster

Austin Road Elementary 770-389-6556
Cotton Indian Elementary 770-474-9983
Fairview Elementary 770-474-8265
Smith-Barnes Elementary 770-474-4066
Stockbridge Elementary 770-474-8743
Austin Road Middle 770-507-5407
Stockbridge Middle 770-474-5710
Stockbridge High 770-474-8747



Union Grove Cluster

East Lake Elementary 678-583-8947
Hickory Flat Elementary 770-898-0107
Timber Ridge Elementary 770-288-3237
Union Grove Middle 678-583-8978
Union Grove High 678-583-8502



Woodland Cluster

Pleasant Grove Elementary 770-898-0176
Woodland Elementary 770-506-6391
Woodland Middle 770-389-2774
Woodland High 770-389-2784



Academy for Advanced Studies
770-320-7997



EXCEL Academy
770-957-4101



"See Something, Say Something"
Text Tip Line - 770-220-7009 (Anonymous)



Impact Academy
770-954-5744



JB Henderson Center
678-432-2310

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

770-957-6601 | 33 N. Zack Hinton Pkwy. | McDonough, GA 30253

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS WELCOME CENTER

770-957-3945 | 166 Holly Smith Drive | McDonough, GA 30253

Performing Arts Center - McDonough 770-914-7477 | Performing Arts Center - Fairview 470-491-6899 | www.henry.k12.ga.us

WELCOME TO HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

This Districtwide K-12 Student & Parent Handbook contains important information about policies, procedures, and programs of the Henry County school district ("Henry County Schools"). Students and parents should read the Handbook at the start of the school year and keep the Handbook for future reference. Generally, the policies and practices stated in the Handbook will be in effect from July 1, 2026, until the start of the 2027-28 school year.

The policies of the Board of Education and the services of the school system are designed to protect the well-being of students and the rights of students to a quality education in Henry County Schools. The information listed within the Handbook was approved by the Henry County Board of Education and/or Superintendent at the time of this publication. From time to time, the Board of Education may revise or repeal any policy and will do so after appropriate public notice. Henry County Schools will abide by any applicable federal and/or state policy, regulation, or legislative requirement that might arise during the school year. Please check the school system website for any updates to the Handbook or to view a complete listing of all Board policies at www.henry.k12.ga.us (click *Board of Education/Policies*).

Notice of Language Assistance: If you need a Handbook or other meaningful document(s) related to your child's education in another language other than English, including but not limited to registration, enrollment, and disciplinary proceedings, please request one from the school office. If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services from your student's school or the Family Services Department at the Henry County Schools Learning and Support Center by calling 770-957-3945.

Haitian Creole - Avi Asistans Lang

Avi pou Asistans Lang: Si w bezwen w Manyèl ouwa yon dokiman ki gen pou wè ak edikasyon pitit ou nan yon lang ki pa anglè, si manyèl ou bezwen an gen pou wè avèk, men pa sèlman sa, enskripsyon, anwolman, ak pwosedi disiplinè, tanpri pase pran youn nan biwo lekòl la. Si w gen difikilte konprann anglè, ou ka mande pou ede w, gratis tichè, ak sèvis asistans lang nan lekòl pitit ou an, ouwa Depatman Sèvis pou "Family Services Department" nan "Henry County Schools Learning and Support Center" rele 770-957-3945.

Hindi - भाषा सहायता की सूचना:

भाषा सहायता की सूचना: यदि अपने बच्चे की शिक्षा से संबंधित हैंडबुक या अन्य अर्थपूर्ण दस्तावेजों को आप अंग्रेजी से अलावा किसी दूसरी भाषा में चाहते हैं जिसमें पंजीकरण, प्रवेश और अनुशासनिक प्रक्रियाएं शामिल हैं लेकिन यह उन तक ही सीमित नहीं है, तो कृपया स्कूल कार्यालय में अनुरोध करें। यदि आपको अंग्रेजी समझने में समस्या हो तो आप छात्र के स्कूल या 770-957-3945 पर केंद्रीय कार्यालय में कॉल करके प्रशासनिक सेवाएं विभाग से निःशुल्क भाषा सहायता सेवाओं के लिए अनुरोध कर सकते हैं।

Simplified Chinese - 语言协助通知

如果您需要一份非英语版的其它语言版本的手册, 或其它任何与孩子教育相关的文件, 包括但不限于登记、注册以及纪律程序文件, 请向学校办公室申请。如果您无法使用英语阅读或交流, 您可以向您孩子就读的学校或亨利郡学校提出要求或通过拨打 770-957-3945 联系本学区家庭服务部, 申请免费语言援助服务

Spanish - Notificación sobre servicios de asistencia con el idioma

Notificación sobre servicios de asistencia con el idioma: Si usted necesita un Manual u otros documentos importantes relacionados con la educación de sus hijos, en cualquier otro idioma aparte del inglés lo cual incluye, pero no se limita a, los procesos de matrícula, de inscripción y de disciplina, por favor solicítelos en la escuela. Si tiene dificultad al entender inglés, puede solicitar servicios de asistencia en su idioma, gratuitamente, a través de la escuela del estudiante o comunicándose con *Family Services Department* (Departamento de Servicios Para Familias) en *Henry County Schools Learning and Support Center* (Centro de Aprendizaje y Apoyo de las Escuelas del Condado de Henry) al 770-957- 3945.

Vietnamese - Thông báo về Hỗ Trợ Ngôn Ngữ

Thông báo về Hỗ Trợ Ngôn Ngữ: Nếu quý vị cần sổ tay, hoặc các tài liệu quan trọng khác liên quan đến sự giáo dục của con em, bằng ngôn ngữ khác tiếng Anh, bao gồm nhưng không giới hạn đến sự đăng ký, ghi danh, và xử lý kỷ luật, xin quý vị vui lòng liên lạc với nhà trường để được cung cấp sự hỗ trợ này. Nếu quý vị không thông thạo tiếng Anh, quý vị có thể yêu cầu dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí từ nhà trường của con em hoặc Cơ Quan Dịch vụ Gia đình tại những Trường Học Quận Henry bằng cách gọi điện thoại 770-957-3945.

STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

This Districtwide K-12 Student & Parent Handbook, along with the Code of Conduct are reviewed annually between January and May for the purpose of adding, deleting, and revising content. Parents, students, and employees are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions regarding the Handbook to the Office of the Superintendent. The Henry County Board of Education holds regularly scheduled public meetings each month. Please check the school system website for the time and location of these meetings. It is the policy of the Henry County Board of Education to maintain a learning environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability.

ACCREDITATION

All schools in the Henry County School System are accredited by Cognia.

NOTICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Henry County Board of Education maintains a policy of equal educational, athletic, and employment opportunities. The Henry County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, veteran status, genetic information, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Scouts BSA and other designated youth groups. The Henry County Board of Education prohibits retaliation against individuals who file complaints or those who assist in the investigations of complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, veteran status, genetic information, or age. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment. Appropriate disciplinary actions shall be imposed for verified acts of retaliation, including, but not limited to a report to the Professional Standards Commission for certified staff members. The Henry County Board of Education believes complaints are best resolved when handled as close to their origin as possible. If students and/or parents have concerns, they should bring concerns, in writing, to the attention of the principal.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and concerns regarding the district's non-discrimination policies:

Mrs. Summer Cox

Title VI and Title IX

(For a list of all persons identified as Title IX Coordinators, see Federal Laws section of this Handbook)

Henry County Schools
33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
770-957-6601

Summer.Cox@henry.k12.ga.us

Mrs. Megan Sayago

IDEA, Section 504, Title II, and ADA (Students)

Henry County Schools
Learning & Support Center
166 Holly Smith Drive
McDonough, GA 30253
770-957-3945

Megan.Sayago@henry.k12.ga.us

Dr. Carl Knowlton

Title II and ADA (Employees)

Henry County Schools
33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
770-957-6601

Carl.Knowlton@henry.k12.ga.us

Mr. Antonio Mattox

Sports Equity Coordinator

Henry County Schools
33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
770-957-7189

Antonio.Mattox@henry.k12.ga.us

If employees have concerns, they should submit concerns, in writing, to the attention of their immediate supervisor and refer to provisions set out in the Employee Guidebook. All employees are required to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy. Administrators and supervisors are expected to cooperate fully in meeting the equal opportunity objectives and their compliance with this policy will be monitored closely. For additional information, see local board policies: [GAAA – Equal Opportunity Employment](#), [GAE – Complaints and Grievances](#), [GAEB – Harassment](#), [IDFA – Gender Equity in Sports](#), and [JAA – Equal Educational Opportunities](#), [JCAC – Harassment](#), and [KN – Complaints](#).

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REGISTRATION



Age Requirements for Registration

Elementary Schools

The criteria below shall be applied to determine whether a child is of eligible entrance age for enrollment in a Henry County public school. Children eligible to enroll in kindergarten must be:

1. Five years of age by September 1 of the school year in which the student is to be enrolled, or
2. Five years of age by December 31 of the school year in which the student is to be enrolled if the student has been:
 - a. A legal resident in one or more states or countries for a period of two years immediately prior to moving to this state, **and**
 - b. Legally enrolled in a public kindergarten or a kindergarten accredited by a state or regional agency, or the equivalent thereof, **and**
 - c. The child is otherwise eligible for enrollment as prescribed in O.C.G.A. §20-2-150.

Pursuant to the new Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026 (O.C.G.A. §20-2-151), parents or guardians have additional options regarding school enrollment for children who meet the age eligibility requirements by September 1:

- A child who is eligible for kindergarten may be enrolled in Georgia Pre-K, subject to program eligibility and available space.
- A child who is eligible for first grade may be enrolled in kindergarten.

Parents interested in either option should contact their zoned school for information regarding eligibility requirements and enrollment procedures. Kindergarten and 1st grade placement requests from parents should be directed to the school principal within the first 30 days of school or enrollment. The Georgia Early Literacy Act encourages families to enroll children in school by age five so they can build important reading skills early.

Middle and High Schools

All students who have not attained the age of 21 by September 1 are eligible for enrollment in appropriate education programs, unless they have received a high school diploma or equivalent. Students who have dropped out of school for one quarter or more are eligible to re-enroll unless they attain the age of 20 by September 1. Students receiving special education services are eligible for enrollment in appropriate educational programs until turning 22 years old or until they receive a high school diploma.

Attendance Zones, [Policy JBCCA: Student Assignment to Schools](#)

Students must attend the school in their assigned attendance zone where their custodial parents/legal guardians ("parents") reside. Students may not attend schools outside of their assigned attendance zone without prior written permission of the Henry County Board of Education. If, during the current academic year, parents move to a new residence within Henry County, and the new residence is in a different attendance zone, parents must transfer their student(s) to the appropriate school within their new attendance zone within 30 days of moving.

Parents may apply to the Board of Education **within 30 days of moving**, for their child or children to remain at their current school for the remainder of the school year. As a representative of the Henry County Board of Education, the Family Services Department has the authority to approve or deny the request. If the Family Services Department approves the parent's request, it will be in writing, and **the parent will be responsible for transporting the child** to and from school if the school is outside the assigned attendance zone. At the beginning of the next school year, parents are required to enroll their child in the school they are zoned to attend. For additional information, please contact the Family Services Department 770-957-3945. School transfer applications are located online and may be obtained from the Family Services Department website. When making an application for school transfer, parents are required to prove residency. The district reserves the right to deny a parent's request for school transfer if the student has excessive (**as defined as 10 or more**) unexcused tardies, check-outs, absences, or excessive discipline referrals (as defined by four or more referrals and/or one or more out of school suspensions).

Through school choice, parents may elect to enroll their child(ren) in a school outside their attendance zone if such school has classroom space available after its assigned students have been enrolled. **The window of time to apply for school choice** will be announced during the preceding school year for which the parent/guardian is seeking transfer. The application and pertinent information are posted on the school district website.

If parents elect to enroll their child(ren) in a school outside their attendance zone after approval, the parent is responsible for transporting their child(ren) to and from school. A student who is allowed to transfer to another school under the school choice provision may continue to attend such school until the student completes all grades of the school as long as they remain a resident of Henry County. School choice approvals and continued enrollment with school choice could be affected by excessive unexcused tardies, check-outs, absences, or discipline referrals. The district reserves the right to deny parent's request for school choice if their student has excessive (as defined as a total of 10 or more) unexcused tardies, check-outs, absences, or excessive discipline referrals (as defined as 4 or more referrals and/or 1 or more out of school suspensions).

Custody

Parents shall provide to the school a certified copy of any and all court order(s) regarding the custody of the child. Under O.C.G.A. §20-2-780, it is a crime for any person to make or attempt to make a change of custody of a minor child by removing the child from school without permission of the person who enrolled the child in school, even if the person attempting to remove the child has a court order granting that person custody. Court orders that specifically authorize or direct the school or the District's release of custody will be followed. The school will not interject itself in custody or visitation disputes between parents. Henry County Schools encourages all parents to discuss educational decisions with each other prior to notifying the District of educational changes regarding their student.

The school will give to non-custodial parents, upon request, all information required under state and federal laws unless there is a valid court order directing the school not to divulge such information. For more information about student records access, see the "Student Records and Academic Information" section within this Handbook, the Federal Laws section describing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) within this Handbook, and [Policy JR: Student Records](#).

Student enrollment forms, as well as other official documents of the school, must be signed by the natural parent or legal guardian with whom the child resides. **Educational decisions concerning the child are reserved for the enrolling parent.** If there is a disagreement between the parents, the educational decision of the enrolling parent shall supersede the educational decision of any non-enrolling parent. If there is a disagreement and both parents have enrolled the child, then the parent with primary physical custody shall have the educational decision-making authority, unless the parties have a court order that directs otherwise.

- **Enrolling Parent:** Any parent, guardian, or other person residing within the state of Georgia and having control or charge of any child or children during the ages of mandatory attendance and who completes the process of enrolling such child in Henry County Schools or who is designated as "enrolling parent" as result of enrollment process.
- **Non-Enrolling Parent:** Any parent, whether biological or adoptive, or legal guardian who does not complete the process of enrolling such child in Henry County Schools, or who is not designated as "enrolling parent" as a result of the enrollment process.

Non-Enrolling Parent

The District desires to have relationships with both the enrolling parent and the non-enrolling parent and has responsibilities to both the enrolling parent and the non-enrolling parent unless modified or restricted by court order or legally binding document. In instances where an active court order or legally binding document exists, it shall be the responsibility of the parent to provide a bona fide copy of the order or document to the principal or designee. The District reserves the right to request and review copies of custodial documents should a dispute arise.

Both the enrolling parent and the non-enrolling parent shall be afforded the following:

1. Student Records: An enrolling parent or non-enrolling parent may request a copy of the school records for his/her child in accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Other Academic Records: An enrolling parent or a non-enrolling parent may request, in writing, any information provided for under O.C.G.A. §20-2-786. The request may be made through the school principal or through the Office of Legal Compliance.
3. Teacher Conferences: Absent a court order or other legally binding document which provides otherwise, the enrolling parent and non-enrolling parent are encouraged to attend joint conferences for the purpose of clarification and interpretation of student records. If a joint conference is not agreed upon, the non-enrolling parent may schedule a conference by him/herself according to the school's procedures.
4. School Activities: Absent a court order or other legally binding document which specifically provides otherwise, the enrolling parent or non-enrolling parent may: (1) at the beginning of the school term request copies of school information given to parents at that time, (2) attend any public or spectator activity involving his/her child, (3) have lunch with his/her child, (4) attend field trips, and (5) attend classroom visits approved by the principal or designee.

Guardianship

If a student resides with any person other than a natural parent, a certified copy of the court documents that establish legal guardianship will be required at the time of enrollment. Any person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of a child shall be expected to begin the process of seeking legal guardianship before enrollment of the child, and an approximate completion date must be given. The school will contact and meet only with the legal guardian of the student unless written consent from the enrolling guardian is given. If not provided at the time of enrollment, a certified copy of the final Court Decree for guardianship is required within 30 days of enrollment. References to parent/guardian herein shall include kinship caregivers and persons with Power of Attorney for the care of minors. **Any legal guardianship fraudulently formed solely for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance shall not be recognized by the Henry County Board of Education.** For information regarding petitions for temporary guardianship, contact the Henry County Probate Court at 770-288-7600.

The Supporting and Strengthening Families Act, O.C.G.A. §19-9-120, et seq., and Power of Attorney

Henry County Schools honors the Supporting and Strengthening Families Power of Attorney under qualifying conditions, O.C.G.A. §19-9-120, et seq. Those desiring to utilize the Power of Attorney must contact the Family Services Department at 770-957-3945 to qualify the request. References to a parent/guardian throughout this Handbook shall include persons with Supporting and Strengthening Families Power of Attorney.

Emergency Contact Information

It is critical for the school to be able to contact a parent/guardian at any time his/her child is at school. The school must have the parent's current and accurate address and home, cellular, and business telephone numbers. Emergency contact persons and their telephone numbers are needed in case a parent cannot be reached. This information is required at the time of registration and whenever a change occurs with the parent's address, telephone, or emergency contact information. The enrolling parent may update Emergency Contact Information through the Student Record (Infinite Campus) [Parent Portal](#). In accordance with Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-780), the authorized person who registers the child (the enrolling parent) controls the child's list of approved persons who can pick up the child and sets pick-up restrictions (remove them from school). Under Henry County Schools practices, parent contact information is not considered student "education record" information required under disclosure FERPA.

Proof of Residence - [Policy JBCA: Resident Students](#) and [Regulation JBCA-R\(1\): Resident Students-Procedures](#)

To enroll in Henry County Schools, a student must reside in Henry County with a natural parent or legal guardian, kinship caregiver, or the student must be under the care of a state agency with placement in Henry County. Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in a school, whenever a change of residence occurs, or anytime proof of residency is requested by a school official. The principal or his/her designee will accept the following records as proof of residency:

- a. A lease or rental agreement consisting of written evidence that the agreement is valid and current, and a current utility (to include electric, gas, water, cable, or sanitation) bill or letter of service from said company (utility bill must be separate from rental agreement). The utility bill or letter of service must be dated within the last 60 days. The lease or rental agreement must identify the parent of the student as the tenant fiscally responsible for the payment of the lease. Parents listed as mere occupants of a stated residence are not considered tenants of the property for the purposes of enrollment. All records must include the name and street address of the parent and service addresses that must be plainly visible on the utility bill, letter of service provided as proof, **OR**
- b. A current residential property tax statement, settlement statement, or closing disclosure, and a current utility (to include electric, gas, water, cable, or sanitation) bill or letter of service from said company. The utility bill or letter of service must be dated within the last 60 days. Parents not listed in ownership documents who are willing to provide evidence of their legal relationship to the property owner may submit legal documents for consideration as an authorized representative of the titleholder. All records must include the name and street address of the parent, and the service address must be plainly visible on the utility bill or letter of service provided as proof. **OR**
- c. A Henry County Schools Affidavit of Residency. A parent who resides full time in Henry County but is unable to provide the consistent records listed above may complete a Henry County Schools Affidavit of Residency. The affidavit shall be completed in the presence of school system personnel and signed by the parent in the presence of a public notary. In addition, the legal owner or authorized tenant of the property where the student and parent reside may complete and sign the affidavit with school system personnel and provide the documentation required proof of residence as noted above in sections (a) and (b). affidavit will be in effect until there is a change in residence, the student enrolls in a new or school or whenever requested by a school official.

All such documents must be in the name of the student's parent and must consistently identify that individual with the property address of the residence.

Any non-resident student who is not approved by the Family Services Department shall be withdrawn from Henry County Schools with notice to the parent/legal guardian, and (s)he shall be referred to the student's county of residence. Georgia law authorizes Henry County Schools to seek reimbursement from the parent/guardian for the costs of educating a non-resident student and for attorney's fees if legal action is necessary.

Proof of residence is subject to verification. An official designated by the school system may visit the address given by any parent to verify residency. If it is determined that the enrollment of any student is in violation of Board policy or a student is enrolled under false information, creating an illegal enrollment, the student shall be withdrawn from school within five (5) business days. Parents/guardians may be charged tuition for the period of time their child is illegally enrolled. Knowingly and willfully providing false information regarding proof of residence violates state law and may subject one to criminal fines and/or imprisonment. For additional information, please contact the Family Services Department at 770-957-3945 and refer to [Policy JBCA: Resident Students](#), [Regulation JBCA-R\(1\): Resident Students-Procedures](#), and [Policy JBCB: Nonresident Students](#).

Social Security Number

At the time of enrollment in Henry County Schools, parents are asked to provide a copy of the child's Social Security Card. However, no student shall be denied enrollment in Henry County Schools for declining to provide a Social Security Number

or declining to apply for such a number. In accordance with Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-150), a parent/guardian may submit a signed [Statement of Objection](#) (Waiver) in lieu of a copy of the student's Social Security card. Failure to provide the Social Security Card or Statement of Objection (Waiver) will not bar or delay a child's enrollment in school; however, parents are strongly encouraged to read the uses of the Social Security number within the school system and make an educated decision as to whether or not to provide a Social Security Card. A list of the uses of the Social Security number and Statement of Objection (Waiver) can be obtained at the school and is available on the Online Registration webpage ([here](#)) from the Henry County Schools website. Please see [Policy JBC\(3\): Social Security Numbers](#) for additional information.

Enrollment Documents include Critical Records

All students in Grades 4-12 must provide critical records upon enrollment in Henry County Schools and failure to provide critical records may result in students being placed in remote learning or having a school safety consultation after day ten (10) of enrollment and withdrawn after day thirty (30). The following is a list of the required documents for enrollment, per O.C.G.A. §20-2-670 (arising from Georgia House Bill 268 (2025)):

<u>Mandatory Critical Records</u> from <u>all</u> schools attended in the past 24 months (required for Grades 4-12)	<u>Required Registration Documents</u> (all Grades)	Helpful, Optional Documents (all Grades)
☐ Academic transcript ☐ Attendance records ☐ Student discipline records ☐ Notification of felony charges ☐ Individualized Education Program, IEP (if applicable) ☐ Section 504 plan (if applicable) ☐ Psychological evaluations (if applicable)	☐ Birth certificate ☐ GA Form 3300 - a certificate of completion for an eye, ear, dental and nutrition examination ☐ GA Form 3231 or GA Form 2208 - a current Georgia Immunization form ☐ Enrolling parent's valid government-issued identification ☐ Proof of residency (lease agreement, property tax statement, or affidavit of residency) ☐ Current utility bill (cable, gas, electric, water, or sanitation) ☐ Social Security Card or Social Security Waiver	☐ Report cards/ progress reports ☐ Class schedules ☐ Other health records ☐ Other academic records

Physical Examination and Immunization

Upon initial enrollment in a Georgia public school, parents/guardians must provide a certificate that their child has completed a nutritional exam and an eye, ear, and dental examination (Georgia Form 3300). All new students enrolling in Henry County Schools (PK-12) must provide Georgia Certificate of Immunizations Form 3231, which must be marked "Complete for School Attendance" for the grade in which the student is entering, or which has a future expiration date. Georgia law requires children born on or after January 1, 2002, and entering or transferring into 7th grade and new entrants into a Georgia school Grades 8th through 12th must have received one dose of TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine. All students entering or transferring into 11th grade will need proof of a meningococcal booster shot (MCV4), unless their first dose was received on or after their 16th birthday. Parents/guardians can obtain a Certificate of Immunization (Georgia Form 3231) from a physician or from any county Health Department. Parents must submit a new Form 3231 within 30 days after a Form 3231 expires. **Students not in compliance are subject to withdrawal from school.**

Georgia law allows waivers of immunization requirements based on medical reasons and/or religious reasons. Parents/guardians requesting a temporary waiver based on medical reasons must provide the school district with a Certificate of Immunization (Georgia Form 3231) from the local board of health or treating physician certifying that immunization is undesirable. The medical exemption must be renewed yearly. Parents/guardians requesting a temporary waiver due to religious reasons must provide the school district with a sworn Affidavit of Religious Conflict with Immunization Requirements form (Georgia DPH Form 2208). See Exhibit [JGCB-E\(2\): Student Immunizations](#). These Affidavits are available from each school or online. Henry County Schools personnel cannot notarize Georgia Form 2208.

Grade Placement

If acceptable documentation for determining grade placement is not presented at the time students are enrolled, students will be temporarily assigned to a grade until determination as to final grade placement can be made. For more information, refer to Henry County Board of Education [Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention](#), [Regulation IHE-R\(1\): Promotion and Retention – Procedures](#), and [Policy JBCD: Transfers and Withdrawals](#).

Transfer Students, [Policy JBCD: Transfers and Withdrawals](#)

Prior to admission, the school must receive a certified copy of the student's academic transcript and disciplinary record from the school previously attended. A student may be admitted provisionally if the name and address of the school last attended and authorization to release all academic and disciplinary records to the school is provided.

The parent must disclose at the time the transfer is sought whether the student currently receives special education

services, Section 504 services, or Gifted services; whether the student is currently serving a suspension or expulsion from school; whether the student withdrew from the last school district attended in lieu of being ordered to serve a period of suspension, expulsion, or assignment to an alternative education program; and, whether the student has ever been adjudicated guilty of a felony. **Any student who is currently assigned a suspension or expulsion in another school system must complete and/or wait until they clear that suspension/expulsion period before any consideration will be given to their enrollment in Henry County Schools.** Please see the Code of Conduct within this Handbook for information regarding students attempting enrollment with a felony charge(s), conviction, or adjudication.

Withdrawal from School

At the time of withdrawal, students must return all textbooks, library books, student learning devices (e.g., Chromebooks, iPads, laptops), and other school-owned or District issued items. Any such items not returned, and any other school-related expenses for which the student is responsible (such as lunch charges), must be paid for at the time of withdrawal. The school may withhold grade reports, diplomas, and/or certificates of progress until restitution is made for lost or damaged textbooks, student learning devices, and/or media materials, O.C.G.A. §20-2-1013.

In situations where a custodial parent (enrolling parent) enrolls a child in school, that same parent must be the person who withdraws the child from school. However, the custodial parent (enrolling parent) who enrolled the child in school may give notarized written permission to the school to allow a non-custodial parent to complete withdrawal procedures. A minor who is not emancipated may not drop out of school without the written permission of their parent/guardian. Prior to accepting such permission, the school administrator or designee shall schedule a conference with the student and parent/guardian to discuss the educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma.

ATTENDANCE



School Attendance

Attending school regularly is very important for student success in school. Georgia law requires that all children between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) attend school unless they have a lawful reason to be absent. In addition, students under the age of (6) who have been on roll for twenty (20) or more days fall under the provision of the Georgia Mandatory Attendance Law, O.C.G.A. §20-2-150(c).

Students who have more than **five (5) days** of unexcused absences during the school year will be considered truant. The legal penalties for truancy include referral of students to Juvenile Court and referral of parents to State Court. Any Georgia resident who has control or charge of a child and who is convicted of violating mandatory school attendance requirements will be subject to a court fine of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties per absence.

Arrival and Dismissal Times

The beginning time for elementary school is 7:35 a.m., the beginning time for middle school is 9:00 a.m., and the beginning time for high school is 8:15 a.m. Students are expected to report to the school by the respective start times and to remain for the full scheduled day unless authorized by school officials. **The ending time for elementary school is 2:15 p.m., for middle school is 4:00 p.m., and for high school is 3:15 p.m.**

The Henry County Board of Education is not responsible for the supervision and safety of students prior to the beginning of the school day or after the end of the school day. The Henry County Board of Education does not expect its staff to exercise control over students who are not part of a school-sanctioned activity and are left at the school campus before the beginning of the school day or who are not picked up after school in a timely manner.

Absences – Tardies – Check Outs

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes on time and each day.

- **Absence** is defined as the non-attendance by a student in an approved regularly scheduled class, program, or activity, regardless of the reason for such non-attendance. An exception is when a student participates in an approved program or activity (such as, but not limited to: field trips governed by [Policy IFCB: Field Trips and Excursions](#), academic competition or approved athletic event), he/she may be excused from school, counted present, and shall be responsible for any work missed during the time he/she is away from school. See below descriptions for what may be considered an excused absence versus an unexcused absence.
- **Tardy** is defined as the failure by a student to be in the assigned classroom or instructional space at the assigned time.
- **Check Out** is defined as a student who reports to the school attendance office to leave class, the school, or an approved activity before the assigned time for the end of such class, school day, or approved activity.

On the **first day** students return/report to school (or classes) from an absence, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to email and/or submit notes to the school designee upon the student's return to school. The electronic, typed, or

handwritten note should include the date(s) of the absence, the reason(s) for the absence, and signature of the parent or of the doctor who treated the student. School administrators may allow a grace period no greater than three (3) days for receipt of the explanation of the absence. The absence will be unexcused if an explanation of the absence is not received in the allowed time unless the parent later provides documented extenuating circumstances that could not have been provided within that period. Parents may be asked to provide additional documentation, such as medical documentation, by the principal or his/her designee for absences, tardies, and check outs. After five notes from a parent, additional documentation may be requested. Please see the section entitled "Truancy Intervention Meeting" in this Handbook for more information about situations where a student has too many unexcused absences, tardies, or checkouts.

Elementary students who are tardy or who check out must be accompanied by a parent to the front office to provide an explanation of the attendance transaction. Middle and high school students who are tardy or who check out early must report to the school office and present an electronic, typed, or handwritten note to include the parent's signature or medical documentation. The principal may implement a cut-off time for checkouts to ensure a safe and orderly school-wide dismissal. Only designated adults listed on the emergency card by the enrolling parent or authorized by the enrolling parent will be permitted to check out a student. The designated adult must present a valid government-issued photo ID.

Parents are encouraged to make every effort to schedule doctor, mental health, and dental appointments and vacations outside of school hours. Parents should not check out students for the purpose of avoiding car rider traffic. Disciplinary action may be taken against students not in attendance for the full school day for reasons that cannot be excused. See [Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses](#).

Excused Absences - [Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses](#)

Absences will be treated as excused if they occur for any of the following reasons (**additional documentation, such as medical documentation, may be required by the principal or designee**):

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's family necessitating a student's absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school. See [Policy JBFA: Religious Holidays](#)
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to active duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave.
8. A scheduled medical, mental health, dental or eye examination of the student.
9. Attendance upon a trip or event having significant educational value, provided (1) the school administrator is notified of the absence in advance and (2) the school administrator determines if the trip or event has significant educational value.
10. Unusual or urgent circumstances requiring the student's parents or legal guardian to be outside of Henry County overnight and where it is determined by the parents/legal guardian that it would be in the student's best interest for the student to accompany the parents/legal guardian. Where possible, a written explanation should be submitted by the parents/legal guardian before the student is to be absent; if prior notice cannot be given, a written explanation is to be provided no later than the first day the student returns to school after the absence.
11. Take Your Child to Work Day. Students who participate in this event will be excused but will be counted absent.
12. A post-secondary visit or interview formally documented by the institution or organization.

Documentation may be requested in the event of reasonable suspicion that absences are not due to illness, medical or mental health appointments before it can be determined whether or not to excuse an absence.

Students will be credited as present when they:

- are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly as forth in O.C.G.A. §20-2-692.
- participate in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H in the same manner as an educational field trip as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.3.
- successfully participate in the Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program for the school day during which he or she served in the STEP program. No student shall be permitted to be absent from school or participate in the STEP program for more than two (2) school days per school year as set forth in O.C.G.A. §21-2-92(c).
- are a student in foster care (served by Department of Family and Child Services) who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care, for any day, portion of the day, or days missed from school.

Unexcused Absences

An absence that does not qualify as excused is an unexcused absence. Parents are encouraged to carefully and frequently monitor student attendance through the student record (Infinite Campus) Parent Portal and contact the school

immediately with any questions about the attendance record. Unexcused absences will be subject to attendance investigation and can result in penalty as imposed by Georgia's compulsory attendance law.

Excessive absences may jeopardize a student's ability to earn course credits for the semester or year and/or enrollment status in Henry County Schools in specific circumstances. In addition, withdrawal from school before graduating may jeopardize a student's eligibility to obtain or keep a driver's permit or license. See [Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses](#) and [Policy JBCD: Transfer and Withdrawals](#).

Truancy Intervention Meeting

As required by law, Henry County Schools Student Attendance Protocol provides a progressive discipline, parental notification, and parental involvement process for truant students before referring the students and/or parents to juvenile or other courts having jurisdiction. Excessive unexcused tardies/early checkouts may also be addressed through the same process. Guidelines for the Student Attendance Protocol include but are not limited to contact by mail or phone to parents at three (3), five (5) and eight (8) unexcused absences. Students who arrive to school late and check out (unexcused) may receive written notification from the school as to the possible consequences of their actions. At ten (10) unexcused absences or twenty (20) unexcused tardies/early checkouts, parents may be required to attend a Truancy Intervention Meeting ("TIM").

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

If a student is marked with an unexcused absence for the school day, the student will not be allowed to participate or attend extracurricular activities scheduled for the same day that the student is absent. For more information, see the "Extracurricular Activities" section of this Handbook.

Dexter Mosely Act/Homeschool Students

Home study students must enroll in and attempt to complete one qualifying course as defined in state law for each semester of participation in extracurricular or interscholastic activity (O.C.G.A. §20-2-319.6). A parent/guardian must provide to the principal at the student's otherwise zoned school and to the Superintendent's designee: a copy of the home study student's most recent annual progress report, with written verification by the home study program instructor that the student is currently receiving a passing grade in each home study program course, is maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement, and meets the academic requirements for participation in the specified extracurricular or interscholastic activity. The parent must also provide their zoned school a copy of their "Home School Declaration of Intent Form." Through this school year, the Dexter Mosely Act is exclusively for Home Study/Home School students and does not apply for students enrolled in online accredited public or private schools. According to the Georgia Department of Education, a student can only be enrolled in one school at a time. Additionally, according to the Georgia High School Association, enrollment in another school likely would make the participant ineligible for high school athletics.

Pregnancy

A student who is pregnant should inform the Site-based Title IX Coordinator (principal), who can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to the Board's education program or activity including, but not limited to reasonable modifications, leaves of absence, or access to a lactation space, among others. Information about the principals/site-based Title IX Coordinators can be found in the "Federal Laws" section of this Handbook.

Making up Missed Assignments or Tests

It is the student's and parent's responsibility, not the teachers', to arrange for make-up work. Students should ask their teacher for any missed assignments on the first day they return to school. The number of days allowed to complete make-up work will be determined by the principal or his/her designee. The days allowed to make up work will not exceed the number of days absent except under extenuating circumstances approved by the principal or his/her designee.

Students assigned a Code of Conduct consequence of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be allowed to make up work upon return to school. The number of days to complete make-up work is commensurate to the number of days of OSS (i.e. 3 school days of Out-of-School Suspension = 3 school days to make up work missed).

Supervision of Students at School

Students are under the supervision of school staff during the school day. The school is not responsible for students on school grounds during any time other than the school day or during school-sponsored programs or events before or after the school day. Employees are not responsible for supervising students prior to the arrival of the first bus each morning.

SCHOOL CLOSURES



Delayed Start of the School Day

In the event that it becomes necessary for the District to delay the start of the school day, schools may have a two (2) hour delay in the start time. As transportation buses serve all District schools within a community, the bell times for a two (2) hour delay schedule will be as follows: elementary schools will start at 9:45 a.m., high schools will start at 10:15 a.m., and middle schools will start at 11 a.m. The school's bus arrival time will also change to reflect the two (2) hour delay. For example, if a student's school bus stop is normally 7:35 a.m. then the time will be adjusted to 9:35 a.m. under a two-hour delay. **A delayed start will not change the school end times on that day, including bus transportation.**

Early Release from School

During scheduled early release days, students will be dismissed at the following times:

- Elementary schools will dismiss at 11:15 a.m.
- High schools will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.
- Middle schools will dismiss at 1:00 p.m.

Please ensure that an adult is present at a bus stop for any student under age 9 on early release days, to avoid the student being returned to school if no adult is available to receive the child.

Cancellation of School/Modification of School Day

In the event of severe weather or other emergencies, official information about school closings or modifications to the start or end times of school will be broadcast on Atlanta area radio and television stations and will be posted on the Henry County Schools website. Parents should be aware that severe weather or other emergencies could cause school to be canceled after the school day has already begun. Parents should plan accordingly. In the event it becomes necessary to modify the start or end of the school day, communication will be shared regarding the adjusted start or end time. Parents should ensure contact information is current by maintaining updated Emergency Contact Information in the Student Record (Infinite Campus) [Parent Portal](#). For additional information about adjustments, see the above "Delayed Start of the School Day" section within this Handbook.

Remote Learning based on School Interruption/Academic and Operational Continuity Plan

In the event of any unforeseen interruption that results in an extended school building closure, the community will be notified through the school website, news or media outlets, and/or any official platform or social media accounts managed by Henry County Schools. Classes and instruction will continue remotely for the extended time. In this instance, students and families can expect

- Regular updates, guidance, and communication to be available on the District website and communicated through the Infinite Campus messenger system. Parents should ensure contact information is current by maintaining updated Emergency Contact Information in the Student Record (Infinite Campus) [Parent Portal](#). (To activate your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account, visit the [Henry County Schools website](#) or contact your local school administrator).
- Teachers will continue to provide instruction and schoolwork using available technology tools.
- Students should plan to continue engaging in the scheduled remote instruction and completing assignments as provided by the teacher.
- Students who have limited wireless access or technology, a broken or misplaced student learning device. (e.g., Chromebook), or conflicts during the school day should notify their teacher, counselor, or school administrator for an alternate plan.
- Misconduct during remote instruction will be addressed as necessary in alignment with the Code of Conduct.
- Multiple absences from remote instruction will result in teacher, administrator, or staff follow-up (unless absences are communicated and pre-arranged by student/family).
- Unless waived by the Board of Education, grade reporting will follow Henry County Schools' grade reporting policy (unless absences or missed assignments are communicated and pre-arranged by student/family). [Policy IHA: Grading Systems; Administrative Regulation IHA-R\(1\): Grading Systems – 9th Grade 2018-2019 or before; Administrative Regulation IHA-R\(2\): Grading Systems – 2019-2020 \(first time\) and beyond.](#) Please also refer to [Policy IHA-R\(3\): Grading Systems – Transfer Grades and Credits.](#)

Be aware that unless specifically waived by the Henry County Board of Education, Superintendent (or designee), or other legal authority, many school, student, and parent obligations contained elsewhere in this Handbook may continue to exist in a remote learning environment including but not limited to absences and mandatory reporting of Child Abuse. During any such unforeseen interruption, please be vigilant of districtwide communications and consult temporary or emergency Resolutions by the Board of Education and administrative regulations or procedures of the Superintendent.

Emergency Management Plan/Emergency Drills

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) reviews and approves the school system's comprehensive School Safety Plans and each school's Emergency Management Plan. A copy of these confidential plans is maintained by the principal or the Safety & Security Department. An annual safe schools audit of each school in the District will be conducted in conjunction with GEMA by the Department of Operations, Office of Security. When severe weather occurs, the District will follow the confidential School Safety Plan required by O.C.G.A. §20-2-1185.

Fire/evacuation drills will be held on a monthly basis. Drills for severe weather, hard lockdown of the school (e.g., intruder), and bus evacuation will be held at least twice each year. Parents should remind their child(ren) that during emergency drills students must respond quietly and quickly and must follow the directions given by teachers and administrators. Failure to comply with instructions given during a fire/evacuation drill may result in disciplinary action. Parents who desire to opt-out of planned drills must submit such request in writing to the school principal within the first three (3) weeks of the school year or from the first date of their child's enrollment.

HEALTH & MEDICAL



Accidents/Medical Services

If a student is injured or becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian and to take action at the parent's/guardian's direction within policy. If a parent/guardian cannot be contacted, school officials will take reasonable actions to preserve the health of the child. Henry County Schools personnel have the authority to call 911 in the event of a perceived medical emergency. In the event that 911 is called and medical providers recommend transporting a student to the hospital and should the parent/guardian refuse EMS transport of the student to the hospital, then the parent/guardian must immediately remove the student from Henry County Schools' premises. If the parent/guardian refuses to remove the child from the premises, the child shall be released to 911 emergency providers at the parent/guardian's expense.

Child Abuse, [Policy JGI: Child Abuse or Neglect](#)

Georgia law requires all school employees report to the local Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) any reasonable cause to believe child abuse or neglect has occurred (O.C.G.A. §19-7-5(c)(1)). Failure to comply with this mandatory reporting requirement may result in prosecution of the employee. Once a report has been made, official representatives of DFCS have the right to come to the school to interview the child. Parental permission need not be obtained by DFCS or the school to conduct the interview of the child.

If a Henry County Schools employee has reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred involving an employee or volunteer of the school, the employee must report the suspicion of abuse to the DFCS and the school principal or the principal's designee. Reports of suspected child abuse shall be made immediately, from the time there is reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred. Reports may be made verbally, by telephone (1-855-GA-CHILD), or by other verbal communication, or a written report may be made by electronic submission or facsimile to DFCS and to the school principal or the principal's designee, dfcreports@henry.k12.ga.us and the school SRO. Pursuant to Georgia law, O.C.G.A. §19-7-5, Henry County Schools must notify individuals who volunteer in the school district of their obligations as mandated reporters for suspected child abuse, see "Visitors" or "Volunteers" section of this Handbook.

Child abuse includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person responsible for the care of the child by other than accidental means
- Neglect of a child by a parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person responsible for the care of the child
- Emotional abuse of a child
- Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child
- Prenatal abuse of a child by a parent
- An act or failure to act that presents an imminent risk of serious harm to the child's physical, mental, or emotional health
- Trafficking a child for labor servitude

Georgia law requires that all volunteers:

- Report, not investigate, any suspicions of child abuse as defined above to the principal, supervisor, or designee of the facility within which he/she is volunteering immediately, but in no case later than the end of the school day or school event.
- If the above individuals are not available, then Georgia law requires that the volunteer make an oral report or a written report by electronic submission or facsimile of suspected child abuse immediately to the DFCS, an appropriate police authority, or a district attorney within 24 hours.
- If you suspect the child is in immediate danger, you are directed to call 911 immediately.

Guidance:

- A verbal report of any suspicions of child abuse should be made in person to the school's designee or by telephone and followed by a report in writing. When a report is made by electronic submission or facsimile to the DFCS, it shall be done as specified by the division.
- **Do not contact the parent or guardian.**
- In causing a report to be made to a child welfare agency or participating in any judicial proceeding or any other proceeding that results, mandated reporters are immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided that the report is done with good intentions.
- A copy of Henry County Schools' procedures for reporting suspected child abuse/neglect is available at each school. In addition, a video has been made available on the Henry County Schools website that will aid you in understanding the signs and symptoms of child abuse/neglect, see <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/135746>.
- **For questions, contact the principal, school designee, or the Student Services Department at 770- 957-3945.**

If you are a parent/guardian, become a visitor, become a chaperone, or become a volunteer, you have an obligation to report suspected child abuse/neglect to the appropriate authorities. By your signature on the acknowledgment form of this Handbook (via digital registration, annual information update, or hard copy form) and/or upon check-in at a school or school function for visitor/chaperone/volunteer purposes, you concede that you have received a copy of the procedures or are knowledgeable about these procedures, you have had an opportunity to review the procedures and ask questions, and have had an opportunity to review the video (see link above) if so desired.

Supervision Guidelines

Henry County Schools often receives questions regarding what age children may be left unsupervised when with parents, guardians, or caregivers and not at school. While there are no state laws regarding the supervision of children, the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) provides the following guidelines:

- Children eight years or younger should not be left alone.
- Children between the ages of nine years and twelve years, based on level of maturity, may be left alone for brief (less than two hours) periods of time.
- Children (13) thirteen years and older, who are at an adequate level of maturity, may be left alone and may perform the role of babysitter, as authorized by the parent, for up to twelve hours.
- Children 15 years and older can be left home alone overnight, depending on the level of maturity of the child.

Clinic Aides

Henry County Schools' clinics are staffed by clinic aides. Clinic aides serve students and provide basic first aid and limited health services in line with Henry County Schools' policies and procedures. Clinic aides collaborate with parents/guardians, school administrators, District nurses, and school staff to address students' health needs at school within the limits of policies and procedures. For additional information, contact the school principal or the Student Services Department at 770-957-3945.

District Nurses - [Policy JGC: Student Health Services](#)

District nurses are Georgia licensed nurses who cover multiple schools to assist with managing student health and medical concerns. District nurses work in collaboration with school administrators, clinic aides, school staff, parents/guardians, healthcare providers, transportation, the Department of Public Health, and other District nurses, in coordination with the lead nurses and in accordance with Henry County Schools policies and procedures. For additional information, contact the Student Services Department at 770-957-3945 or Henry County Exceptional Student Education Department 770-957-8086.

Foster Care

Foster care is 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians by a court. In these situations, the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) has placement and care responsibility. Children may live in group homes, relatives' homes, supervised independent living settings, or unrelated foster parents' homes. If you have questions about the rights of children in foster care or need assistance, please contact the Foster Care Liaison in the Student Services Department at 770-957-3945 or your School Social Worker.

Head Lice

Because head lice spread easily from one student to another, students with head lice (or eggs, often referred to as "nits") cannot remain at school. If a student has head lice or nits, their parents or guardians will be notified to pick up their child. Students will not be allowed to return to school until an examination by designated school staff indicates the student no longer has head lice or nits.

Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless children and youth as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. Should you have questions concerning your specific rights under this provision, please contact the School Social Worker or the Homeless Liaison in the Student Services Department at 770-957-3945.

Hospitalizations

If your child has had a medical/surgical procedure and/or hospitalization, a note from their licensed healthcare provider must be provided, indicating that the student may return to school. This note should include any limitations or

accommodations required for physical activities such as athletics or physical education, or if there are special considerations for dietary needs.

Hospital/Homebound Services

Hospital/Homebound (HHB) services are designed to provide continuity of educational services between the classroom and home or hospital for students in Georgia public schools whose medical needs, either physical or psychiatric, do not allow them to attend school for a limited period. HHB instruction may be used to supplement the classroom program for students with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with regular school attendance (e.g., students receiving dialysis or radiation/chemotherapy or students with other serious health conditions). Students must be enrolled in Henry County Schools on a full-time basis to receive HHB services. Henry County Schools will provide hospital/homebound services to students when the requirements of the law, including State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.31, have been met, and after approval has been granted by the department designated by the Superintendent. HHB services are not intended to supplant regular school services and are by design temporary. Any student or parent desiring to request hospital/homebound services shall fill out the Hospital Homebound Parent Request form provided by Henry County Schools which authorizes a release of medical records and submit a HCS Medical Referral form completed by the treating physician/psychiatrist. The student must have a medical and/or psychiatric condition documented by a licensed physician. The psychiatric condition presented must be listed in the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). The referring licensed physician/psychiatrist must be the treating physician/psychiatrist for the medical/psychiatric condition for which the student is requesting HHB services.

The student must anticipate being absent from school for at least ten (10) consecutive or intermittent school days due to a medical or psychiatric condition. If the school is on an approved block schedule, then the ten-day minimum requirement is reduced to five consecutive or five intermittent days during the school year. Students who have been declared emancipated by a court or are 18 years of age or older are eligible to sign the HHB Services Request Form and the Compliant Authorization for Exchange of Health and Education Information (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - HIPAA). Students who have any form of influenza or other airborne contagious diseases will not be provided services until the licensed physician certifies that the student is no longer infectious. Students approved for intermittent HHB services must be absent for three consecutive school days on each occurrence before HHB services will be provided. Once the referral form is received and approved, an Educational Service Plan ("ESP") may be developed for the delivery of the hospital homebound services and these services will be provided in accordance with the ESP. Students who are served in the program will have their attendance coded during the HHB service period in accordance with Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.31, Hospital/Homebound Services. **Parents who would like for their child to be served by this program should contact their child's school for a referral as soon as the child's illness is diagnosed.** The parent may also access the Henry County Schools Department of Family Services (Hospital Homebound) [link](#) on the District's website for additional information. For students with an Individual Education Program (IEP), once the referral form is received and approved, an IEP team will meet to consider HHB Services. HHB instruction may be provided by a certified teacher. Students eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) shall be served by appropriately certified personnel. HHB instruction may be offered, individually or in small groups, at the home of the student, the health care facility in which the student is confined, through online learning courses, or at other locations as identified in the ESP. The type of HHB instruction offered is based on the ESP which takes into consideration the cognitive ability and medical condition of the student. To provide HHB instruction to a student confined in a healthcare facility, Henry County Schools shall arrange with or contract directly with the health care facility in which the health care facility is located, or the appropriately certified teachers in the geographic area in which the health care facility is located. For additional information, contact the principal, Department of Family Services, or the Exceptional Student Education Department (students with Special Education services only).

Illness

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class, which includes vomiting, running a fever, or having diarrhea, his/her parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the student. For the safety of all students and staff, please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. If a student arrives at school sick, his/her parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child. Children should remain home if they have trouble breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever within the prior 24 hours. Students should not return to school until they are free from vomiting, diarrhea, and/or fever, without medication, for at least 24 hours. Henry County Schools recognizes a fever as a temperature of 99.5 degrees or higher with other symptoms of illness present OR temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, regardless of whether other symptoms are present. The principal should be notified, in writing, if a student has a chronic disability or illness that could require special or emergency treatment. Parents/Guardians should submit notes to the school designee upon returning to school after experiencing an absence.

- **All medicine (both prescription and over the counter) must be kept in the clinic or school office and dispensed by the principal or his/her designee.** For more information, see the "Medicine" section of this Handbook.
- **It is in the best interest of the parents to provide the front office staff with current phone numbers so they may be contacted when needed. Parent/guardians should provide at least two (2) active contacts with working phone numbers so someone is always available to pick up a student who becomes sick at school as soon as possible.** For more information see the "Contact Information" section of this Handbook.

Contagious Illness: If a school receives a written report from a doctor/licensed healthcare provider which states a student

has a “notifiable disease/condition,” the school system will follow the infectious disease reporting protocol, including recommendations from the Henry County Health Department. The parent/guardian must provide a release to school signed by a licensed healthcare provider indicating the date the student can return to school. For more information, see [Policy JGCC: Infectious Diseases here](#) and [Regulation JGCC: Infectious Diseases – Definitions and Requirements here](#).

Insurance

Parents are responsible for providing accident or medical insurance coverage for their child(ren). If your student is injured at school, you may be responsible for all medical costs, even if the accident happens on school property. As a service to parents/guardians, information regarding optional and affordable student accident insurance will be sent through the Student Record (Infinite Campus) Parent Portal at the beginning of each school year. We recommend that you consider the Student Accident Insurance Coverage for your student this year to help cover any out-of-pocket costs for an accident. Students must submit proof of insurance coverage prior to registration for any athletic activity. Please check with the principal to determine which, if any, class or activity may require insurance. If an activity requires that a student maintains insurance and cannot provide proof, the student will not be eligible to participate.

Kids in Transition Team (KIT)

The Kids in Transition Team serves students experiencing transition through placement in Foster Care or homelessness.

Medicine, [Policy JGCD: Medication](#) and [Regulation JGCD-R\(1\): Medication-Procedure](#)

When students **must** take medicine at school, prescription or over-the-counter (OTC), parents must bring all medicine and related equipment to the principal or his/her designee and complete a **Student Medication Consent Form and Release**. Medicine cannot be given without written permission and instructions from the parent. **Please do not send medicine to school by students. Prescription medicine must be in the original pharmaceutical container and have a current pharmacy label. Over-the-counter (OTC) medication must be in the original labeled pharmaceutical container.** At school, only the age appropriate dosages, per OTC label, will be administered unless directed otherwise in writing by a physician. Every effort should be made for medication doses to be given at home. Not all medications are appropriate for use at school and will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

All prescriptions and over-the-counter medicine will be kept in the clinic or school office unless authorized in writing by a physician and approved by the principal. Per the Code of Conduct (beginning on page 45 of this Handbook), students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, if they possess medicine at school without the principal’s consent, distribute the medicine to other students, or use the medicine in a manner that is not prescribed or per label directions (for over-the-counter medicines). For specific procedures concerning medicine, see [Regulation JGCD-R\(1\): Medication- Procedure](#).

Medicine Labeling

Prescription medicine, including inhalers, must be in the original labeled container. The label must include the student’s name, the name of the medicine, instructions for dispensing the medicine, and the doctor’s name. Pharmacists can provide a duplicate-labeled container with only the dosage to be given at school. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original labeled container and marked with the student’s name. Sample medications can only be given when accompanied by a written prescription or legal prescriber’s written order or note bearing the medication name, clear instructions for administration, student’s name and date of birth, date of order, and legal prescriber’s signature and credentials.

Parents/guardians should pick up unused medicine, equipment, and supplies from the principal or his/her designee. Any medicine, medical equipment or supplies, including epinephrine, diabetic supplies, and emergency seizure medications, not picked up will be discarded at the end of each school year. **Medicine will not be sent home with students. For specific procedures concerning medicine, see [Regulation JGCD-R\(1\): Medication-Procedures](#).**

Epinephrine

HCS does not maintain a supply of epinephrine. Students are authorized to carry and self-administer prescription epinephrine provided the student’s parent/guardian provides the following:

1. A written statement from a licensed physician containing the following:
 - a. A statement detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the student is to take the medication; and,
 - b. A statement confirming the student can self-administer epinephrine.
2. A written statement from the student’s parent/guardian expressly acknowledging:
 - a. The parent/guardian grants the student permission to self-administer the prescription epinephrine as provided by the student’s licensed physician;
 - b. That the parent/guardian has provided the school with a signed medical release that gives school personnel permission to consult with the student’s licensed physician regarding any questions that may arise about the medication;
 - c. That the parent/guardian has provided the school with a signed authorization releasing the school system, Board of Education, and its employees and agents from civil liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction because of the student self-administering epinephrine.
3. **Parents/guardians shall provide the above statements at least annually. However, if the student’s medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes, the parent shall provide updated statements to the school.**

***The authorization for self-administration of medication form is available at each school.**

Schools may receive and store prescription epinephrine on behalf of students who are not able to self-administer epinephrine, provided the student's parent/guardian provides the following:

- 1 A written statement from a licensed physician:
 - Detailing the name of the medication(s), method, amount, and time schedules by which the student is to take the medication(s).
- 2 A written statement from the student's parent/guardian expressly acknowledging:
 - a. That the parent/guardian has provided the school with a signed medical release that gives school personnel permission to consult with the student's licensed physician regarding any questions that may arise regarding the medication;
 - b. That the parent/guardian has provided the school with a signed authorization releasing the school system, Board of Education, and its employees and agents from all civil liability relating to the storing of the prescription epinephrine, and the administration of epinephrine by the school system, Board of Education, and its employees and agents.
- 3 Parents/guardians shall provide the above statements at least annually. However, if the student's medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes, the parents shall provide updated statements to the school.

At their sole discretion, employees, and agents of the school system and/or Board of Education may administer an epinephrine, if available and if needed, to a student, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine. Any employee or agent of the school system and/or Board of Education who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer epinephrine to a student, shall be immune from civil liability for any such act or omission to act related to the administration of epinephrine.

Albuterol Sulfate or Levalbuterol Sulfate for Asthma and Respiratory Distress

Henry County Schools does not maintain a supply of levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate. However, certain school employees or agents are authorized to administer levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate, if available, to a student upon the occurrence of perceived respiratory distress. Any school employee or agent who has completed training or received information provided by the Board on how to recognize the symptoms of respiratory distress and the correct method of administering levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate, may provide levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate to any student such employee or agent believes, in good faith, is experiencing perceived respiratory distress for immediate self-administration.

Students who need to carry prescription asthma, diabetic medication, epinephrine, and/or emergency seizure medication are permitted to keep these items in their possession if a completed Henry County Schools **Written Authorization for Self-Administration of Medication Form**, has been provided to, and approved by, the principal of the child's school. A Student Medication Consent Form and Release must also be filled out.

Medical Cannabis

The Henry County Board of Education will follow regulations set forth in O.C.G.A. §16-12-190 *et. seq.*, and the regulations set forth by the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis which govern the possession, sale, manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of low THC oil in the State of Georgia. *Medical Cannabis is not allowed on school property.* **Individualized health plan (IHP) forms are available at each school.**

Diabetes

Diabetes is a medical condition that impacts the blood sugar levels of students. The two most common types of diabetes are type 1 and type 2. Type 1 diabetes is where a student's body stops making insulin and requires daily insulin injections to survive. Type 2 diabetes is where a student's body doesn't use insulin well and can't keep blood sugar at normal levels. There are a variety of risk factors and warning signs associated with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Some risk factors for type 1 diabetes are family history and genetics. The other risk factor is a person's age. Students can get type 1 diabetes at any age, but it usually develops in children, teens, or young adults. Risk factors for type 2 diabetes include, but are not limited to weight, inactivity, age, and family history. Some of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes are feeling more thirsty than usual, frequent urination, feeling tired, slow-healing sores, blurry vision, and the presence of ketones in the urine. Parents or guardians of students displaying warning signs associated with type 1 or type 2 diabetes should consult with the student's primary care provider or a medical provider. The primary care provider will determine if immediate screening for Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes is appropriate. A primary care doctor, clinic, or hospital emergency department can test a blood sugar level, give those results quickly, and advise if further testing is needed. If the blood glucose level is high, the student may have diabetes. There are 3 stages of type 1 diabetes. By the time a student is diagnosed, they usually are in stage three. Stage 1 is the start of type 1 diabetes with the immune system beginning to attack the insulin-producing beta cells, although there are no symptoms and blood sugar remains normal. Stage 2 has increased attacking of the beta cells and blood sugar levels are abnormal. There are still typically no symptoms with stage 2. Stage 3 is when clinical diagnosis typically takes place and warning signs begin to show. Once a student has been diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes parents/guardians should consult with their doctor to obtain a treatment care plan (called a diabetes medical management plan) to follow at home and one to follow at school. If a diabetes medical management plan is created after the screening process, parents or guardians will bring the plan to the school. The school will work with the parent to assist the student in following the diabetes medical management plan at school.

For further information on diabetes risk factors, warning signs, treatment plans, and screening process see [Diabetes \(Type 1 and Type 2\)](#) on our District website. Also visit the Department of Public Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Diabetes Association, and/or the Georgia Department of Education for additional information.

Diabetes Medical Management Plan

Each school shall have appointed staff member(s) trained in diabetes management. Such employees are not required to be healthcare professionals. The parent or guardian of a student with diabetes shall submit to the school a Diabetes Medical Management Plan, annually, when the plan has been changed by a physician and signed by the physician and parent. The school shall review and implement the plan. A Diabetes Medical Management Plan is a document developed by the student's physician or other healthcare provider stating the prescribed health services needed by the student at school and signed by the student's parent or guardian.

In accordance with the Diabetes Medical Management Plan, trained diabetes personnel shall be able to perform functions, including but not limited to responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range, administering glucagon, administering insulin, or assisting a student with administering insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses, providing oral diabetes medication, checking and recording blood glucose levels and ketone levels, or assisting a student with such checking, recording, and following instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activities. Upon written request of a student's parent or guardian, via submission of the HCS authorization for self-administration of medication form and *HCS Student Medication Consent Form and Release* for each medication, and if authorized by the student's Diabetes Medical Management Plan a student with diabetes shall be permitted to perform blood glucose checks, administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the monitoring and treatment of his or her diabetes in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity, and he or she shall be permitted to possess on his or her person at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform such monitoring and treatment functions. The District shall provide information in the recognition of diabetes-related emergency situations to all bus drivers responsible for the transportation of a student with diabetes.

Seizure Action Plan

The Seizure Action Plan is a document developed by the physician responsible for the student's treatment and the parent of a student being treated for epilepsy or a seizure disorder and is signed by the physician. The Seizure Action Plan prescribes the support and services the student may need while at school and outlines procedural guidelines that provide specific directions about what to do in emergencies. Staff at each school will be trained to follow seizure action plans. These staff members, per O.C.G.A. §20-2-779.3, are not required to be health care professionals.

School Nutrition Services

School meals are served daily that meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nutrition requirements and standards for school meal patterns. Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications are available electronically (online) using the Student Record (Infinite Campus) Parent Portal. You may also request a paper application from the school office at any time.

School meals are available for purchase at all schools. **Breakfast may be purchased at a cost of \$1.75 for all students. Lunch may be purchased at a cost of \$3.00 for grades PK-5 and \$3.10 for Grades 6-12.** A la carte items are available and priced separately. Adult and second meal prices are \$3.00 for breakfast and \$5.00 for lunch. Special Event Meals, offered during designated school events such as holiday celebrations, are priced at \$5.00 for breakfast and \$7.00 for lunch for adults.

Sale prices for adult, visitor and student second meals are established to cover the full direct costs of the meal (federal reimbursement is not provided for these meals). Pursuant to USDA FNS Instruction 782-5, Rev. 1 states that the Henry County Schools must ensure that federal reimbursements, students' payments, and other non-designated nonprofit food service revenues do not subsidize program meals served to adults or as second meals.

Scoliosis Screening Program

In collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the school system offers scoliosis screenings to students in the 6th and 8th grades. Information regarding dates, times, and how screenings will be conducted, will be provided to parents/guardians. For more information, contact your child's school or the Student Services Department at 770-957- 3945.

Suicide Intervention, Prevention, and Postvention Program, [Policy JGJA: Suicide Prevention](#)

The Henry County Board of Education complies with the standards and policies set forth by the Georgia Board of Education's policy pursuant to the Jason Flatt Act-Georgia. The current policy is available on the school system website. For further information about Henry County Schools Suicide Intervention, Prevention, and Postvention Program, please contact the Student Services Department 770-957-3945. If you need assistance or know someone who needs immediate assistance, please use the numbers below for 24/7 support. **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or 988, Georgia Crisis and Access Line 1-800-715-4225 or 988.**

LEARNING, TEACHING, & ASSESSMENT - ELEMENTARY

Grades K-5



Henry County Schools embraces an aligned system of teaching and learning. For more information about teaching, learning, and assessment in Henry County Schools, please see [Policy BAB: School Board Governance](#) and Board Policies under the ["Instructional Program" section of the Board of Education Policy Manual](#).

Course of Study

Elementary school students are required to study the subjects listed below during the school year:

1. Literacy: Reading, Language Arts & Written Expression
2. Mathematics
3. Science/Health
4. Social Studies
5. Art
6. Music
7. Physical Education
8. Technology

Instructional Materials

Textbooks, student learning devices (e.g., Chromebooks, iPads, and laptops), and other instructional materials are the property of Henry County Schools and are loaned to students for use during the school year by schools. Students are expected to handle these materials carefully and to keep them in good condition. Replacement textbooks will not be provided until the school receives payment for any textbooks lost or damaged by students. When student learning devices and textbooks are assigned, students should keep the asset tag and barcode identification card affixed to the book and/or device. The device should remain in the protective case. Replacement devices will not be provided until the school receives payment for any device lost or damaged by students. For information about the balance of print and digital/internet-based resources in classrooms, see [Policy IFB-R\(1\): Instructional Services](#).

Media Center

Students may check out books and use media and other items in the media center. The media center is open during the school day. Students are responsible for items they borrow from the media center and will be required to pay for any items lost or damaged. See [Policy IFA: Instructional Materials and Content and the Instructional Materials Reconsideration Regulation](#) for other specific information. Please also see [Policy IFBC-R\(1\): Media Programs](#) for additional information on media resources.

Homework

Homework in Henry County Schools should provide time for students to practice what they have learned in class or to elaborate on information that has been introduced. Homework and practice should be used as instructional tools to help foster mastery of the outlined skills and concepts, and it should provide opportunities for students to refine and extend their knowledge of content taught throughout the school year. Practice is necessary for learning and mastering knowledge of any type. Although there may be some exceptions, the school district provides guidelines on approximate time your child may spend on homework based on their grade level.

Kindergarten - Approximately 0-30 minutes (collectively). Assignments should require little parental assistance.

First Grade - Approximately 0-30 minutes (collectively). Assignments should require little parental assistance.

Second Grade - Approximately 0-30 minutes (collectively).

Third Grade - Approximately 0-30 minutes (collectively).

Fourth Grade - Approximately 0-50 minutes (collectively).

Fifth Grade - Approximately 0-50 minutes (collectively).

Specifically, the following are examples of ways parents can support their child(ren) in or help their children complete homework:

- Help set up a consistent, organized place for homework to be done.
- Help your child establish either a consistent schedule for completing homework or help him/her create a schedule each weekend that reflects that week's activities.
- Encourage, motivate, and prompt your child to complete work independently. The purpose of homework is for your child to practice and use what he/she has learned. If your child is consistently unable to do homework by himself/herself, please contact the teacher.
- If your child is practicing a skill, ask him/her to tell you which steps are easy for him/her, which are difficult, or how he/she is going to improve. If your child is doing a project, ask him/her what knowledge he/she is applying for the project. If your child is consistently unable to talk about the knowledge, he/she is practicing or using,

please call the teacher.

- Homework that is designed to practice specific skills or concepts should be checked for accuracy (e.g., addition facts: $6 + 5 = 11$; $2 + 4 = 6$). Practicing a skill incorrectly may foster habitual errors or misconceptions.

Grading Systems

For information related to grading, including grade reporting, calculation, grade review, and communication, please reference [Policy IHA: Grading Systems](#) and [Regulation IHA-R\(2\): Grading Systems – 9th Grade in 2019-2020 & Beyond](#).

Georgia Assessment System

Georgia Assessments are administered to students as required by law as outlined below:

- **Kindergarten:** Students in Kindergarten are administered GKIDS 2.0 (Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills) and the GKIDS Readiness Assessment.
- **Grades 3-5:** The End-of-Grade (EOG) Assessments are administered in Grades 3-5 as prescribed by the Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-281(a).
- **Kindergarten – Grade 3:** Students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 are administered a reading screener as prescribed by Georgia Board of Education Rules 160-4-2-.40 and 160-4-2-.39 in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-153.1 and O.C.G.A. §20-2-159.6. Pursuant to the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026, first grade students may receive readiness assessments.
- Students who receive language education services (i.e., English Learner students) are administered the ACCESS test annually, and students who receive special education services may be eligible to participate in the Georgia Alternative Assessment in lieu of the Georgia Milestones Assessment.
- Parents will be notified when test scores are returned to the school. Questions about test scores should be directed to the principal. The Testing and Assessment Calendar can be accessed at Henry County Schools' website: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/>.

PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, & RETENTION [Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention](#)

State Requirements for Promotion, Placement, and Retention

Georgia law requires that the placement or promotion of a student into a grade, class, or program should be based on an assessment of the academic achievement of the student and a determination of the educational setting in which the student is most likely to receive the instruction and other services needed to succeed and progress to the next level of academic achievement. For students enrolled in grade levels with an associated state-required Milestones End of Grade Assessment, performance on the state test shall be considered when making promotion, placement, and retention determinations.

Promotion, Placement, and Retention in Elementary School (Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

Henry County Schools uses a Promotion/Placement/Retention (PPR) Rubric to make decisions regarding promotion, placement, and retention for students in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Each grade-level specific PPR Rubric outlines specific data points that each school uses as criteria for promotion, placement, or retention decisions. For more information related to promotion, placement, and retention, please reference [Regulation IHE-R\(1\): Promotion and Retention](#) which can be found on the District's website alongside [Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention](#).

Pursuant to the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026 (O.C.G.A. §20-2-151), a child enrolling in a state supported education program for the first time and is age eligible for enrollment in first grade, shall be placed in a kindergarten program if requested (in writing) by the child's parent or guardian (enrolling parent).

LEARNING, TEACHING, & ASSESSMENT - SECONDARY

Grades 6-12



Henry County Schools embraces an aligned system of teaching and learning. For more information, see [Policy BAB: School Board Governance](#) and [Board of Education Policies under the "Instructional Program" section of the Board Policy Manual](#).

Grading Systems

For information related to grading, please reference [Regulation IHA-R\(2\) for students who entered 9th grade for the time in 2019-2020 or subsequently](#), which can be found on the District's website and located in [Policy IHA: Grading Systems](#). This includes information on grade reporting, grade calculation (including GPA), grade review, and communication. There are two Administrative Regulations that govern the rules based on the year a student enters 9th grade for the first time (e.g. separate procedures for students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019 or prior). Please reference the appropriate Administrative Regulation based on the student's first-time 9th grade entry date. Please also refer to [Regulation IHA-R\(3\): Grading Systems – Transfer Grades and Credits](#) for transferring students attempting high school credits.

Transfer Students

Specific procedures govern the awarding of high school credits for students who transfer into Henry County Schools from another school during a semester, see [Regulation IHA-R\(3\): Grading Systems – Transfer Grades and Credits](#) (referred to as "late enrollment"). Grading practices will depend on:

- If the student was previously enrolled in the course, or
- If the student was not previously enrolled in the course.
 - The student may have a credit earning option if entering the Henry County Schools school within the first half of the course (either semester-long course or block course)
 - The student may have a non-credit earning option if the student has missed more than half of the course at the time of enrollment (after November 1st or April 1st), with exception for student performance.
 - Each school should make every effort receive from the student and to involve parents/guardians in completion of a Declaration of Intention form at the time of enrollment (to capture credit or non-credit earning basis for the course).
 - Exceptions exist, so consult your school for clarifications, questions or concerns. For example, Students that opt to be enrolled in a course with an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment will be required to take the associated EOC and earn an official grade for the course. Additionally,

If a student withdraws from a Henry County School prior to the completion of the semester, the decision concerning grades and credits on the student's permanent record shall be the responsibility of the school to which the student transfers.

Honor Roll Recognition

Honor Roll rules are determined at the local school level.

Georgia Assessment System

Georgia Assessments are administered to students as required by law as outlined below:

- **Grades 6-8:** The End of Grade (EOG) Assessments are administered in Grades 6-8 as prescribed by the Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2- 281(a).
- **Grades 9-12:** The End of Course Assessments (EOC) are administered when a student completes a course with an associated EOC as prescribed by the Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-281(a). The student's score on an EOC assessment will comprise a portion of the student's final grade, in accordance with Georgia Board of Education rule 160-4-2-.13 and Policy IHA: Grading Systems. If a student does not take a required EOC assessment, a zero (0) will be calculated as a portion of the final grade.
- Students who receive language education services (i.e., English Learner students) are administered the ACCESS test annually, and students who receive special education services may be eligible to participate in the Georgia Alternative Assessment in lieu of the Georgia Milestones Assessment.

Parents will be notified when test scores are returned to the school. Questions about test scores should be directed to the principal. The Testing and Assessment Calendar can be accessed at Henry County Schools website: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/divisions/learning-performance-and-strategy-services/district-and-school-performance-staff/assessment-and-performance>

Exam Schedule

The principal will arrange a semester exam schedule.

PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, & RETENTION [Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention](#)

State Requirements for Promotion, Placement, and Retention

Georgia law requires that the placement or promotion of a student into a grade, class, or program should be based on an assessment of the academic achievement of the student and a determination of the educational setting in which the student is most likely to receive the instruction and other services needed to succeed and progress to the next level of academic achievement. For students enrolled in grade levels with an associated state-required Milestones End of Grade Assessment, performance on the state test shall be considered when making promotion, placement, and retention determinations.

Promotion, Placement, and Retention in Middle School (Grades 6, 7, and 8)

Henry County Schools uses a Promotion/Placement/Retention (PPR) Rubric to make decisions regarding promotion, placement, and retention for students in Grades 6, 7, and 8. Each grade-level specific PPR Rubric outlines specific data points that each school uses as criteria for promotion, placement, or retention decisions. For more information related to promotion, placement, and retention, please reference [Policy IHE-R: Promotion and Retention, and any associated regulations](#), which can all be found on the District's website.

Promotion and Classification in High School (Grades 9 – 12)

A student's grade-level classification at the high school level will be based on the student's cumulative accumulation of course credits. Students in the District's high schools will be classified based on Henry County Schools' High School Promotion Criteria. Grade-level assignments for high school students are based on the following criteria:

- Promotion or placement based upon the Placement/Retention Rubric.
- Earn 5 units of credit to be assigned to 10th grade.
- Earn 11 units of credit to be assigned to 11th grade.
- Earn 17 units of credit to be assigned to 12th grade.

GRADUATION



General Requirements

The Georgia Board of Education and the Henry County Board of Education establish graduation requirements for students seeking a diploma or certificate, which are available in [Policy IHF \(6\): Graduation Requirements - Entering Fall 2008-09 and thereafter and in the procedures found in Regulation IHF-R\(1\): Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2024 and Thereafter](#). To be eligible for graduation, requirements in each of the following components must be met:

1. **Unit Credit:** Students must earn the minimum number of units required for their graduating class and diploma or certificate program.
2. **Required Courses:** Students must satisfactorily complete specific courses required to receive a High School diploma or an Alternate Diploma. Students should also be aware that specific courses may be required for admission to a university, college, or technical college. No course may be substituted or exempted. No courses may be repeated unless the student failed the course.
3. **Attendance:** Attendance requirements are those set forth in the Georgia compulsory attendance law and elsewhere in this Handbook.
4. **Assessment:** Students must satisfy all applicable assessment requirements to be eligible for a High School Diploma or an Alternate Diploma.
5. **Employment/Education/Training:** For students who enter 9th grade for the first time 2020-2021 and beyond, seeking an Alternate Diploma must have transitioned to an employment/education/training setting in which needed support is provided by an entity other than the local school system.
6. **Community Service:** For students entering high school in Fall 2024 and thereafter, community service is required, which is the giving back and assistance to others without monetary compensation or remuneration to improve the community. Community Service may consist of:
 - Civic and Community Based Activities,
 - Faith-based Activities,
 - School Sponsored Activities through official athletic and extracurricular activities.

High School Graduation Requirements

Students must satisfy the graduation requirements in effect at the time they entered the 9th grade. Students who enroll from another state must meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter and the state assessment requirements referenced in Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs- Student Assessment. The requirements are outlined in [State Board of Education Rule IHF \(6\)](#) and [Policy IHF \(6\): Graduation Requirements](#). The

guidelines and requirements for the successful completion of community service hours, as a Henry County Board of Education graduation requirement delineated in Policy IHF and demonstration of post-secondary readiness skills, are contained in [Regulation IHF-R\(1\): Graduation Requirements - Entering Fall 2024 and Thereafter](#). The Georgia Board of Education has adopted significant changes in graduation requirements in recent years. Students with disabilities and English Learners (EL) may receive appropriate standard accommodations based on their needs and the specifications of their Individualized Education Program, their Individual Accommodation Plan, or their ELL Testing Participation Committee Plan. Students with disabilities who are unable to access the regular assessment program, are assessed with the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) based on state criteria for that examination. Students who are assessed with the GAA in middle school and in high school are eligible for an Alternate Diploma.

Specific questions may be addressed to school counselors or the Student Services Department. More information is available from the Georgia Department of Education.

College Admission Requirements

The University System of Georgia governs the state's colleges and universities, and the Technical College Systems of Georgia governs the state's technical colleges. The criteria for admission vary among colleges, universities, and states. Specific admission requirements may exceed the requirements for earning a high school diploma. Students and parents are encouraged to meet with their school counselor to develop a program of study to support career and post-secondary educational goals.

Diplomas/Certificates

The High School Diploma certifies that students have satisfied the unit requirements and state assessment requirements for their graduating class.

Special Education students with significant cognitive disabilities who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after 2020-2021, and who participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0) may be eligible to receive an Alternate Diploma if they meet the following criteria:

- Meet all curriculum and unit requirements.
- Meet assessment requirements by participation in GAA in middle school and in high school.
- Meet the transition requirement of reaching the age of 22 and transitioning to employment/education/training settings with supports in place.

Contact the Exceptional Student Education Department at 770-957-8086 for additional questions.

Pursuant to Georgia law, O.C.G.A. §20-2-70.1, a high school student diagnosed with a terminal medical illness may be eligible to receive a high school diploma, by request of Henry County Schools to the Georgia Department of Education for waiver of requirements. The parent or student should initiate the request with the school principal.

Graduation Ceremonies

All requirements for graduation must be completed before a student can receive a diploma and graduate. The graduation date is subject to change if, during the school year, schools are closed due to inclement weather, or any other emergency on a regular school day.

Students' participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education has the right to prohibit a student's participation if the student is found to have violated any provision of the Code of Conduct. Participation in the graduation ceremony is voluntary. A graduation fee and senior dues may be charged to cover costs for such items as diploma covers, printing costs, custodial expenses, floral arrangements, and guest speakers. Students will be given written notification of this fee at the beginning of the school year in which they are to participate in the graduation ceremony. The notification will include a description of the costs.

Graduation ceremonies, activities, and attire are determined by the individual schools. Specific questions should be directed to the school principal. For more information, see [Policy IKDB: Graduation Ceremonies](#).

PROGRAMS & ACADEMIC SERVICES



Before & After School Enrichment (BASE) Program

Elementary School

The After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) is offered to all elementary school students in Grades K-5 where enough students register to participate. Parents are required to pay a weekly fee for their child's participation in the program. A yearly registration fee of \$25.00 per student will be required at the time of registration with a cap of \$75.00 per family. Registration for the program can be done by visiting the BASE website <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/56> or by calling 678-583-1211. The program begins immediately following school and is available until 6:00 p.m. A late charge will be assessed for pickups after 6:00 p.m. The program is designed for students who can participate independently in age-appropriate activities within a 1:18 instructor/student ratio. The BASE program's goal is to keep all students safe, inspire them to learn beyond the school day, and offer parents peace of mind that their children are constructively engaged during afterschool hours.

Middle School

The Before School Enrichment Program (BSEP) is offered to middle school students for early morning drop-off where a sufficient number of students register to participate. Parents are required to pay a weekly fee of \$25.00 for their child's participation in the program. A yearly registration fee of \$25.00 is required at the time of registration. Registration for the program can be done online by visiting the BASE website or by calling the BASE District office at 678-583-1211. Start time for the program will begin at 7:30 am and will run until students are dismissed based on the morning bell schedule. The BASE program is designed to provide a safe and structured environment that prepares students for learning prior to the beginning of the school day.

Top State for Talent Act

The intent of O.C.G.A. §20-2-325 (arising from Georgia House Bill 192, Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy "BRIDGE Bill" (2025)) is to prepare students for the 21st Century demands in the workforce, global competition, and workforce readiness. Students must focus on their future at the beginning of their academic careers. The Top State for Talent Act requirements will be managed in our Robust Management System (e.g., Naviance). The Robust Management System (e.g., Naviance) is a college, career, and life readiness platform that connects academic achievement to postsecondary goals. Its comprehensive college and career planning solutions align student strengths and interests to long-term aspirations, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life. The Top State for Talent Act promotes planning for high school and postsecondary education options during the middle school years. Eighth (8th) grade students and their parents are to complete an Individual College and Career Plan that includes high school and postsecondary goals, career focus areas, courses required for graduation, and electives that support their career goals. In compliance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-143, all 8th Grade students will complete a career aptitude inventory. Additionally, students will complete one career interest and one career aptitude inventory in 9th or 10th Grade.

Students in Grades 6th through 12th shall be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness, career interest inventories, career aptitudes, and information to assist them in evaluating their academic skills and career interests. High school students in Grades 9th-12th shall be provided, career aptitude assessments, advisement, and counseling annually that will enable them to successfully monitor progress on their Individual College and Career Plan that prepares them for a seamless transition to high school and on to postsecondary study, further training/apprenticeships, armed forces or employment.

Child Find

Henry County Schools has an obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all students with disabilities or students suspected of having a disability residing in the District who are in need of special education and related services from ages 3 through 21 years of age. This includes students attending public, private, or home schools in Henry County. If you have a child or know of a child, who has a disability or is suspected to have a disability, please contact the Exceptional Student Education Department at 770-957-8086. For more information on the "Child Find" process, please visit our District's website at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/37263>.

IDEA - Parent Rights Regarding Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. §300 *et seq.* (IDEA), the federal law concerning the education of students with disabilities, requires schools to provide parents of a child with a disability a notice containing a full explanation of the procedural safeguards available under the IDEA and U.S. Department of Education regulations. To receive a copy of your parent rights, please contact the Student Support Facilitator at your school or you can download a copy from the District website at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/156785>.

ESSA – Parent's Right to Know Teacher and Paraprofessional Qualifications Notice

In compliance with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Henry County Schools would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or

paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

Whether the student's teacher—

- has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact your child's principal.

Early Intervention Program (EIP)

The Early Intervention Program may serve kindergarten through fifth grade students performing below grade level in reading and/or math. This program is designed to help identified students obtain the academic skills necessary to reach grade level expectations in the shortest possible time. For more information, contact the principal or the Learning & Performance Services Division at 770-957-6547.

Gifted Education Services

Gifted education services are offered in all schools for students who meet eligibility criteria set by the Georgia Department of Education. Students may be referred for consideration for gifted education services by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, or by the students themselves. Specific questions regarding advanced learning or gifted education services should be directed to the principal.

Accelerated Grade Placement

Accelerated grade placement is intended to provide an alternative placement that meets the instructional needs of a student in Grades K-6 who demonstrates above grade level performance in all academic areas. A student may be nominated for grade acceleration by a parent/guardian, teacher, or school administrator. The nomination should be submitted to the school administrator (principal or assistant principal), who is responsible for designating an individual to assemble necessary documentation, collect necessary data, and convene a Grade Acceleration Determination and Planning Team. Requests for midyear grade acceleration must be submitted no later than December 1. For a student to be considered for accelerated grade placement at the beginning of the next school year, referrals must be received no later than March 1. The 8th-grade curriculum is a requirement for all students and is not eligible for grade acceleration.

Pursuant to the Georgia Early Literacy Act (O.C.G.A. §20-2-151), at the discretion of the school principal or at the request of the parent or guardian, a child who has reached the age of six by September 1 may be assessed for first grade readiness.

Online and Blended Learning Options

Impact Academy Middle School:

Impact Academy Middle School is a school that provides a blended instructional model to students in Grades 6-8. Impact Academy's educational practice is to engage students with the best of online learning and the best of face-to-face learning (blended model). More information can be found on our website: <https://ia.henry.k12.ga.us/>.

Impact Academy High School:

Impact Academy High School is a school with a virtual learning environment in which an enrolled student can obtain a high school diploma. Impact Academy High School serves students in Grades 9-12 in a fully virtual format.

Enrollment for Impact Academy:

Impact Academy is recognized as two non-traditional schools. Enrollment occurs once each year and follows the School Choice window for the school district. Please contact Impact Academy for more information. More information can also be found on our website: www.henry.k12.ga.us/IA.

Henry County Schools offers full-time online virtual options for students in Grades 6-12. Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-319.4) sets guidelines and expectations for how districts offer and notify students and parents/guardians about online learning options. An online course is not required to graduate but provides an online learning option should you or your student choose. The following information is provided to help guide your educational decisions regarding online learning:

- A student may take an online course even if the course is offered in the local district.
- There will be no charge to the student or parent/guardian if the online course is taken in lieu of any of the courses offered during the regular school day. If an online course is chosen outside the normal operating hours of the school day, the student and parent are responsible for the cost of the course.
- Availability of online courses during the school day is subject to personnel being available to supervise online students and the school's capacity to accommodate online learners with supervision.
- Check with your school counselor for details regarding availability.
- Enrollment in supplemental online courses such as Henry County Online Academy (HCOA) and Georgia Virtual School (GAVS) should be at the start of each semester and should follow the registration timelines for both supplemental programs.

In all cases of part-time enrollment for a high school student (anything less than full-time), enrollment will be through the Henry County Online Academy (HCOA) not Impact Academy, so the first step is to contact your child's School Counselor.

Options for Full-time and Part-time Blended and Online Learning

	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Full-Time Blended Learning Option	Impact Academy Middle School (within HCS)	None
Full-Time Online Learning Options	None	Impact Academy High School (within HCS)
Part-Time Blended Learning-Option	None	Henry County Online Academy (within HCS) & Georgia Virtual School (external provider) (Supplemental courses only)
Part-Time Online Learning Option	None	None

Please note that online learning options within Henry County Schools may be expanded or revised during an unanticipated interruption in operations leading to school closures (see “Remote Learning/Academic and Operational Continuity Plan” section within this Handbook). If a parent/guardian chooses to enroll their student full-time in an external provider such as either Georgia Cyber Academy or Connections Academy, the student will no longer be a student of Henry County Schools. Contact information for Impact Academy can be found at www.henry.k12.ga.us/ia and by contacting your school counselor.

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment (DE) programs provide opportunities for eligible Georgia high school students in 11th and 12th grades, and 10th grade students who meet the criteria to take college level courses and earn concurrent credit toward a high school diploma while still in high school. The student must meet all requirements for the DE program, be accepted by an eligible institution, courses must be approved by their high school counselor, and courses must be listed on the GAFutures-approved course directory. Students may enroll full-time or part-time in credit-bearing college-level courses approved by the Georgia Board of Education and Georgia Student Finance Commission. Please visit the Henry County Schools website for up-to-date information on post-secondary and Dual Enrollment programs (<https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/8984>).

Before enrolling in any Dual Enrollment course, students interested in dual enrollment programs should contact the school counseling office for current information on dual enrollment procedures, student eligibility based on state residency requirements, eligible institutions, contact information, approved courses, and transferable credit. You may also visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission website at GAFutures.org or the Henry County Dual Enrollment website.

Prior to enrollment, each student participating in a post-secondary DE program and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to meet with the school counselor and sign a participation agreement and a document at their high school stating they have a clear understanding of the student’s responsibilities. By signing these documents, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge the possible outcomes to the student’s plans for completing graduation requirements, to the student’s rank in class, and to the student’s participation in extracurricular activities. If the student fails to enroll in the postsecondary institution as planned, withdraws from the postsecondary institution, the postsecondary institution removes the student, or the student drops a course at the postsecondary institution, then the student may not be allowed to replace or rejoin the course(s) at the high school until the beginning of the next semester. Depending on the nature of the postsecondary program, or DE program, there could also be financial implications, an inability to meet graduation requirements, or an inability to proceed in the program the following semester or year.

DE students must take all applicable End-of-Course assessments. Students must provide their home high school with evidence of successful completion of post-secondary course work by presenting a transcript from the college or university. Participating students must communicate with their high school counselor frequently to provide an update on academic progress. Students seeking to enroll in the DE program must have been admitted to the college/university ten (10) days prior to the college or university enrollment deadline to ensure that funding for the courses is processed on time.

Participating students are responsible for securing information about high school activities such as ordering class rings, invitations, caps and gowns, yearbooks, and graduation ceremonies.

Students participating in any post-secondary Dual Enrollment program are eligible to participate in competitive and other extracurricular activities, following the provisions of Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.18, as long as their schedule can accommodate practices, games, etc. without interfering with their completion of post-secondary course requirements. However, schedule conflicts could occur which could prevent students from participating.

School Counselors

School counselors develop and implement comprehensive school counseling programs that meet the diverse needs of students. Implementing a school counseling program allows school counselors to focus their skills and knowledge on data-driven, standards-based academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students. Effective school counseling programs collaborate with school leaders, families, other educators, various agencies, industry partners, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations to foster an environment that maximizes student achievement. Some of the services that are provided by school counselors are assisting with mentoring/advisory programs, individual student academic planning, student progress monitoring, referral to community agencies, providing small and large group

counseling services, analyzing disaggregated data/interpreting test scores, identifying and resolving student issues and needs, providing curriculum lessons, and advocating for all students. School counselors are champions for students and families. The work of school counselors is supported through the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Mindset and Behavior Standards, which foster student growth by developing successful learning strategies, self-management skills, and social skills. School counselors work to ensure that the mission and vision of the department support student growth. School counselors address issues that substantially impact student academic achievement, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness.

Parents/guardians, teachers, and students can initiate a referral to the school counselor. However, parental permission is not required for students to see the school counselor or to participate in core curriculum lessons and activities. Often, the focus of the counseling activity centers on problem-solving, decision-making, and goal setting as the student and school counselor work together towards college, life, and career readiness. While school counselors offer a wide range of services, they cannot serve in the same role as a private therapist. School counselors can provide referrals to outside mental health clinicians. **The Georgia Crisis and Access Line, 1-800-715-4225 or 988, is a free resource available 24/7** to assist families experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis.

School Psychologists

School psychologists play a vital role in supporting students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral development. They use their expertise in mental health, education, and child development to offer a range of services that benefit both students and the school community. These services include psychoeducational assessments to determine eligibility for special education, consultation and collaboration with teachers and families to create effective strategies for student success, and active participation in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure that students receive evidence-based interventions. School psychologists also provide individual and group counseling to help students address social-emotional challenges, contribute to crisis response efforts to maintain emotional safety, and assist with data collection and analysis to inform decisions and assess the effectiveness of school programs. Through these services, school psychologists help create a positive and supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

While school psychologists offer a wide range of services, they cannot serve in the same role as a private therapist. School psychologists can provide referrals to outside mental health clinicians.

School Social Worker Services

School social workers act as liaisons between the school, home, and the community. Social workers use clinical knowledge and professional training to engage, empower, and advocate for the students and families they serve. School social workers provide a wide range of services that include but are not limited to: individual and group counseling; leading school-wide or targeted preventative activities; helping students or families to effectively use community resources; social-emotional development activities; assessing and assisting students that are identified as homeless; advocating and supporting students in foster care; preventing and intervening in attendance issues; and providing consultation to school staff regarding student mental health issues. School social workers work diligently to improve the overall school climate and a supportive environment for all students.

While social workers offer a wide range of services, they cannot serve in the same role as a private therapist. Social workers can provide referrals to outside mental health clinicians. The Georgia Crisis and Access Line, 1-800-715-4225 or 988, is a free resource available 24/7 to assist families experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) integrates instruction, assessment, and intervention within a multi-tiered prevention system to maximize student achievement and reduce behavior concerns. It is our intentional framework for addressing teaching and learning which begins with high-quality, standards-based instruction each day and emphasizes intervening with students when they first start to struggle to avoid prolonged academic and/or behavioral difficulties. MTSS is a seamless process consisting of well-defined instructional practices, re-engagement strategies, and interventions based on students' needs to accelerate their learning. MTSS has three distinct tiers of instructional interventions and supports that account for all students within our District. Each tier encompasses a level of intervention or instruction that responds to students' academic, behavioral, and/or social-emotional needs and includes the following:

Tier 1: Standards-Based, Core Instruction & Support

- Provide all students with access to the Balanced Models of Instruction, Georgia Standards of Excellence, and intentional supports when mastery is not evident.
- Provide all students with high expectations, standards-based whole and small group instruction, a balance of skills-based and knowledge-based understandings in all content areas and differentiated instruction.
- Proactively intervene early to provide support for students not meeting academic and/or behavioral expectations.
- Afford students multiple opportunities to re-engage with content standards they have not yet mastered.
- Monitor progress of learning through formative assessments and analyses of student work.

Tier 2: Targeted Intervention

In addition to Tier I with the expectation that an increase in the explicitness and intensity of instruction will occur for targeted students.

- Interventions are driven by a specific area of need (academic – reading, writing, math — or behavioral/social emotional).

- Interventions are evidence-based, target specific skills, and implemented with fidelity.
- Progress monitoring is conducted with research-validated tools at least bi-weekly to determine students' responsiveness to the instruction and intervention being implemented.

Tier 3: Intensive Intervention via Student Support Team (SST)

In addition to Tier I with the expectation that an increase in the explicitness and intensity of instruction will occur for a small percentage of students.

- Interventions are research-based and target the student's specific deficit skill (i.e., phonics, reading fluency, reading comprehension, number sense, math computation, math problem solving, written expression or behavior).
- An individualized SST plan is created collaboratively between the school and parent(s) to meet the unique needs of the student.
- The SST plan details the intervention, as well as frequency, duration, and group size.
- Progress monitoring is conducted with research-validated tools at a frequency of at least weekly to determine students' responsiveness to the instruction and intervention being implemented.

Student Support Team

The Student Support Team (SST) is a committee of experienced teachers, other educators, and parents who provide suggestions for teachers and parents to implement, with students who are exhibiting academic and/or behavior difficulties. The term "Student Support Team" is synonymous with Tier 3 within the Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

Exceptional Student Education, ESE [Policy IDDF: Special Education Programs](#)

Special Education services are provided to meet the needs of students with disabilities and are provided for students in all disability areas recognized by the State of Georgia. Programs and classes are provided based on the identified needs of each student. If your child has learning or behavior concerns, or if you suspect that your child has a disability, you should contact the Principal or the Assistant Principal responsible for the Student Support Team (SST) at your child's school for the "Child Find" Protocol or contact the Exceptional Student Education Department at 770-957-8086.

Under provisions of the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, parents of students who receive Special Education services may choose to transfer their children to other public or private schools in Georgia. For additional information, please visit the Georgia Department of Education website at <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us>, or contact the Henry County Schools Exceptional Student Education Department at 770-957-8086.

Seclusion and Restraint

Henry County Schools and the Georgia Department of Education support a positive approach to behavior. This approach includes proactive strategies to create a safe school climate that promotes dignity, creates authentic student engagement, increases instructional time, and improves student achievement for all students.

In order to protect the safety of students and staff, the Georgia Board of Education has adopted Rule 160-5-1-.35: Seclusion and Restraint for All Students, which prohibits the use of seclusion (as defined in that rule) and limits the use of restraint to those situations in which students are an immediate/imminent danger to themselves or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques.

The Henry County Board of Education also adopted [Policy JGF \(2\): Seclusion and Restraint of Students](#) to ensure the students' safety. This policy includes, among other things:

- Training will be provided to appropriate staff and faculty on restraint use.
- Written parental notification that restraint was used on their child shall be provided within a reasonable time not to exceed one (1) school day from the use of restraint.
- Documentation of the use of physical restraint by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student in each instance in which the student is restrained.
- Periodic review of the use of restraint.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Regulations for Section 504 require a school district to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. See [Policy JAA: Equal Educational Opportunities](#). Henry County Schools abides by the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ADA as well as the revisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (Amendments Act) effective January 1, 2009. Parents who suspect their child may have a disability covered under Section 504 should contact the principal or the school-level Section 504 contact designee. For additional information on Section 504, please visit the website at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/125495>. Under provisions of the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, parents of students who receive services under Section 504 may choose to transfer their children to other public or private schools in Georgia upon meeting the criteria. For additional information, please visit the Georgia Department of Education website at [Georgia Special Need Scholarship](#) or contact the Student Services Department at 770-957-3945.

Section 504 Procedural Safeguards

1. Overview: Any student or parent/guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under

Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing.

2. Hearing Request: The Request for the Hearing must include the following:

- a. The name of the student.
- b. The student's residential address.
- c. The name of the school the student is attending.
- d. The decision that is the subject of the hearing.
- e. The requested reasons for review.
- f. The proposed remedy sought by the grievant.
- g. The name and contact information of the grievant.

Within ten (10) business days from receiving the grievant's Request for Hearing, the Section 504 Coordinator will acknowledge the Request for Hearing, in writing, and schedule a time and place for a hearing. If the written Request for Hearing does not contain the necessary information noted above, the Section 504 Coordinator will inform the grievant of the specific information needed to complete the request. All timelines and processes will be kept until the Request for Hearing contains the necessary information noted above.

3. Mediation: The school system may offer mediation to resolve the issues detailed by the grievant in his or her Request for Hearing. Mediation is voluntary, and both the grievant and school system must agree to participate. The grievant may terminate the mediation at any time. If the mediation is terminated without an agreement, the school system will follow the procedures for conducting an impartial hearing without an additional Request for Hearing.

4. Hearing Procedures:

- a. The Section 504 Coordinator will obtain an impartial review official who will conduct a hearing within forty-five (45) calendar days from the receipt of the grievant's request for the Hearing, unless agreed to otherwise by the grievant or a continuance is granted by the impartial review official. The impartial review official shall not be a member of the Henry County Board of Education or be an employee of Henry County Schools and shall be an attorney or other person sufficiently familiar with the rules and regulations pertaining to Section 504.
- b. Upon a showing of good cause by the grievant or school system, the impartial review official, at his or her discretion, may grant a continuance and set a new hearing date. The request for a continuance must be in writing and copied to the other party.
- c. The grievant will have an opportunity to examine the child's educational records prior to the hearing.
- d. The grievant will have the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel at his or her own expense at the hearing and participate, speak, examine witnesses, and present information at the hearing. If the grievant is to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing, he or she must inform the Section 504 Coordinator of that fact in writing at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing. Failure to notify the Section 504 Coordinator in writing of representation by legal counsel shall constitute good cause for continuance of the hearing.
- e. The grievant will have the burden of proving any claims he or she may assert. When warranted by circumstances or law, the impartial review official may require the recipient to defend its position/decision regarding the claims (e.g., A recipient shall place a disabled student in the regular educational environment operated by the recipient unless it is demonstrated by the recipient that the education of the person in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. 34 C.F.R §104.34). One or more representatives of the school system, who may be an attorney, will attend the hearing to present the evidence and witnesses, respond to the grievant testimony, and answer questions posed by the review official.
- f. The impartial review official shall not have the power to subpoena witnesses, and the strict rules of evidence shall not apply to hearings. The impartial review official shall have the authority to issue pre-hearing instructions, which may include requiring the parties to exchange documents and names of witnesses to be present.
- g. The impartial review official shall determine the weight to be given any evidence based on its reliability and probative value.
- h. The hearing shall be closed to the public.
- i. The issues of the hearing will be limited to those raised in the written or oral request for the hearing.
- j. Witnesses will be questioned directly by the party who calls them. Cross-examination of witnesses will be allowed. The impartial review official, at his or her discretion, may allow further examination of witnesses or ask questions of the witnesses.
- k. Testimony shall be recorded by court reporting or audio recording at the expense of the school system. All documents related to the hearing shall be retained by the recipient. All documentation related to the hearing shall be retained by the school system in accordance with retention periods set forth in State law.

- l. Unless otherwise required by law, the impartial review official shall uphold the action of the school system unless the grievant can prove that a preponderance of the evidence supports his or her claim.
 - m. Failure of the grievant to appear at a scheduled hearing unless prior notification of absence was provided and approved by the impartial review official or just cause is shown shall constitute a waiver of the right to a personal appearance before the impartial review official.
5. Decision: The impartial review official shall issue a written determination within twenty (20) calendar days of the date the hearing concluded. The determination of the impartial review official shall not include any monetary damages or the award of any attorney's fees.
 6. Review: If not satisfied with the decision of the impartial review official, any party may pursue any right of review, appeal, cause of action or claim available to them under the law or existing state or federal rules or regulations.

State-Funded Instructional Extension Program

The State-Funded Instructional Extension Program (SIEP) provides low-performing students with additional academic support beyond the regular school day. The SIEP provides qualifying students with a minimum of 120 hours of additional instruction through a variety of delivery models. Middle school models may consist of after-school academic assistance and/or brief summer assistance programs. High school models may consist of before-school and/or after-school academic assistance programs. For more information, contact the principal or the Leadership Services Division at 770-957-6601.

Title I Program

The purpose of the Title I, Part A grant established through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is to dedicate funds to provide all children "significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps" (ESSA, Section 1001). The Title I, Part A program provides instructional support as a supplement to students' regular classroom instruction. Title I, Part A programs are designed to address the needs of students identified through comprehensive needs assessments. Evidence-based interventions and strategies are selected to address the identified needs through instruction, parent and family engagement, and professional development. Funding for the Title I, Part A program is not available at all schools. For additional information, contact the school principal or the Family and Student Support Services Division at 770-957-3945.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Asbestos Plan

The Henry County Board of Education has a state-approved asbestos plan. A copy of this plan is available in the principal's office. For more information concerning asbestos plans, please contact the Facilities/Maintenance Department and 770-957-1891.

Athletics, [Policy IDE\(3\): Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12.](#)

Students enrolled in Grades 7-12 meeting academic requirements will be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic events. Students in Grades 7 and 8 must pass five (5) out of six (6) courses in the semester immediately prior to competition. Students in Grades 9-12 must meet eligibility requirements as defined by the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA), governing competitive athletic activities and competitions of member high schools in the state. For specifics, please contact your student's school and/or review the GHSAA Constitution and By-Laws (Section 1.50) which can be found at www.ghsa.net.

Henry County Schools offer a wide variety of interscholastic athletic opportunities at the high school level. High schools participating in interscholastic sports events subject to GHSAA will comply with GHSAA rules. Most Henry County Schools high schools are member schools of GHSAA. The athletic programs are great sources of pride to our communities. Involvement in athletics helps students develop a better sense of responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, self-confidence, and sportsmanship that will serve them long after graduation. The lessons and values learned by participating on athletic teams last a lifetime.

For definitions of specific sports and a list of what sports are offered at each high school campus, please visit the District athletics webpage at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/37>. Students and parents may find additional athletic information at each high school website under the school's athletic webpage.

Procedures for the Expansion of Interscholastic Athletic Programs

If a student or parent/guardian wishes to request the addition of a new sport or the addition of a level of competition (i.e., Freshman or Junior Varsity) for an existing sport to the interscholastic program that is not currently offered, the procedures for making such a request can be found on the athletic webpage of each high school's website and the athletic webpage for the District located at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/divisions/leadership-services/school-operational-systems-student-conduct-athletics-safety-security/athletics/sports-offered-in-hcs>. Contact the Athletics Department at 770-957-6601.

Birthdays

The school faculty and staff are happy to recognize student birthdays. However, because learning time is very important, no birthday parties may be held during the school day for students or teachers.

Book Bags, Sports Bags, Instruments and Other Bags

Students are allowed, but not required, to use a book bag to carry their textbooks and school supplies. However, students are discouraged from using a rolling book bag because such bags often create tripping hazards. If students choose to use a rolling bag, they must carry the bag when entering and exiting the bus. In addition, a luggage-type bag and/or instrument that is too bulky for students to safely hold in their lap is prohibited on the bus. Any instrument being carried on the bus must be placed in the student's lap. For safety reasons, book bags and/or instruments may not be placed in the center aisle of the bus. All student bags are subject to search. The principal may designate additional restrictions on book bags to ensure a safe and orderly environment.

Bus Transportation and Safety

Video Cameras on Buses: Each bus may be equipped with a video camera. Students may be videoed on each trip. The videos provide a record of student's behavior on the bus. Upon written request, a parent may make an appointment to view a tape of their child if a disciplinary issue has been identified, but no copies will be made of videos containing other students. **Parents should not interrupt bus routes or attempt to board buses to discuss issues with drivers.**

Transportation to and from Designated Bus Stops: Students will be picked up at their designated bus stop and returned to their designated bus stop. Students may only ride their assigned bus. It is the responsibility of Henry County Schools to transport students from bus stop to school and from school to bus stop. Parents are responsible for the child until the child enters the bus at his/her designated bus stop. Please note that all buses have limited wait times at their designated bus stops for students who are not there at the time of arrival, to remain on schedule to service student riders, including buses serving specific ESE-program students where wait time is limited to three (3) minutes. If your student has a home stop and misses the bus for five (5) days consecutively, their bus service will be discontinued until the Transportation Department receives further communication from the parent/guardian. Parents should ensure students are at their assigned bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus arrives. Contact the Transportation Services Department at 770-957-2025 for information regarding bus pick-up/drop-off times and locations or to discuss any concerns regarding bus

routes or drivers. Henry County Schools shall not be responsible for the student after he/she is returned to the designated bus stop. **The parent or designee must accompany their student(s) at the bus stop drop-off and pick-up for students eight years old and younger.** A student eight years and under will be brought back to their school in the afternoon if a parent, guardian or designee is not present at the bus stop to receive them unless alternative arrangements have been approved by the school. The bus driver must be able to identify the parent or designee. Bus drivers will only release students at their designated bus stop. This requirement also applies to Special Needs Students who **MUST** have adult supervision during drop-off. The guidelines below are mandated by Georgia's Department of Family Children Services (DFCS) division as it relates to students requiring adult supervision (<http://dfcs.georgia.gov>).

- Eight and under should never be left alone, even for short periods of time.
- Between nine to twelve, based on maturity, can be left at home for brief periods of time (never as a babysitter).
- Thirteen and older, generally, can be left as babysitters, with the exception of children in foster care. It is not recommended, however, that thirteen-year-olds baby-sit infants, small children and children who require special needs attention due to medical conditions.

Students should adhere to the following safety rules at the bus stop

1. Students who must cross the road to board a bus should never do so until the bus has come to a complete stop, the proper warning signs are displayed, and the driver motions for students to cross.
2. Students should only cross the road in front of the bus and never cross the road behind the bus.
3. Students should always stand a safe distance from the road (at least twelve feet).
4. Students who must cross the road after exiting from the bus should always cross at least twelve (12) feet in front of the bus after looking in both directions for traffic and after the driver motions for students to cross.
5. Students should never run to or from the bus.
6. Students should be at their assigned bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus arrives based on the assigned stop time, regardless of whether the parent application "Here Comes The Bus" shows their bus in the vicinity, because sometimes the application can experience delay.
7. Please ensure students are dressed properly for the weather, as they should be outside 5 minutes before the bus arrives.

For the safety of all students who ride the bus, students are expected to obey the following rules:

1. Students must use only the bus, and the bus stop assigned to them.
2. Students may not enter or leave the bus at any place except the student's regular bus stop or school unless the student has a note from home that has been approved by the principal or principal's designee.
3. Students who must change buses at any school must follow the rules of that school. See section below on Transportation Change.
4. Students must stay in their seat while the bus is in motion. Students may not reserve seats.
5. Students must obey all bus safety rules and the directions of their bus driver.
6. Students are not allowed to transport balloons, flowers, glass containers, or animals (dead or alive, including insects) on the bus.
7. Students are not allowed to consume food or drink on the bus, only plastic water bottles, no aluminum, metal, or any other cups are allowed on the bus.
8. Students must not throw anything, including litter, inside or outside of the bus, or cause damage to the bus.
9. Students must obey all rules listed in the Code of Conduct section of this Handbook while riding a school bus.
10. Using any electronic devices during the operation of a bus is prohibited, including but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones, or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with bus communications equipment or the driver's operation of the bus. Students cannot use any of these devices while loading and/or unloading the bus.
11. Parent Application: "Here Comes The Bus." Shows tracking of the school bus, gives scheduled and actual arrival times at home and school for your bus route, and provides push and email notifications when the bus is near.
Please visit the Transportation webpage at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147198> to access Here Comes the Bus app information on how to register.

Violations of the bus rules will be handled with disciplinary consequences through the Code of Conduct.

Bus Transportation Changes

Students may not make changes in the way they usually go home unless they have a note signed by their parent. A request to change a student's transportation must be received in writing with the signature of an enrolling parent. Parents should give specific dates and instructions to explain any change to the way their child should be transported home. Phone calls, emails, social media, and/or text messages cannot be accepted as a change of transportation requests. **The principal or designee must approve the note.** If you wish for your child to ride a different bus or to get off at a different stop, please provide the request in writing to the school. The following information must be included the child's full name, the parent's full name, the current address as listed in IC, the new address for delivery, the full name of the person authorized to receive your child (must be listed as an emergency contact in IC), and their contact information (address and phone number).

Last minute or frequent requests for transportation changes can confuse and upset students. To avoid such confusion and

disruption of the school during dismissal time, parents are asked to notify the school as early as possible if it becomes necessary to make an unanticipated change in the way their child should be transported home. A principal may have additional requirements for approving requests for transportation changes to ensure the safety of students.

Clubs & Organizations

As required by Georgia law, schools must provide to parents a list of all clubs and organizations available for students. Schools will provide this information at the time of enrollment. Included with this list will be a form parents should use to notify the school if they wish to prohibit their child from participation in any club or organization. Please contact your child's school if you have not received this list and notification form. If any new clubs or organizations are formed during the school year, schools will send information to parents, including a parent permission form for student participation. All regular business meetings of any school activity group will be conducted under the supervision of an adult, professional advisor. Students attending regularly scheduled club meetings must follow the rules established by their school. Clubs will meet on a scheduled basis so as not to conflict with academic instruction. For further information, see the section on "Extracurricular Activities" within this Handbook.

For information on Booster Organizations for parental involvement, please see Policy [LEC: Booster Organizations](#), and Regulations [LEC-R\(1\): Booster Organizations – Administrative Procedures](#) and [LEC-R\(2\): Booster Organizations – Guidelines](#). Booster Organizations operate with significant autonomy. However, the Board of Education holds such organizations accountable for complying with all applicable laws and Board of Education policies, and for following all acceptable accounting procedures. The Board, the school and the District assumes no accountability or liability for organization funds or how said funds are handled by the organization. Organizations are not permitted to act as an agent of the Board, the school, or the District.

Driver's License/Certificate of Enrollment

The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act requires that students between the ages of 14 and 18 must be enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school in order to receive and maintain a Georgia driver's permit or license. The principal or his/her designee will establish procedures for students to obtain a Certificate of Enrollment. Students should submit their request for a Certificate of Enrollment at least two weeks prior to the date needed. For additional information, contact the school office.

Driving and Parking on School Campus

Parking on school property is a privilege, not a right. Students who wish to park vehicles on school property must first obtain a parking permit from the principal or principal's designee. The principal or the principal's designee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to grant a permit, in his/her sole discretion. Students should take lunches, textbooks, paper, pencils, or other items needed for school when they initially park and leave the car. The principal or the principal's designee must accompany students wishing to return to their car later in the school day. Violation of the rules, regulations, and policies of the Board of Education and/or the school concerning driving or parking a vehicle on school campus may result in suspension or expulsion from school, revocation of parking privileges, and/or having the vehicle towed away at the driver's expense. **As an express condition of obtaining a parking permit or being allowed to park on school property, the student and vehicle owner, consent to the principal and his/her designee having the right to search the vehicle without first obtaining permission of the student or the owner of the vehicle. Such a search may be conducted without notice and without a search warrant.**

Extracurricular Activities

All school-sponsored activities will be conducted under the direct supervision of the sponsoring teacher(s). Any questions or concerns regarding such activities should be addressed to the sponsoring teacher and/or the principal. Students who violate school rules or the rules of the Board of Education while on extracurricular activities or trips will be subject to disciplinary actions in the same manner as if the violations were committed on school property and during school hours. If transportation to and from an approved activity or event is provided by Henry County Schools, both the eligible students and supervising teachers will ride in the vehicles provided so that supervision may be maintained. The principal, and/or principal's supervisor must approve field trips. Contingent upon the principal's approval, an exception may be made when the parent wishes to assume direct responsibility for his or her child's transportation. The Superintendent, and/or Superintendent's designee the Board of Education must approve any school-sponsored banquet, party, or dance held off campus for which the school is solely responsible. Henry County Schools assumes no responsibility or control for organizations outside the school system. See also the "Clubs & Organizations" section of this Handbook.

Middle School and High School

To be eligible to try out or to participate in an extracurricular activity, students in Grades 7 & 8 must pass five (5) out of 6 (six) courses in the semester immediately prior to competition.

Students in Grades 9-12 must meet eligibility requirements as defined by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) governing competitive athletic activities and competitions of member high schools in the state. Most Henry County Schools high schools are member schools of GHSA. For specifics, please contact your student's school and/or review the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws (Section 1.50) which can be found at <https://www.ghsa.net/constitution>. Home study students

must meet all requirements of O.C.G.A. §20-2-319.6(c). See also the "Athletics" section of this Handbook. See also the "Gender Equity in Sports" section of this Handbook.

Field Trips, [Policy IFCB: Field Trips and Excursions](#)

Parents will receive notices of field trips in advance of the scheduled trip and will be asked to sign a field trip permission form. A small contribution may be requested to help defray transportation or facility costs. No student will be penalized in any manner or denied the opportunity to go on the field trip for failure to contribute. Individuals or organizations often offer the opportunity for students to travel during weekends or school breaks, or even during times when school is in session. Unless these opportunities are approved by the Henry County Board of Education, matters of interest or concern must be addressed to the individuals or representatives sponsoring these trips. Absences from school due to student participation in such travel will not be excused unless approved in advance by the principal. Students must obey all rules listed in the Code of Conduct section of the Handbook while on the bus for a field trip. Adults desiring to accompany their child on a field trip must be approved and authorized by the school principal, and must follow all expectations (see the "volunteer" and "child abuse reporting" sections of this Handbook).

Gum Chewing

Gum chewing at school and on the bus is prohibited.

Henry County Public Schools Foundation, Inc.

The Henry County Public Schools Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing financial resources to enrich and enhance education in Henry County Schools. Established in 2024 as part of a District strategic plan, the Foundation is committed to sustaining the world-class standards of Henry County Schools. A separate Board of Trustees that is representative of the Henry County community governs the Foundation, fostering the belief that community involvement in public education is essential to promoting an educated, healthy, responsible citizenry and desirable quality of life in Henry County.

Instructional Material and Social Media Parent Review

Pursuant to the Parents' Bill of Rights, O.C.G.A. §20-2-786, each parent has the right to review all instructional materials intended for use in the classroom of their child; the right to access all records relating to their child; the right to access information relating to promotion and retention policies and high school graduation requirements; the right to provide written notice that photographs, video or voice recordings of their child are prohibited; and, the right to request, in writing, any of this information. For specific information, see the Table of Contents of this Handbook to locate the relevant information. Instructional materials are available for parent review during the first two weeks of each nine-week grading period at each child's school. See [Regulation JR-R\(1\)](#) for specific details on this request process.

Parents and legal guardians may prohibit their child from accessing one or more specific social media platforms in the educational context. To exercise this, the parent or legal guardian must provide a completed "Request for Reconsideration of Materials" form available in Exhibit IFA-E(1): Instructional Materials and Content, or comparable written opt-out directive to the school principal or the designee specifying the platforms to be restricted. For further details, refer to Regulation [IFBG-R\(1\): Internet Acceptable Use](#) for Social Media.

If you as a parent or guardian have difficulties making a request for any information listed above, please contact: Office of Legal Compliance, Erica Harrison Arnold, Esq., Executive Director, Henry County Schools, 33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253.

JROTC and the National Defense Authorization Act

Federal law allows home school students the opportunity to enroll in Junior Reserves Officers' Training Corp (JROTC) programs currently available to public school students. Henry County Schools will abide by the provisions of such federal law and any authorizing regulations, procedures, or guidance as such are made available to school districts. Parents interested in enrolling their student in JROTC should contact their school to inquire about enrollment. For additional information, please contact the District enrollment office at 770-957-6601.

Lockers

Lockers are property of the school and may be opened by a school official without the permission of the individual student. Students to whom lockers are assigned will be subject to disciplinary action and may be suspended or expelled if the locker contains weapons, drugs, or other unauthorized material.

Lost and Found

Each school has a "Lost & Found" area where lost items are turned in and may be claimed. Items that are not claimed by the designated date determined by the school will be discarded. Items of clothing that can be removed, such as coats and sweaters, should be labeled with the student's name to prevent the item from being placed in the Lost and Found. Any items left on a bus will be turned into the school. Parents are encouraged to contact the school to inquire about any missing belongings. The District is not responsible for any lost personal items.

Lunch with Students/Outside Food Policy

Authorized adults identified as emergency contacts by the enrolling parent(s) and biological parents identified on the birth certificate are welcome to eat lunch with their children at school. The authorized adult must present a valid government-issued photo ID. Visitors must clearly display the school-issued visitor's badge for the duration of the visit. A principal may limit the number of lunch visitors, restrict certain days of the school year, designate a location or have other restrictions for lunch visits to ensure a safe and orderly environment.

Authorized adult visitors are encouraged to purchase a school lunch but are permitted to bring food to the school for consumption by themselves and their child(ren). Authorized adult visitors are not allowed to bring lunch for students other than their own child(ren). Commercial foods may not be delivered to the school without prior approval by the principal. When authorized adult visitors would like to purchase a school lunch to eat with their child at school, the school office should be notified by 9:00 a.m. so the lunch count can be adjusted. For information regarding the School Nutrition Program, including meal prices, refer to the "School Nutrition Services" section of this Handbook or contact the School Nutrition Department.

During the visit, visitors are not permitted to take pictures of other students or question other students about conflicts or academics. Lunch visitors are not permitted to visit any other areas of the school. Visitors should report to the office to sign out and turn in the visitor's badge immediately following lunch.

Please refer to the "Child Abuse" section within this Handbook for Georgia law requirements regarding school volunteers and visitors reporting, not investigating, any suspicions of child abuse to the principal, supervisor, or designee of the facility at which the person is volunteering. This report should be made immediately, but in no case later than the end of the school day or school event for which the person is serving as a volunteer or visitor.

Parties/Outside Food Policy

Since parties take away from class time, no more than two parties are permitted during the school year. There can be no surprise or planned parties for teachers. If a parent wishes to bring food to their child's class, they should obtain prior approval from the child's teacher. Only commercially prepared or store-purchased items will be permitted. When parents bring food to their child's classroom, after being approved by the child's teacher, they must have sufficient quantity for the whole class, the ingredients must be listed for all foods, and the carbohydrate counts for each serving must also be listed for all foods. Parents must also be mindful that some students may have food allergies that could cause medical problems for students and liability for parents. The principal may designate additional restrictions on class parties and outside food permissions.

Notice of Pictures of Students

Unless the parent/guardian requests otherwise, pictures and/or recordings of students may be taken by the news media, individual schools, or the school system during the school day or at school or district events. Such pictures or recordings of students may appear on school and school system websites, or other public places. **If the parent/guardian wishes to prohibit the taking of any picture or audiovisual recording of their child by the news media, the school, or the school system, notification must be filed with the principal of the school, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the beginning of the school year or the date of enrollment. Pictures and/or recordings that identify students as receiving Special Education instruction will not be publicly displayed.** Regardless of parental consent or notification, the school system has the right to record students with video cameras for safety and/or instructional purposes and at extracurricular activities.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents are encouraged to contact the school office or teacher to arrange a parent-teacher conference when the parent would like more information about their child's performance at school. Parent-teacher conferences can be effective ways of helping students improve their schoolwork. Teachers have availability for parent-teacher conferences during work hours when teachers do not have instructional responsibilities (e.g., before or after school and during planning periods).

Pets

No pets are allowed at school without permission from the school. Teachers may give special permission for pets to be brought to school as part of a special display or activity if approved by the principal. Under no circumstances is a potentially dangerous pet to be brought to school. Animals are not allowed on the school bus unless required by law.

Pledge of Allegiance, [Policy IKD: School Ceremonies and Observances](#)

Students will be given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America during each school day. Parents should notify their child's teacher, in writing, if they do not wish for their child to participate in reciting the pledge. Students who do not wish to participate may either stand or remain seated during the pledge.

Silent Reflection, [Policy IKD: School Ceremonies and Observances](#)

Each school shall have a designated time each school day to conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds. This moment of quiet reflection is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection.

Commercial Sales to/Soliciting Funds from Students or Employees

Seeking commercial sales or soliciting funds from students or employees by any business, industry, organization, or individual for the purpose of selling a product, service, or membership (e.g., solicitation) is prohibited on school grounds. The selling of any article or subscription, or any other activity undertaken for the purpose of raising funds or collecting monies in or through a school is prohibited unless the particular activity is approved by the Henry County Board of Education, see [Policy KEB: Solicitations](#). **Please do not allow your child to bring items to school for purposes of selling items or soliciting funds from students or employees.**

Student Learning Devices

The EmpowerHCS program is designed to support the District's vision by providing the digital resources and support necessary for student success. As a component of this program, all students have access to student learning devices.

- **Student Learning Devices:** Student learning devices, refer to technology devices such as laptops, Chromebooks, and iPads. The District loans students a device to use and students may be expected to transport their assigned device to and from school each day. All student learning devices and accessories are the property of Henry County Schools. Students must comply with [Policy IFBG: Internet Acceptable Use](#), [Policy IFBGA: Electronic Communications](#), and all other school policies that govern appropriate use of technology. For additional information about refer to the EmpowerHCS Program information located on the District's website: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/110625>.
- **Technology Protection Coverage:** All student learning devices are covered by a limited Accidental Protection Plan (ADP) to protect against most accidental drops, bumps, and structural failures incurred under normal operating conditions or handling. However, this plan excludes improper use/malintent/intentional damage. Examples of improper use/malintent/intentional damage may include damage to a device as a result of obvious intentional abuse by a user, a device that has been submerged in liquid (rendering it unrepairable), a crushed device (rendering it unrepairable), or a device otherwise damaged as a result of use outside the District's Acceptable Use Policy. In addition, this plan does not cover stolen/lost devices, nor does it cover the replacement of accessories.

Notice of Waiver to Transport Chromebook to and from School

Unless the parent/guardian requests otherwise, students transport their assigned Chromebook to and from school. If the parent/guardian wishes to waive the opportunity to transport the Chromebook to and from school, written notification must be submitted to the principal of the school within 30 days of the beginning of the school year or the date of enrollment. Regardless of parental consent or notification, to ensure an equitable learning experience, all students are required to use student learning devices to access, create, and share educational content at school.

Student Records and Academic Information

Parents have the right to inspect their child's student records maintained by the school. Parents having questions concerning student record information maintained for his or her child should contact the school principal. **Once a student reaches 18 years of age, he/she becomes an "eligible student" and education record rights formerly given to parents transfer to the student.** For more information about parent rights to student education records, directory information that can be disclosed, other disclosure of student education records, and related complaints, see the Federal Laws section describing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) within this Handbook or [Policy JR: Student Records](#).

Academic information includes items such as individual student attendance and discipline records, transcripts, and test results and may be held within a student's educational record. Such information is confidential, and access is restricted. Parents/guardians have the right to seek amendment of the student's academic information and/or education records that the parents/guardians believe to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights. Such requests should be made in writing to the principal. The rights afforded to parents/guardians can transfer to the student when the student reaches eighteen years of age.

Textbook and Instructional Orders and Inventories

Schools are expected to use textbooks, instructional resources, and student learning devices (e.g. Chromebooks, iPads, laptops) adopted as the school system's curricular materials. The Information Services department will provide a student learning device to all K-12 students. Textbooks, student learning devices, and other instructional materials are the property of Henry County Schools and are loaned to students to use during the school year. Textbooks and/or student learning devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged must be paid for by the student at the true replacement cost.

If students lose or damage textbooks, student learning devices and/or media materials, parents will be charged the full replacement cost and students may be subject to disciplinary action. Replacement textbooks, student learning devices, and media materials may not be issued until restitution is made. Georgia law provides that grade reports, diplomas, or certificates of progress may be withheld for failure to pay for lost or damaged textbooks, student learning devices, or other instructional materials for which the student is responsible.

Video or Audio Recorders

Video recorders are placed throughout the school and video/audio recorders are used on school buses for the purpose of aiding supervision. Video/audio recordings may be used in the classroom for the purpose of improving instruction,

developing strategies for dealing with student behavior or as evidence that misbehavior has taken place.

Visitors or Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to visit the school for conferences and school activities. Only designated adults listed on the emergency card by an enrolling parent, and biological parents identified on the birth certificate will be permitted to visit the school for designated activities. The parent/designated adult must present a valid government-issued photo ID.

As required by Georgia law, visitors to the school must report to the school office and sign in when they arrive.

Visitors must wear a visitor's badge while at the school. Visitors must adhere to and clearly display the school-issued visitor's badge for the duration of the visit. While visiting or volunteering, visitors are not permitted to take pictures of other students or question other students about confidential, private, or student education record matters. Advance notice and approval by the principal or his/her designee is required for any visitor to observe in classrooms. Visitors are not permitted to visit any other areas of the school outside of the approved location. Visitors should report to the office to sign-out and turn-in the visitor's badge immediately following approved activity. A principal may have additional requirements for approving visits to ensure a safe and orderly environment.

It is the practice of Henry County Schools to require criminal background information on mentor candidates and parent volunteers who plan to chaperone overnight field trips or whose volunteering will place them in contact with students.

Please refer to the "Child Abuse" section of this Handbook for Georgia law requirements of school volunteers and visitors to report, not investigate, any suspicions of child abuse to the principal, supervisor, or designee of the facility within which he/she is volunteering immediately, but in no case later than the end of the school day or school event.

Students may not bring relatives or friends to school as "spend-the-day" visitors. Students should have lunches, Chromebooks or learning devices, textbooks, homework, paper, pencils, or other necessary items upon arrival at school. If a parent is visiting the school, even for the purpose of dropping off school materials, the parent must report to the front office. Disrupting a student's instructional time by calling a student to the office to pick up forgotten items from a parent or visitor is discouraged, as it also may disrupt other students.

Adult Removal from School Premises

Our schools are committed to maintaining a safe and orderly environment for students, families, staff, and employees. Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §16-11-35(b) and O.C.G.A. §20-2-1182), the principal has the legal authority to direct a person disrupting school or a campus (such as yelling, using abusive language, making threats, or interfering with school operations) to stop and, if necessary, to leave campus. If the individual refuses to comply, the School Resource Officer (SRO) may be contacted, and law enforcement can assist, which may result in criminal consequences and/or written notice restricting their access to school property for a specified period of time.

Water Safety

Water safety education courses and swimming lessons play an important part in saving lives. Per the Edna Mae McGovern Act (O.C.G.A. §20-2-779.3), for water safety education information, please contact the Family & Student Support Services Division at 770-957-8086.

FEDERAL LAWS & GUIDELINES



Henry County Schools shall be in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the Student Data Privacy Accessibility and Transparency Act, the Hatch Amendment, the Vocational Education Guidelines, and the Gender Equity in Sports Act. Please review the following selection of federal laws and regulations pertinent to your child.

Health Education

Classes in health education may not be offered separately based on sex except that separate sessions for boys and girls are permissible during times when materials and discussion deal exclusively with human sexuality.

Gender Equity in Sports

Board of Education policy prohibits discrimination based on sex in its secondary school athletic programs. In accordance with the Riley Gaines Act of 2025 (O.C.G.A. §20-2-315), it shall be the policy of the Board to undertake all reasonable efforts to provide equal athletic opportunities for both male and female.

It shall be the policy of the Board to conduct a periodic assessment of its athletic programs to determine whether there are equal athletic opportunities for members of both genders. When accepting or rejecting all donations of services or items, including booster club/organization support, to any athletic program, the school principal shall abide by [Policy DFK: Gifts and Bequests](#).

The Superintendent shall designate an individual, known as the Sports Equity Coordinator, to coordinate compliance with the Georgia Equity in Sports Act. (See Notice of Equal Opportunity section of this Handbook.) The Superintendent, at his or her discretion, may also designate school-level coordinators to assist the Sports Equity Coordinator. The Sports Equity Coordinator shall investigate any complaint received by the school system alleging noncompliance with the Georgia Equity Sports Act. Such investigation shall be in accordance with the grievance procedures of [Policy Exhibit JAA-E\(1\): – Gender Equity in Sports](#) for resolution of complaints regarding gender equity in sports, as adopted by the Board. For any additional information, see [Policy IDFA: Gender Equity in Sports](#) and the grievance procedures in [Regulation IDFA-R\(1\): Equity in Sports – Grievance Procedures](#).

As required under O.C.G.A. §20-2-315, students are hereby notified that the Sports Equity Coordinator for Henry County Schools is Mr. Antonio Mattox, Chief School Leadership Officer. For inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity or alleged gender discrimination in sports, please contact 770-957-7189. For additional information, please see Henry County Board of Education [Policy Exhibit JAA-E\(1\): – Gender Equity in Sports](#).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Educational Records Requests – Annual Notice

FERPA is intended to require educational agencies and institutions to conform to fair recordkeeping practices. FERPA affords natural parents/guardians, stepparents (in some cases), and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents/Guardians or eligible students should submit to the school principal or appropriate school official a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Please see [Policy JR: Student Records](#) for more information.

In some cases, state law under the Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act ("SDPATA"), O.C.G.A. § 20-2-660 *et. seq.* may govern a parent's request to receive a student's educational records, particularly for transferring students. The SDPATA may require producing electronic educational records within a shorter time period such as within three (3) school days where available.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights of privacy.

The parent or guardian should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record in question, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights of privacy. The District will review the request, notify the parent or eligible student of the decision, and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment if applicable under FERPA. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. Under [Policy JR: Student Records](#) and reflected in FERPA, information such as that defined as "Academic Records" and "Directory Information" shall generally be

considered as not challengeable, except to the extent that the information is recorded accurately.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

With the exception of the information listed in the "Directory Information under FERPA", this restriction for personally identifiable information shall include but is not limited to telephone numbers, personal email addresses, home addresses, birth dates, birth names, emergency contacts, and identities of immediate family members. Under Henry County Schools practices, parent contact information is not considered student "education record" information required under disclosure FERPA. If personally identifiable information specific to a parent or emergency contact that may be associated with a student or education record is requested by another person or parent of the student, the enrolling parent's written consent must be obtained before the information is released unless one of the FERPA exceptions apply.

Exceptions to restricted access of student records are set forth in law. The following is a limited, non-exhaustive list of some of the disclosures permitted by FERPA without consent.

- a. FERPA permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task, (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or, parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- b. FERPA also permits disclosure of personally identifiable information without consent to appropriate officials in health or safety emergencies so long as the disclosure of the information is necessary for the receiving party to respond to the emergency nature of the situation and made to protect the health or safety of the student or others. Henry County Schools may disclose information related to student educational records to designated members of the Henry County Police Department, pursuant to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between entities, if a health of safety emergency exists justifying such temporary disclosure.
- c. FERPA permits disclosure in response to a lawfully issued judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. In the event that part or all of a student's record may be made available in compliance with a judicial order or any lawfully issued subpoena, advance notice of such compliance will be given to parents and eligible students unless the law permits or requires that a notice not be given.
- d. FERPA permits disclosure of education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. If students move to another attendance area within the school system or seek to enroll in a school outside of the system, a student's records will be sent to the new school upon official request from that school.
- e. FERPA permits the disclosure of educational records without consent to an agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency who has the right to access a student's case plan.

For assistance with records requests, a parent/guardian should contact the student's school or may contact the Office of Legal Compliance. More information about FERPA records requests, review, and production is available on the webpage for Records Requests at <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/about-hcs/deputy-superintendents/deputy-superintendent-operations/legal-compliance/records-request>, including FERPA release forms that may be used for each specific records request.

Parents and eligible students may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

Directory Information under FERPA

Directory Information constitutes information contained in students' education records that would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Under FERPA, Henry County Schools may disclose directory information without parental consent. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school district to include a student's education records in certain school publications or school-related activities, such as, but not limited to honor roll, graduation programs, sports participation/recognition, yearbook, and a playbill from a drama production.

Directory information is that which may be considered of general interest to students, parents, or the public. The following information is classified as directory information:

- The student's name, address, school electronic mail address, and date and place of birth;
- Location and dates of attendance within the school district;
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports;

- The weight and height of members of athletic teams;
- Photograph;
- Grade level;
- Name of the most recent educational agency or school attended by the student; and,
- Honors, awards, and other recognition connected with student performance at school.

Unless the parent/guardian or eligible student requests otherwise, directory information may be disclosed to the public upon request. A parent/guardian or eligible student has the right to refuse to allow any of their student information to be designated as directory information. To exercise this right, written notification must be filed with the principal within **thirty (30) days** of the date of enrollment or the start of the school year.

In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) the District must provide student directory information to military recruiters unless the parent or guardian opts-out of directory information. Schools are required to disclose the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students upon request by military recruiters and institutions of higher learning unless individual students age 18 or older or their parents' request. Written objections to the disclosure of Directory Information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the date of the student's enrollment or start of the school year, whichever is later. By law, social security numbers are to be kept confidential, see [JBC\(3\): Social Security Numbers Policy](#) [JBC\(3\): Social Security Numbers](#).

Research and Student Surveys

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding the school's conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These rights transfer from a parent to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. These include the right to:

1. Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:
 - a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 - b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - f. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student, the student's parents; or,
 - g. Income, other than as required by law, to determine program eligibility.
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:
 - a. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 - b. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and,
 - c. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
3. Inspect, upon request, and before administration or use:
 - a. Protected information surveys of students;
 - b. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above-mentioned marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and,
 - c. Instructional material used as a part of the educational curriculum.

Henry County Schools has adopted policies to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collections, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Please see [Policy KEBA: Solicitations of Students](#) and [Policy JRA: Student Data Privacy Complaints](#) for further information. Henry County Schools will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year, via this Handbook, and after any substantive changes. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and are provided an opportunity to opt-out their child for such activities and surveys. The following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above. Students or parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901.

Students and parents are hereby notified that the Federal Coordinators for Henry County Schools are:

- Mrs. Summer Cox, Office of the Superintendent (Title VI and Title IX)
- Mrs. Megan Sayago, Family & Student Services (IDEA, Section 504, Title II, and ADA- Students)
- Dr. Carl Knowlton, Human Resource Services (Title II and ADA - Employees)
- Mr. Antonio Mattox, Leadership Services (Sports Equity)
- All school principals (site-based for Title IX), whose contact information appears in the "Title IX Coordinators" section of this Handbook.

Coordinators may be contacted at: Henry County Schools, 33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, Georgia 30253, and 770-957-6601.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Notice

The district follows compliance related to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). COPPA imposes certain requirements on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age, and on operators of other websites or online services that have actual knowledge that they are collecting personal information online from a child under 13 years of age. The district utilizes several computer software applications and web-based services, operated not by Henry County Schools, but by third parties. In order for our students to use these programs and services, certain personal identifying information, generally, the student's name and school district-issued email address, must be provided to the website operator. Under federal law for COPPA, these websites must provide parental notification and obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13. For more information on COPPA, please visit: <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions>.

The law permits school districts to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of all its students, thereby eliminating the need for individual parental consent given directly to the website operator. Parents with questions regarding the use of websites and other online instructional supports by their child are encouraged to contact the principal at their child's school.

Student Data Privacy Accessibility and Transparency, Instructional Materials Review

The Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act affords parents and students, who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students"), the right to file a complaint with their local school system regarding possible violations of rights under O.C.G.A. §20-2-667 or under other federal or state student data privacy and security laws. For more information, please See [Policy JRA: Student Data Privacy Complaints](#).

The Chief Operations Officer has been designated by the Board to serve as Chief Privacy Officer to handle such complaints, and can be reached at: Barry Miles, Chief Operating and Privacy Officer, Henry County Schools, 396 Tomlinson Street, McDonough, GA 30253.

Sexual Harassment Policy, [Policy JCAC: Sexual Harassment of Students](#) and [Regulation JCAC-R\(1\): Sexual Harassment of Students - Sexual Harassment Grievance Process](#)

It is the policy of Board to maintain an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and, harassment on the basis of sex. The Henry County Board of Education (the "Board") does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates. The Board is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.) and its regulations (34 C.F.R. § 106.8) not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations to the Board may be referred to the Board's Title IX Coordinators, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both. Retaliation against individuals who file complaints of alleged sexual harassment or those who assist in the investigation of complaints of alleged sexual harassment is expressly prohibited. It shall be a violation of this JCAC policy for any student or employee of the District to engage in sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

1. An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Board's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Any student or employee who believes that he or she has been exposed to sexual harassment or retaliation in the Board's education program or activity should immediately report the act to the Board's Title IX Coordinators. Any employee that is on actual notice of sexual harassment or retaliation must immediately report the act to the Board's Title IX Coordinators.

Any student or employee has the right to file a formal complaint alleging sexual harassment or retaliation to the Board's Title IX Coordinators. The Board has adopted a grievance process to address all formal complaints filed. That grievance process:

1. Treats complainants and respondents equitably.
2. Requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence.

3. Assures that all Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, or any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process do not have a conflict of interest or bias.
4. Presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct.
5. Provides for reasonably prompt time frames for the conclusion of the grievance process.
6. Describes the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies following a determination of responsibility.
7. Adopts the preponderance of the evidence standard for complaints against both students and employees.
8. Provides for and describes the appeal process.
9. Describes the range of supportive measures available to both complainants and respondents.
10. Does not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence, if the questions or evidence constitute or seek the disclosure of information protected under a legally recognized privilege; unless the District can show the privilege has been waived.

Title IX Coordinators under [Policy JCAC: Sexual Harassment of Students](#)

The District's Title IX Coordinator is Summer Cox, Deputy Superintendent, with an office address at 33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, Georgia 30253, and phone number 770-957-6601. Additionally, the following school-based persons have been designated to handle inquiries and concerns regarding federal protections against discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. **In the event a school does not have a principal listed at the time of this Handbook publication (i.e. vacancy), please contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Austin Road (Pre-K; K-5)

Lois Barney, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
50 Austin Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281
Phone: 770-389-6556; Fax: 770-389-5909
Email: Lois.Barney@henry.k12.ga.us

Birch Creek (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Quavious Wright, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
850 Willow Lane, McDonough, Georgia 30253
Phone: 470-483-0477 Fax: 470-483-0478
Email: Quavious.Wright@henry.k12.ga.us

Cotton Indian (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Mahoganey Jackson, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
1201 Old Conyers Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281
Phone: 770-474-9983; Fax: 770-474-6959
Email: Mahoganey.Jackson@henry.k12.ga.us

Fairview (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Winfred Watts, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
458 Fairview Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281
Phone: 770-474-8265; Fax: 770-474-5528
Email: Winfred.Watts@henry.k12.ga.us

Hampton (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Michelle Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
10 Central Avenue, Hampton, GA 30228
Phone: 770-946-4345; Fax: 770-946-3472
Email: Michelle.Williams@henry.k12.ga.us

Locust Grove (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Sparkle Smith Washington, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
95 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Locust Grove, GA 30248
Phone: 770-957-5416; Fax: 770-957-4775
Email: Sparkle.Smith@henry.k12.ga.us

Bethlehem (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

SeTia Freeman, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
1000 Academic Parkway, Locust Grove, GA 30248
Phone: 770-288-8571; Fax: 770-288-8577
Email: SeTia.Freeman@henry.k12.ga.us

Dutchtown (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Douglas Fletcher, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
159 Mitchell Road, Hampton, GA 30228
Phone: 770-471-0844; Fax: 770-471-8066
Email: Fletcher.Douglas@henry.k12.ga.us

East Lake (K-5)

Dana Flowers, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
199 East Lake Road, McDonough, GA 30252
Phone: 678-583-8947 Fax: 678-583-8927
Email: Dana.Flowers@henry.k12.ga.us

Flippen (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Victoria Grubbs, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
425 Peach Drive, McDonough, GA 30253
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Email: Victoria.Grubbs@henry.k12.ga.us

Hickory Flat (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Dr. Dawn Blackwell, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
81 Brannan Road, McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: 770-898-0107 Fax: 770-898-0114
Email: Dawn.Blackwell@henry.k12.ga.us

Luella (K-5)

Dr. Twyla Barkley, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
575 Walker Drive, Locust Grove, GA 30248
Phone: 770-288-2035; Fax: 770-288-2040
Email: Twyla.Barkley@henry.k12.ga.us

Mt. Carmel (Pre-K; K-5)

Dr. Allison Van Tone-Foles, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

2450 Mt. Carmel Road, Hampton, GA 30228

Phone: 770-897-9799; Fax: 770-897-9806

Email: Allison.VanToneFoles@henry.k12.ga.us

Oakland (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Vacant, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

551 Highway 81 West, McDonough, GA 30253

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Email:

Pate's Creek (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Jennifer McCrary, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

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Email: Jennifer.McCrary@henry.k12.ga.us

Red Oak (K-5)

Jermaine Ausmore, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

175 Monarch Village Way, Stockbridge, GA 30281

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Email: Jermaine.Ausmore@henry.k12.ga.us

Rocky Creek (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Sonya Ayannuga, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

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Hampton, GA 30228

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Email: Sonya.Ayannuga@henry.k12.ga.us

Stockbridge (K-3)

Dr. Cedric Peeples, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

4617 North Henry Blvd., Stockbridge, GA 30281

Phone: 770-474-8743; Fax: 770-474-2357

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Tussahaw (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Michael Browning, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

225 Coan Drive, McDonough, GA 30252

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Email: Michael.Browning@henry.k12.ga.us

Walnut Creek (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Tamika Knighton, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

3535 McDonough Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253

Phone: 770-288-8561; Fax: 770-288-8566

Email: Tamika.Knighton@henry.k12.ga.us

Woodland (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Makisha Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

830 N. Moseley Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30281

Phone: 770-506-6391; Fax: 770-506-6396

Email: Makisha.Williams@henry.k12.ga.us

New Hope (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Dr. Bridget Jordan, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

1655 New Hope Road, Locust Grove, GA 30248

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Ola (K-5)

Carrie Edwards, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

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Pleasant Grove (K-5)

Andy Pike, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

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Rock Spring (K-5)

Julie Mosley, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

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Email: Julie.Mosley@henry.k12.ga.us

Smith-Barnes (4- 5)

Dr. Carolyn Flemister-Oliver, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

147 Tye Street, Stockbridge, GA 30281

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Email: cflemisteroliver@henry.k12.ga.us

Timber Ridge (ESE Pre-K; Pre-K; K-5)

Holly Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

2825 Ga. Highway 20, McDonough, GA 30252

Phone: 770-288-3237; Fax: 770-288-3316

Email: Holly.Williams@henry.k12.ga.us

Unity Grove (K-5)

Dr. Mercedes Durden, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

1180 LeGuin Mill Road, Locust Grove, GA 30248

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Email: Mercedes.Durden@henry.k12.ga.us

Wesley Lakes (Pre-K; K-5)

Dr. Jamilla Martin, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator

685 McDonough Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253

Phone: 770-914-1889; Fax: 770-914-9955

Email: Jamilla.Martin@henry.k12.ga.us

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Austin Road (6-8)

Michael Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
100 Austin Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281
Phone: 770-507-5407; Fax: 770-507-5413
Email: Michael.Williams@henry.k12.ga.us

Eagle's Landing (6-8)

ShayKele Holsey, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
295 Tunis Road, McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: 770-914-8189; Fax: 770-914-2989
Email: ShayKele.Holsey@henry.k12.ga.us

Locust Grove (6-8)

Dr. Darius Freeman, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
3315 S. Ola Road, Locust Grove, GA 30248
Phone: 770-957-6055; Fax: 770-957-7160
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McDonough (6-8)

Dr. Kimberly Kessinger, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Stockbridge (6-8)

Richard Flowers, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Woodland (6-8)

Michelle Wilkerson, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
820 N. Moseley Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30281
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Dutchtown (6-8)

Dr. Crystal Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Hampton (6-8)

Dr. Lydia Williams, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Luella (6-8)

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Ola (6-8)

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Union Grove (6-8)

Dr. Dwayne Richards, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Email: Dwayne.Richards@henry.k12.ga.us

HIGH SCHOOLS

Dutchtown (9-12)

Travis Chapman, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Hampton (9-12)

Dr. Jarvis Price, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Luella (9-12)

Brandi Hardnett, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Ola (9-12)

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Union Grove (9-12)

Dr. LaTonya Richards, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Eagle's Landing (9-12)

Chere' Lewis, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Locust Grove (9-12)

Tony Townsend, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
3275 S. Ola Road, Locust Grove, GA 30248
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McDonough (9-12)

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Stockbridge (9-12)

Dr. James Thornton, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Woodland (9-12)

Purvis Jackson, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
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Email: Purvis.Jackson@henry.k12.ga.us

SPECIALTY / NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

Impact Academy – Middle and High School (6-12)

Dr. Delphine Patterson, Director and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
330 E. Tomlinson Street, McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: 770-954-3744
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EXCEL Academy

Dr. Tylisa Hill, Principal and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
330 Tomlinson Street, McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: 770-957-4101; Fax: 770-957-0372
Email: Tylisa.Hill@henry.k12.ga.us

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

Academy for Advanced Studies (9-12)

Dr. Douglas Blackwell, CEO and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
401 East Tomlinson Street, McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: 770-320-7997; Fax: 678-610-5853
Email: Douglas.Blackwell@henry.k12.ga.us

South Metro GNETS / J.B. Henderson Center

Mr. Rodney Mallory, ESE GNETS Administrator and Site-Based Title IX Coordinator
354 N. Ola Road, McDonough, GA 30252
Phone: 678-432-2310; Fax: 678-432-3190
Email: Rodney.Mallory@henry.k12.ga.us

Should any of the principals who serve as Site-Based Title IX Coordinators change throughout the year, then the new or interim principal shall serve as the Site-Based Title IX Coordinator and his/her contact information shall be made publicly available.

CODE OF CONDUCT



In line with its Core Beliefs and Commitments (see [Policy BAB: School Board Governance](#)), the Henry County Board of Education has established a comprehensive Code of Conduct that focuses on creating a supportive, safe, secure, and equitable learning environment while promoting the academic, social, and emotional development of students. Henry County Schools' approach to student conduct reflects our commitment to understanding and addressing the causes of student behavior and teaching students appropriate behavior while providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

The Henry County Board of Education's Code of Conduct was designed and created to comply with the progressive discipline processes set forth in O.C.G.A. §20-2-735, which states that discipline will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior leading to the discipline, that the previous discipline history of the student during the current school year and other relevant factors will be taken into account, and that all due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed.

The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school administrator will be in proportion to the severity of the student's behavior and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student, and other relevant factors. Disciplinary consequences may include local interventions, in-school suspension (ISS), short-term suspension, and/or a referral to a disciplinary hearing. Disciplinary consequences imposed by a hearing officer at a disciplinary hearing may include long-term suspension or expulsion that could range from the remainder of the current term through permanent expulsion.

A copy (digital and/or hardcopy) of the Code of Conduct is provided annually to each student in grades pre- kindergarten through twelfth.

EXPECTATIONS

Each student may expect that Henry County Schools will:

1. Provide a free, quality public education.
2. Provide a safe learning environment.
3. Ensure that all students are treated courteously, fairly, and respectfully.
4. Provide students with the opportunity to respectfully express their opinions, concerns, and complaints.
5. Address all complaints and concerns brought to the attention of school personnel and school staff.
6. Inform students of the Code of Conduct and of disciplinary procedures related to disciplinary actions and/or appeals.

Each student is expected to:

1. Read and become familiar with this Code of Conduct.
2. Behave in a responsible manner at school, on school buses, at school bus stops, and at all school-related functions on or off campus.
3. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.
4. Attend all classes regularly and on time.
5. Prepare for each class, take appropriate materials to class, and complete assignments.
6. Follow all District rules and cooperate with school staff and volunteers in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
7. Communicate with his or her parent/guardian about school academic progress.

Each parent/guardian may expect that Henry County Schools will:

1. Ensure that parents or guardians are treated respectfully by school principals, teachers, and other staff.
2. Provide access to information regarding their student and Henry County School District's policies and procedures.
3. Promote and encourage active participation in their student's education.
4. Promptly notify parents or guardians if a student is disciplined and inform parents of procedures related to disciplinary actions and/or appeals.
5. Inform parents or guardians about their student's academic and behavioral progress.
6. Provide access to information about Henry County School District's policies and procedures.

Each parent/guardian is expected to:

1. Read and become familiar with this Code of Conduct.
2. Make sure their student attends school regularly, on time, and notify the school before the school day if their student is going to be absent.
3. Give the school accurate and current contact information and inform/update the contact information when and if it changes.

4. Inform school officials about any concerns/complaints in a respectful and timely manner.
5. Work with the school principal, teachers, and other staff to address any academic or behavioral concerns regarding their student.
6. Talk with their student about the behavior that is expected at school.
7. Support their students' learning and school activities.
8. Be respectful and courteous to staff, other parents, guardians, and students.
9. Respect other students' privacy rights.
10. Give school any and all information to assist with the welfare and education of the student and the safety of operations.

Per Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) Discipline Discrepancy Requirement - relevant disciplinary procedures apply to the child with a disability in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to a child without a disability, unless the Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) states otherwise or the disciplinary action is found to be a manifestation of the child's disability. Please refer to HCBOE [Policy JD: Student Discipline](#).

Additional Behavior Requirements

The district may impose campus, classroom, or club/organization rules in addition to those found in the student handbook. These rules may be listed in the student and campus handbooks, be posted, or distributed in classrooms, or be published in extracurricular handbooks, state or national organization bylaws, and/or constitutions. Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may require and enforce additional standards of conduct for student participation in extracurricular activities.

Organizational standards of behavior concerning an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student, including but not limited to the student being removed from participation in extracurricular activities, exclusion from school honors, suspension, and expulsion for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Addendums to the Code of Conduct may be added based on the specific needs of response to the pandemic or other national emergencies. These will be communicated by the schools through phone, internet and/or physical distribution of guidelines.

Information Regarding Disciplinary Procedures

The Code of Conduct governs students' behavior on school grounds and off school grounds at a school activity. The Code of Conduct also governs student behavior off school grounds at a non-school activity, but where the misconduct constitutes a potential danger to school, students, and/or staff, or constitutes or causes a disruption of school operations. Finally, the Code of Conduct also governs any student conduct that constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct en route to and from schools, en route to or from any school-sponsored activity, while on the bus, and/or while at the bus stop.

Disciplinary action will be progressive, will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators, and may, depending on the circumstances, include a range of discipline management alternative resolutions, including positive disciplinary techniques. Disciplinary action will take into consideration, without limitation, the seriousness of the violation, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of the student's misbehavior overall, the student's attitude, whether the student was acting in self-defense, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, and requirements of law (including, without limitation, IDEA and Section 504). Because of these factors, discipline for a particular violation (unless otherwise specified by law) may bring into consideration varying alternative resolutions and responses. Principals or designees will have the authority to assign consequences based on behavior related to specific incidents. This may include differentiated discipline assigned on a case-by-case basis.

When a Code of Conduct violation is reported or suspected, the principal or designee will determine whether an investigation is warranted and, if so, will instruct appropriate personnel to conduct an investigation. The investigation, where possible, should include interviews with the alleged perpetrator(s), identified witnesses, ISS teacher(s), staff members, and others who might have relevant information.

When possible, written statements may be requested from all individuals who are interviewed. Video surveillance, if available and relevant, should be reviewed and secured. Principals and Assistant Principals have the responsibility and authority to question students for the purpose of maintaining a safe and orderly school environment. Although schools will make an effort to inform parents about issues of concern, when possible, parental consent and notification is not required prior to questioning and/or obtaining written statements from students.

At an appropriate time during the investigation, the parent or guardian will be notified. If the incident involves injury or a need for immediate medical care arises, appropriate medical attention will be provided, and the parent or guardian notified as soon as is practicable. The principal and his/her designee should also immediately inform parents/guardians when students are removed from the school setting by emergency medical or law enforcement personnel.

The principal has the authority to assign In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension for 10 days or less. Questions regarding In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension should be directed to the school administration.

The determination of whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct will be based solely on a preponderance of the evidence, which means that it is more likely than not, based on all of the evidence available, that the student violated the Code of Conduct. Once it has been determined that the student violated the Code of Conduct, the administrator will follow the progressive discipline process.

LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE

The Code of Conduct is generally organized into four (4) levels of prohibited behaviors: *Level 1 Violations*, *Level 2 Violations*, *Level 3 Violations*, and *Level 4 Violations*. **However, it is important for students and parents to note that the circumstances of particular violations may warrant more severe consequences, even on the first violation. The School District reserves the right, in the administration's sole and exclusive discretion, to take any and all action necessary to protect its students, provide a safe and secure learning environment, and to ensure the orderly operation of all educational facilities, including without limitation treating a violation as a higher-level violation and/or providing for more severe consequences.** Additional information regarding prohibited behaviors and disciplinary actions follows these sections.

Level 1 Discipline: Level 1 Discipline is generally used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with the good order of school. Level 1 violations are generally minor violations and may represent a failure to demonstrate universally accepted expectations or social skills. It is the responsibility of all staff to address minor violations as soon as practicable within the environment in which the misbehavior occurred. Following appropriate teacher alternative resolutions, the student may be referred to an administrator. The accumulation of multiple Level 1 violations could result in more severe consequences.

Level 2 Discipline: Level 2 Discipline violations are generally mid-level acts of misconduct. Mid-level infractions are addressed by administrators. Repeated (two or more) violations of any Level 2 violation can result in that violation being considered a Level 3 violation and referral to a disciplinary hearing. Consequences range from a minimum of a long-term suspension to expulsion and possible opportunity to attend the District's alternative school.

Level 3 Discipline: Level 3 Discipline violations are generally serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehaviors of a similar nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. Level 3 violations are generally major infractions and are serious safety violations. Major infractions should be reported to the school administrator immediately after the incident and may result in the immediate removal of a student from school. Level 3 violations may result in a referral to a Disciplinary Hearing with consequences ranging from long-term suspension to expulsion and possible opportunity to attend the District's alternative school. Administrators will notify the appropriate district personnel, school resource officers, and law enforcement or state agencies deemed appropriate and required by law.

Level 4 Discipline: Level 4 Discipline violations are the most egregious acts of misconduct and generally constitute a serious violation of the law (for example, conduct which would be considered a serious felony criminal act if the student were an adult), and pose a significant safety risk or result in serious bodily injury. Committing a Level 4 violation will result in a referral to a Disciplinary Hearing resulting in consequences of up to permanent expulsion.

Before a student who is in preschool through third grade is assigned more than five days of out of school suspension, whether consecutive or cumulative, the student must receive multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). If the student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act or a Section 504 Plan under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, then the student's IEP or Section 504 Team must meet to review appropriate supports provided to the student under the plan.

A student may be taken to a Disciplinary Hearing for accumulation of seven (7) or more Code of Conduct violations. This may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. The length of long-term suspension or expulsion may range from the remainder of the current term through permanent expulsion.

Students currently enrolled at EXCEL Academy (alternative school) that commit a Level 2, 3 or 4 violation may receive a long-term suspension or expulsion from all Henry County Schools without the opportunity to attend the alternative school.

Depending on the severity of the violation, school administrators have the authority to send a student to a Disciplinary Hearing for any violation regardless of the level of disciplinary violation.

Only the Henry County Board of Education/Superintendent has the authority to allow a student who is under a permanent expulsion from any school system to enroll in Henry County Schools.

A student who receives a consequence of permanent expulsion from the Disciplinary Hearing Officer for violating a Level 4 Violation during a school year may not enroll into EXCEL Academy unless the student, pursuant to an appeal to the Henry County Board of Education, receives permission from the Board/Superintendent to re-enroll into the Henry County School District. The Board/Superintendent may grant the re-enrolled student the opportunity to enroll into EXCEL Academy. A student who receives a consequence of permanent expulsion from the Disciplinary Hearing Officer for committing a Level 4 Violation may not attend any Offense Based Intervention Programs unless the student, pursuant to an appeal to the Henry County Board of Education, receives permission from the Board/Superintendent to re-enroll into the Henry County School District.

DISCIPLINARY DEFINITIONS

Note: The definitions below are meant to address and define particular disciplinary actions. Parents and students are encouraged to read and become familiar with all defined terms.

Some of the disciplinary actions that may be used for student violations of the Code of Conduct include the following:

- *Warning/Reprimand:* Students will be warned that they may receive a consequence if the misbehavior continues.
- *Detention:* Detention may be used to address tardiness, behavior detrimental to learning, and physical contact between students that is deemed inappropriate. For each day assigned to detention, students will be required to spend a period of time, not to exceed one supervised hour, completing assigned class work. Students may complete activities centered around social and emotional learning, restorative practices, character education, and other activities that assist students in understanding the root cause of their behavior and how they take responsibility for their actions. No other activity will be allowed during detention (this includes no manual labor).
- *In-School Suspension:* The student is removed from regular classes for a specified period of time at the local school. Class work assignments are sent to the student by the teachers while in In-School Suspension (ISS). While assigned to ISS, students may not participate in or attend any extracurricular activity, including athletic participation and other school events. If students violate any rule of the ISS program, students may be suspended from the program and from school for the remaining number of days those students were assigned to ISS.
- *Short-Term Suspension:* Students subject to a short-term out-of-school suspension will be suspended from school for not more than ten (10) consecutive days. Short-term Suspension shall also include suspension from all participation in or attendance of regular school activities, extracurricular school activities, athletic participation, and other school events.
- *Long-Term Suspension:* Students subject to a long-term out-of-school suspension will be suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days but not beyond the end of the current semester. A Disciplinary Hearing is required to impose a long-term suspension. Long-Term Suspension shall also include suspension from all participation in or attendance of regular school activities, extracurricular school activities, athletic participation, and other school events.
- *Expulsion:* Students subject to an expulsion beyond the end of the current semester. A Disciplinary Hearing is required to impose an expulsion. of longer than 10 days. Expulsion shall also include suspension from all participation in or attendance of regular school activities, extracurricular school activities, athletic participation, and other school events.
- *Permanent Expulsion:* Students subject to a permanent expulsion from school will be permanently expelled from school at all times after the effective date of the permanent expulsion, beyond the current semester, and not allowed to attend any Henry County School. A Disciplinary Hearing is required to impose a permanent expulsion.
- *Strategies and Alternative Resolutions:* When students commit Level 1 through 3 disciplinary violations, a combination of strategies and alternative resolutions may be used in conjunction with a disciplinary response.
- *Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student:* A chronic disciplinary problem student is a student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur (O.C.G.A. §20-2-764).
 - After four or more Code of Conduct violations, the school should inform the parent/legal guardian, invite such parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference with the principal or his/her designee to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.
 - Students that commit seven or more Code of Conduct violations may be taken to a disciplinary hearing resulting in a consequence of Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion.
- *Option to Attend Alternative School:* Students who receive a long-term suspension or expulsion may be provided the opportunity to attend the alternative school based upon the disciplinary hearing officer's decision. Any student who commits a Level 2, 3 or 4 disciplinary infractions while attending the alternative school may be removed from the school,

after being found in violation at a disciplinary hearing. When the circumstances that led to a student's suspension are particularly violent, disruptive or may pose a danger to the safety and welfare of students and staff, then a hearing officer may determine that the student's referral to alternative program may be in the virtual setting only.

- *Term -a half of a semester.*
- *Semester- two terms or half of a school year.*

Electronic Resources: Violating the policies for using electronic resources.

Henry County Schools provides Internet/World Wide Web access to school system staff and students (users). The purpose of this service is to provide teachers and students access to electronic resources that support job responsibilities and the teaching and learning process. User access to the Internet and other computer resources is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, users who violate rules for the use of electronic resources shall be subject to revocation of these privileges and potential disciplinary and/or legal actions.

The Internet Safety Policy and school system measures are designed to address safety and security when using direct electronic communication. Electronic resources include, but are not limited to, Internet, World Wide Web (WWW), chat rooms, electronic mail, data, online resources, online services, portable media, network information, licensed software, telecommunication resources, HCS Intranet, and all other school system electronic messaging systems and data systems. Staff and students do not have a right to privacy while using the district's computer network. School officials can and will search data or e-mail stored on all school system- owned computers and networks with or without notice.

All users are expected to comply with [Policy IFBGA, Electronic Communications](#), and follow school system regulations for the use of electronic resources. Such regulations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Email accounts are provided for professional and academic purposes. Email accounts should not be used for personal gain, personal business activities, or to solicit for non-school system business. Broadcasting of unsolicited messages is prohibited. District employees should use electronic resources to communicate confidential staff or student information only to those who are authorized to receive and with a need to know. This includes student assessment data.
2. Users are required to follow school system regulations which concern the use of electronic resources (i.e., will not damage computers, will not violate the privacy of users' files, will follow directions of staff or supervisors, will not be wasteful of resources).
3. Comply with network policies regarding student and staff logins including, but not limited to, circumventing desktop protection applications or internet filtering devices.
4. Use the Internet for appropriate educational resources.
5. Use electronic resources only with permission of administrator or designated personnel.
6. Comply with copyright laws (giving credit to the rightful author and not distributing protected materials or software) and do not download or transmit confidential or copyrighted information.
7. Immediately report security problems or policy violations to appropriate school and/or district staff.
8. Do not use electronic resources in a manner that is obscene, insulting, purposely inaccurate, intimidating, or knowingly offensive to others.
9. Do not access inappropriate, obscene, or vulgar materials or show others how to access or use them.
10. Do not transmit computer viruses or any other malicious programs.
11. Do not intentionally damage or disrupt Internet/WWW services or network/hardware/software that provides delivery of electronic resources.
12. Do not install or remove software on any computer or server.
13. Do not share user IDs or passwords.
14. Do not utilize unauthorized user IDs or passwords.
15. Do not post messages or information and attribute to another user.

School system staff will employ the same supervision and care in determining and monitoring appropriate use of the Internet. Failure to abide by Board policies and administrative procedures governing use of the school system's electronic resources may result in the suspension or revocation of system access and can result in disciplinary action.

Henry County Schools has taken precautions to restrict access to inappropriate electronic materials; however, on a global network it is impossible to control all available content. A user may accidentally or purposely discover inappropriate information. Use of any information obtained via electronic resources is at the risk of the user. Henry County Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing.

Henry County Schools will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through any telecommunication or electronic resource. It is the policy of Henry County Schools to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online

disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act; and (e) comply with the Student Data Privacy and Transparency Act.

Internet Acceptable Use

The Henry County Board of Education recognizes the integral role of technology in advancing teaching, learning, and district operations. Students and employees have access to the internet and/or the district's network, along with a range of technology devices, tools, and applications—including at times Artificial Intelligence (AI)—to facilitate instruction, communication, collaboration, and administrative processes, all in alignment with the district's vision, mission, and strategic plan. All technology use must comply with the Board's policies, regulations, and the District's approval processes; the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Code of Ethics for Educators; the HCBOE Student Code of Conduct; the Student & Parent Handbook; the Employee Guide; and relevant laws including but not limited to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act of Georgia (SDA), and Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024. It is the policy of the Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any technology devices using district-provided network resources/services or the internet, a qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-324.

All users are expected to comply with [Policy IFBG: Internet Acceptable Use](#), and follow school system regulations for Internet Acceptable Use. Such regulations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **District Systems and Technology Resources Acceptable Use**

1. District systems and technology resources are to be used for District activities. Personal use should be limited.
2. District-issued devices that are assigned to individuals are the responsibility of that individual. Devices that are damaged under normal wear and tear will be replaced at no cost. Devices that are otherwise damaged will be replaced or repaired at the contract rate of an approved vendor, and the individual may be required to cover some or all of the expense.
3. District-issued devices should be secured when left unattended. It is the responsibility of the individual to protect District-issued devices and data in their care. If a device is lost or stolen, the event should be reported immediately to an official at the school or department in which the individual is assigned or enrolled, the Information Services Division and appropriate law enforcement, if deemed necessary.
4. Vandalism of District property is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action, and if applicable, legal actions. This includes any activity intended to harm or destroy District systems or technology resources, e.g., hardware, software, or data, such as creating a computer virus, service disruptions, and physical damage.
5. Upon withdrawal (students), termination of employment (employees), retirement (employees), or termination of agreement/contract/memorandum of understanding (e.g. temporary/contract workers, vendors, contractors, volunteers, etc.), individuals must return all District-issued devices, property, equipment, and electronically-stored information to the District through the school or department in which the individual is assigned (e.g. temporary/contract workers, vendors, contractors, volunteers, etc.) or enrolled (students).

- **Internet and Network Acceptable Use**

1. Only District-approved devices are permitted to connect to the District secure network while on-premise at District facilities.
2. A guest network is provided for individuals, such as visitors, vendors, parent/guardians, volunteers, etc., to which non-District-owned devices can connect to gain access to the internet. 3. The District prohibits the use of District resources and secured network access by nonemployees unless pre-approved by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or designee.
1. Individuals must not attach personal devices to the District's network that provide wireless access or other shared network connections to the District network (such as wireless routers or cell phones used as wireless hotspots) unless otherwise authorized by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or designee.
2. Individuals are not allowed to host websites that are not work-related, i.e., personal websites on District systems including, but not limited to, sites hosted on the Google Workspace for Education or Microsoft 365 domains. This does not include district authorized web pages or websites, such as, those published by teachers, athletics, and extracurricular sponsors.
3. Individuals are not allowed to produce on non-District systems personal web pages, websites, or social media pages that appear to officially represent the District or schools, unless otherwise authorized to do so by superintendent. Such approved sites will be regularly monitored by a district official to ensure appropriate representation of the District's reputation and compliance with board policy and applicable laws.
4. The District reserves the right to block access to internet sites it deems may be inappropriate (e.g., sexually explicit, gambling-related sites), lack educational or work-related content, or those that pose a threat to the network.

5. Individuals shall not run district-issued devices or cellular phones and devices in wireless sharing or hot spot modes unless otherwise authorized to do so by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or designee. This potentially allows other users, specifically minors to connect to the device in a peer-to-peer connection.
 6. Individuals shall not utilize any remote access software, tools, or technologies, including but not limited to, Windows Remote Desktop (or other third-party remote applications), unless otherwise authorized to do so by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or designee.
- **Email Use**
The District issues student email accounts for internal use only. Students can access email from any device via the Student LaunchPad. However, for security purposes, students can only send and receive emails to and from other Henry County Schools users and approved whitelisted accounts, e.g., GaDOE, GA Futures, College Board, etc.). Henry County Schools employees along with select temporary and contract workers, vendors, and contractors are issued email accounts intended for professional use only.
For further details, refer to HCS Board Policy IFG, Electronic Communications and accompanying regulation(s).
 - **Use of Artificial Intelligence**
The district may provide access to approved artificial intelligence (AI) tools to students, faculty, staff, and other individuals for educational and administrative purposes only. For further details, refer to the HCS Board Policy IFGA-R(2), Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence.
 - **Password Management and Authorization**
 1. Individuals must keep passwords private, securely hidden, and protected and must not share passwords with anyone unless they are authorized and authenticated for such access. This includes supervisors, support staff members, or Information Services Division personnel.
 2. Individuals should create passwords that, at a minimum, adhere to the recommended character length and complexity guidelines set forth by the Information Services Division.
 3. Individuals may use password storage technology on District-owned devices if that technology uses multi-factor authentication (MFA) such as biometric, SMS, or authenticator-based MFA.
 4. Individuals may not circumvent any authentication or security mechanism, nor modify, bypass, or disable the security configuration of any District-owned device.
 5. Individuals should immediately notify an administrator or supervisor and the Information Services Division Help Desk at 770-898-4043 if their password is lost or stolen, or if they believe someone has obtained unauthorized access to an account password.
 - **Violations**
 1. Violations of the acceptable use policy may cause any one or combination of the following: any employee's or student's access privileges to be revoked; disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action to be taken, up to and including termination of employment (employees) or expulsion (students).

Criminal Violations

Students who violate regulations in the Code of Conduct are subject to punishment by Henry County Schools. Students who commit violations that violate local, state, or federal laws are subject to charges by law enforcement authorities. *Per O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181, administrators are authorized to remove immediately any student alleged with a violation of terroristic threats to a remote learning setting with offered counseling supports, through the pendency of an investigation."*

EXCEL Academy

EXCEL Academy is a non-traditional alternative school that provides a safe, positive learning environment for students who have been found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct through a disciplinary hearing by a HCS Hearing Officer or by waiver. Since EXCEL Academy is an alternative to long-term suspension/expulsion, any student found to have committed a Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 violation while attending EXCEL Academy may be suspended or expelled from the school system without the option of attending any Henry County Schools. Transportation is generally not provided to EXCEL Academy unless the student receives Exceptional Student Education Services and/or protected under Section 504.

The opportunity to enroll at Excel Academy for the current semester is open for ten school days after the hearing date or signing of waiver. If the student is authorized to attend the alternative school and elects to do so, the student must comply with the rules and regulations of the alternative school. Violation of the rules and regulations of the alternative school may result in dismissal from that program. If the student elects to attend the alternative school, the parent and student will be responsible for registering the student at the alternative school within ten school days of the disciplinary hearing or signing of waiver. **Failure to enroll the student within ten (10) school days will result in the student not being allowed to attend. The parent and student will be responsible for the student's transportation to and from the alternative school. Timely enrollment will ensure continuity of the student's education is maximized.** A student who is enrolled in EXCEL Academy as a result of a disciplinary action will not be allowed on other school grounds during

any school activity, extracurricular activity, athletic activity, or other school events. While students are suspended pending a disciplinary hearing, they will be allowed to make up schoolwork during the suspension time.

Off-Campus Behavior

Any student who is arrested, indicted, or has a Juvenile Court complaint filed against him/her which alleges the student committed a felony or a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by any adult, an assault upon another student, a violation of the laws prohibiting controlled substances or sexual misconduct 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 (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.5), shall be immediately suspended from school and all school activities with the matter being submitted to a Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

If the Disciplinary Hearing Officer finds there is sufficient evidence to believe the child committed a felony, a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, an assault upon another student, a violation of the laws prohibiting controlled substances or sexual misconduct 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, the Disciplinary Hearing Officer shall issue a short-term or long-term suspension or expulsion from school, or placement of the student in an alternative educational program as deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

Personal Belongings

Personal belongings such as toys, electronic games, playing cards, cameras, or recording devices of any kind may not be brought to school or on class field trips unless they have been approved as part of a class assignment. If such items are brought to school, they may be taken up and kept in the school office until parents come to claim them. Also, students are subject to disciplinary action for bringing inappropriate items to school without the consent of the school administration. The School District is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal belongings.

Personal Electronic Devices

Students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices or accessories during the instructional school day. A personal electronic device refers to any device utilized to access the Internet, Wi-Fi, cellular telephone signals or to capture images or video. This includes but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.

This also includes the use of accessories. Personal electronic device accessories include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.

Although students may possess a personal electronic device, it should not be turned on or utilized for any function. The above-specified devices should be turned off, placed out of sight, and not used during instructional days. This includes established school day hours and at off-campus activities during the school day.

Reporting Criminal Conduct

Any action or failure to act by a student which is a violation of any law or which an administrator or teacher believes may be a violation of a law may be reported to the School Resource Officer (SRO).

School Resource Officers

The primary goal of the School Resource Unit is to provide a safe learning environment for students and teachers. It is the responsibility of the SRO to uphold the constitution, all applicable laws, and protect the citizens. The presence of officers on school campuses and at school-sponsored events helps deter criminal activity. The SRO seeks to establish positive relationships with the school community, and is a valuable resource for students, parents, and teachers regarding matters of safety, security, and criminal law. Whenever incidents of crime or threats to safety occur, the SRO can respond within his or her capacity and as outlined in the specific SRO Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as between HCS and Henry County Police Department.

School Safety Zone

School safety zones are defined as in, on, or within 1000 feet of any real property leased, owned, or occupied by the Henry County School District. It is unlawful for any person to carry, possess, or have under his/her control any weapon or explosive compound while within a school safety zone, at a school building or school function, or on school property or a vehicle furnished by the school. Violation of this law is a felony. However, an individual over the age of 21 years old (except students) who are in possession of a weapon and/or has a weapon locked in a compartment of a motor vehicle and has a lawful gun license or permit, may transit through a designated school zone to carry or pick up a student. However, it is unlawful for any person to remain within the school safety zone without a legitimate cause or need. Failure to leave the premises when requested is grounds for a charge of disruption of or interference with the operation of any public school.

Student Allegations of Employee Misconduct

Instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student should be reported to the principal or to the Human Resource Services Department at 770-957-5107. As authorized by Georgia law, if it is determined that a student deliberately falsified or misrepresented information alleging employee misconduct, the student will be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion.

Student Questioning by Officials

School Administrators: Principals and Assistant Principals have the responsibility and authority to question students for the purpose of maintaining a safe and orderly school environment. Though it is important to inform parents about issues of concern, parental consent is not required prior to the questioning of students.

Department of Family and Child Services (DFCS): DFCS officials investigating suspected child abuse are permitted to conduct reasonable interviews and inspections of children. Notice to parents is neither required nor desirable when the object of that investigation may be the parents. If the investigation involves suspected child abuse by individuals other than those residing in the child's household, parents will be informed that such interviews are being requested, if prior notification is possible.

Guardian Ad Litem: The Guardian Ad Litem is a trained professional appointed by the court to represent the best interests of minor children in court cases. Any request to interview a student or to inspect the student's school record should be submitted, in writing, along with court documentation establishing the Guardian Ad Litem relationship with the child.

Law Enforcement: School Resource Officers, as well as Probation Officers of the Juvenile Court, are permitted to question students at school without prior parental approval and notification. Law enforcement officers from other agencies investigating non-school-related matters may question students without the consent of the parent/guardian.

Student Searches

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school administrators may search a student, student desks, student learning devices, and student lockers at any time. In addition, a student may be searched if administrators have reason to believe the student is in possession of an article or substance which is illegal, prohibited by school rules, or dangerous. Students are given the opportunity to produce the item sought, or to voluntarily empty their pockets, purses, or book bags. Students may be asked to remove their jacket, vest, shoes, or socks. A School Resource Officer will be called if search yields illegal substances or other illegal materials. Searches may include the use of trained K-9's. A student who refuses to allow an administrator to search him/her will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or a disciplinary hearing. Weapons detection systems may be utilized in all schools and at all school events.

Student Vehicle Searches

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school administrators may search student vehicles at any time. As a condition of parking on premises owned by the Henry County Board of Education, students consent to a search of their vehicles. Students must have an approved parking permit application on file to park on school premises. Such application provides notice to the consent to search. If school authorities have a reasonable belief that a student's vehicle, which is parked on school premises, contains an article or substance which is illegal, prohibited by school rules, or dangerous, school authorities may initiate a search of the vehicle. Searches may include the use of trained K-9's. Failure of any student to comply with school authorities' search of their vehicle may subject the student to disciplinary actions.

If a search yields illegal or contraband materials, said contraband material shall be deemed to be constructively possessed by the student who owns, possesses, and parks the searched vehicle onto premises owned by Henry County Board of Education, and said student will be subject to school disciplinary actions for violation of the Code of Conduct. Illegal or contraband items recovered from the search of a student vehicle shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition. If recovered items are not illegal but are in violation of Board policies, the items will be held by the school until claimed by the student's parents or guardian.

STUDENT CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Henry County Schools strives to provide a supportive, safe, secure, and equitable learning environment for all students. Students shall not violate any of the following rules of Henry County Schools.

Progressive Discipline

The disciplinary levels below correspond to the progressive discipline levels detailed above within the levels of discipline. However, in serious violations, principals or designees working in conjunction with the School Leadership and Operations Division may use a higher level of progressive discipline.

The Code of Conduct provides examples of violations that may occur and guidelines for the MINIMUM and MAXIMUM consequences. This Code of Conduct is not intended to include all violations for which disciplinary action may be taken as it is not possible to identify all behavior, which might result in disciplinary consequences.

Similarly, this Code of Conduct is not intended to list every consequence for every violation as it is not possible to anticipate every particular set of circumstances under which a disciplinary consequence may be appropriate.

The student will receive a consequence that is either the minimum, the maximum, or an appropriate consequence in between. Students and parents/guardians should expect that discipline will be progressive, will be equitable, and will be fairly and evenly administered.

This Code of Conduct is meant to be a clear and concise reference guide and students and parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with school administrators regarding their student's particular situation.

Students that commit seven or more Code of Conduct violations in one school year may be taken to a disciplinary hearing resulting in a consequence of Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion.

LEVEL 1 VIOLATIONS

- 1.1 Behavior Detrimental to Learning:** Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, conduct that disrupts the learning environment and insulting/disrespectful communication.
- 1.2 Bullying (1st Violation):** Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law (*O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4*), is strictly prohibited. The Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system expressly prohibits bullying. **Bullying is one of three Level 1 violations that has an alternate progression, please see the Bullying progressions on page 57-58.**
- 1.3 Bus Conduct:** Students must obey all bus safety rules and all rules listed in the *Student Code of Conduct*. **Bus Conduct is one of three Level 1 violations that has an alternate progression, please see the Bus Conduct progression on page 58-59.**
- 1.4 Unexcused Tardies to school or class:** Students that briefly miss class can accumulate tardies which may result in a level 1 violation. Tardies to class of an extended nature may result in an immediate level 1 violation.
- 1.5 Dress Code:** Violation of the dress code. Refer to page **59** for Dress Code Policy.
- 1.6 Electronic Resources:** Violating the policies for using electronic resources. **Refer to page 49.**
- 1.7 Misuse of Personal Electronic Devices:** Unauthorized possession, displaying or using a cell phone, or other electronic communication device during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, smartwatches, headphones, earphones, earbuds, and other listening devices.
- 1.8 Encouraging Prohibited Behavior:** Inciting, urging, encouraging, counseling, or advising others to engage in prohibited behavior that violates the K-12 Student & Parent Handbook or any policy of the District. A student violates this rule when he/she verbally, physically, or in writing, encourages others to engage in prohibited behavior, which may include oral instruction or physically showing a student how to engage in prohibited behavior. This provision specifically includes encouraging fighting or physical harm to another in any form.
- 1.9 False Information:** Deliberately giving false or misleading information, including, but not limited to, forgery, altering records and academic dishonesty/cheating.
- 1.10 Failure to Report:** Failure to report to a teacher or administrator the knowledge of an event, device, object, or substance that could cause harm to self or others.

- 1.11 Gambling:** Includes, but is not limited to, betting money or other items on card games, dice games, or the outcome of athletic contests or other activities, and/or possession of gambling materials or paraphernalia.
- 1.12 Inappropriate Items and Activities:** Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, or exchanging any material, substance, food item, or personal belonging that is inappropriate for school. Possession or non-damaging use of a laser pointer.
- 1.13 Inappropriate Physical Contact Between Students:** Includes, but is not limited to, non-violent, disruptive pushing, inappropriate displays of affection (including, but not limited to, kissing or embracing on campus), or minor inappropriate touching.
- 1.14 Insubordination:** Being insubordinate to school personnel or school volunteers. All students shall comply with directions or commands of all authorized District and school personnel or designees.
- 1.15 Miscellaneous Violations:** Violating any other Board of Education or school rule, including, but not limited to, failing to report to detention and/or violating rules of the In-School Suspension program.
- 1.16** [Reserved; not in use]
- 1.17 Over-the-Counter Medication:** Using or possessing over-the-counter medication at school without the written consent of the principal or his/her designee. When students must take medicine at school, parents must bring all medicine and related equipment to the principal or his/her designee and complete a **Student Medication Consent Form and Release**. Medicine cannot be given without written permission and instructions from the parent. **Please do not send medicine to school with students. All prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines must be kept in the school clinic or office unless authorized in writing by a physician and approved by the principal in accordance with [Regulation JGCD-R\(1\): Medication- Procedures](#).** Students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, if they possess medicine at school without the principal's consent, distribute the medicine to other students, or use the medicine in a manner that is not prescribed or per label directions.
- 1.18 Profanity:** Using profane, vulgar, obscene, insulting, language, gestures, graphics, or materials, whether spoken, written, gestured, or communicated in person or via any electronic device.
- 1.19 Possessing Obscene Materials:** Possessing obscene or vulgar materials when such conduct does not involve another student.
- 1.20 Skipping:** Leaving school without permission of the principal or his/her designee, skipping school, or skipping class. **(For high school students, parking privileges may be revoked for two or more Skipping School violations).**
- 1.21 Unauthorized Areas:** Being in an area without the permission of school personnel.
- 1.22 Allowing Unauthorized Entry:** Opening or propping open doors to allow unauthorized entry into the school.
- 1.23 Parking/Driving Violations:** Students who drive to school must follow all safety rules and procedures established by the principal, including obtaining a parking permit. Violation of safety rules and procedures related to parking and/or driving to school may result in revocation of parking privileges and/or other disciplinary action. This may include reckless driving on campus such as burnouts, doughnuts, & speeding.

LEVEL 1 PROGRESSIONS

All schools are encouraged to have proactive, intervention-based, and multi-step systems at the classroom level prior to office referral.

Level 1 Violations	Elementary		Middle & High	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1 st Violation	Verbal Warning and Alternative Resolution Parent notification	Verbal Warning and Alternative Resolution Parent notification	Verbal Warning and Alternative Resolution Parent notification	In-School Suspension for one (1) day
2 nd Violation	Parent Conference	In-School Suspension for one (1) day	In-School Suspension for one (1) day	In-School Suspension for two (2) days
3 rd Violation	In-School Suspension for one (1) day	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for one (1) day	In-School Suspension for two (2) days	In-School Suspension for three (3) days
4 th Violation*	In-School Suspension for two (2) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for two (2) days	In-School Suspension for three (3) days	In-School Suspension for four (4) days
5 th Violation	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for two (2) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for three (3) days	In-School Suspension for five (5) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for two (2) days
6 th Violation	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for four (4) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days
7 th Violation	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for four (4) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days or Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion (If chronic disciplinary meeting has been held and plan implemented)	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion (if chronic disciplinary meeting has been held and plan implemented)
* Refer to Chronic Disciplinary guidelines for students with four or more Code of Conduct violations. After four Code of Conduct violations, a Chronic Discipline Meeting should be held, and a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan devised. <i>PK-3rd Grade: Refer to HB 740 Guidelines for suspension of preschool through third grade students for more than 5 consecutive or cumulative school days.</i> Committing a Level 1.15 Violation (violating the rules of In-School Suspension program) may result in the remainder of days being assigned as Out-of-School Suspension.				

BULLYING

Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4), is strictly prohibited. The Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system expressly prohibits bullying. If you or your student believe that a student is being bullied, please report it to a school staff member or administrator immediately.

Bullying is defined as an act that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
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 that 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 has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term "bullying" applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer networks, or other electronic technology of a local school system.

The term "bullying" also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment if the electronic communication:

1. is directed specifically at students or school personnel;
2. is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and
3. creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic photo, electronic or photo optical system.

Professional development and training opportunities for school staff on how to respond appropriately to acts of bullying, victims of bullying, and bystanders who report bullying, shall be in place. Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee who, in the exercise of his or her personal judgment and discretion, believes he or she has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint and in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. Such consequences shall include, at the minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling, as appropriate under the circumstances. However, upon a finding by the Disciplinary Hearing Officer that a student in grades has committed the violation of bullying for the third (3rd) time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to the alternative school (EXCEL Academy).

Depending on the severity of the bullying allegation, school administrators have the discretion to send a student to a disciplinary hearing for the first (1st) or second (2nd) bullying violation whereby the student, if found to have committed the violation, will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the student and parent handbook, including but not limited to, suspension or expulsion.

Upon the finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

BULLYING Level 1, 2, 3	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
Level 1.2 1 st Violation	Verbal Warning and Alternative Resolution	In-School Suspension for five (5) days or Short- Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days and Alternative Resolution	Verbal Warning and Alternative Resolution	In-School Suspension for five (5) days or Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days and Alternative Resolution
Level 2.1 2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for up to two (2) days and Alternative Resolution	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days and Alternative Resolution	In-School Suspension for ten (10) days or Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for ten (10) days, not a combination thereof, and Alternative Resolution	In-School Suspension for ten (10) days or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days, not a combination thereof, and Alternative Resolution
Level 3.1 *3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for ten (10) days	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
*Depending on the severity of the bullying allegation, school administrators have the discretion to send a student to a disciplinary hearing for the first (1 st) bullying offense whereby the student, if found to be in violation, will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion as outlined in level 3.1 (3 rd violation).				

SCHOOL SAFETY HOTLINE 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867) COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY

BUS CONDUCT

Students must obey all bus safety rules and all rules listed in the *Student Code of Conduct*. The school bus is considered an extension of the school campus and classroom; therefore, all school rules apply while students are being transported to and from school or school-sponsored activities. The bus driver has the authority and responsibility to maintain a safe, orderly, and secure environment on the bus. Students are expected to comply promptly and respectfully with all directives issued by the bus driver. Seating assignments are at the discretion of the bus driver and may be established or modified as necessary to ensure student safety and appropriate conduct.

In addition, Georgia law prohibits the following acts while on a bus:

1. Acts of physical violence.
2. Bullying as the term is defined in Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4).
3. Physical assault or battery of persons on the bus.
4. Verbal assault of persons on the bus.
5. Disrespectful conduct toward bus drivers or other persons.
6. Unruly behavior.
7. Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices with or without headphones or earbuds during the loading and unloading process. Students should keep electronic equipment packed away when preparing to board and when getting off the bus. Use of electronic devices while onboard the bus with headphones or ear buds is permitted as long as it does not interfere with the driver's operation of the school bus.
8. Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the driver's operation of the bus.
9. Students must maintain silence at all railroad crossings until the driver has crossed and gives all clear.
10. Students must obey all rules listed in the Bus Transportation Safety section of this Handbook.

Any violation of the Code of Conduct occurring on any bus may have consequences of being suspended from riding on the bus in addition to any other disciplinary consequences set forth in the Code of Conduct.

Fighting on a bus is among the most serious violations committed by students, as it endangers everyone riding the bus by causing the driver's attention to be diverted. Fighting on a school bus may result in immediate suspension from the bus and/or school with no prior warning or progressive disciplinary action being taken.

During the period of bus suspension, parents/guardians will be responsible for providing the student's transportation to/from school. Bus suspension is not an excused absence or tardy. If a student causes damage to a school bus, parents/guardians will be required to repay the cost of any damage to the bus. At the discretion of the principal, parents/guardians may be asked to meet with school officials to develop a school bus behavior contract for the student.

BUS CONDUCT Level 1.3	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Bus suspension for three (3) days	Bus suspension for five (5) days	Bus suspension for three (3) days	Bus suspension for five (5) days
2 nd Violation	Bus suspension for five (5) days	Bus suspension for seven (7) days	Bus suspension for five (5) days	Bus suspension for ten (10) days
3 rd Violation	Bus suspension for ten (10) days	Disciplinary hearing. Possible expulsion from the bus	Bus suspension for ten (10) days	Disciplinary hearing, Possible expulsion from the bus
Bus conduct may result in both bus and school-based consequences. Bus conduct could lead to a Long-Term suspension or expulsion from the bus.				

DRESS CODE

Dress Code: Violation of the dress code policy.

It is the Board of Education's belief that it should have and enforce hair and dress codes that will assist in preventing disruption of the educational environment, prevent health or safety hazards, and prevent interference of the learning of other students. The following regulations regarding the dress code apply to students while on school grounds, while remote learning, while participating in school athletic events, while participating in school extracurricular activities, or while on any transportation vehicle owned or used by the Board of Education.

1. Extreme styles of clothing that, in the opinion of the principal or the principal's designee, would interfere with learning, cause a disruption of the educational environment, or be a health or safety hazard, are not permitted. Clothing should be clean, neat, and worn properly (pants and skirts shall be worn at the waist). Clothing should not be too tight, too loose, too short, or too long and should not have inappropriate writing or pictures, including but not limited to, clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco, drugs, any prohibited product, sex, depicts or suggests violence or which contains suggestive writings, pictures, or emblems that are inflammatory, vulgar, or discriminatory. Blankets are not clothing and are prohibited in or on the school bus.
2. Hats, bonnets, scarves, and other headpieces will not be worn within the school building unless approved for special occasions by the principal or the principal's designee. This includes face coverings that fully conceal the face (ski mask), thereby obscuring the student's identity. Head wraps, scarves, or dress worn in observance of a cultural or religious tradition/belief are acceptable, as long as it does not cause a disruption of the educational environment.
3. Pants and jeans with noticeable splits or holes that, in the opinion of the principal or the principal's designee, would cause a disruption of the educational environment, would be a health hazard, or would interfere with the learning of other students, are prohibited.
4. Shorts, skirts, culottes, split skirts, or dresses must be reasonable in length and appropriate for school.
5. Immodest clothing is prohibited. See-through clothing, bare shoulders, bare midriffs, halters, tank tops and pajamas are prohibited. Tight-fitting clothing, such as spandex or bicycle type clothing and/or any facsimile, is prohibited.
6. Jewelry, clothing, or other items that have pictures, logos, lettering, writing, or other symbols that the principal considers vulgar, profane, offensive, suggestive, or disruptive, or that reflect sexual or obscene overtones, or that advertise any alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances are prohibited. Spiked jewelry, clothing, shoes, or chains are not permitted.
7. Wearing any clothing, jewelry, or other item symbolizing gang affiliation is prohibited.
8. Uniforms for cheerleaders and drill team participants are prohibited in the classroom.
9. Shoes are required for safety and hygiene reasons and may be worn with or without socks.
10. Earrings or other jewelry of such size or style that, in the opinion of the principal or the principal's designee, would

interfere with learning, would cause a disruption of the educational environment, or would be a health or safety hazard, are prohibited.

LEVEL 2 VIOLATIONS

A student that has committed two or more Level 2 violations may receive a consequence of long-term suspension through the end of the current semester or expulsion through the end of the current semester plus one additional term, or two additional terms at a disciplinary hearing.

2.1 Bullying (2nd Violation): Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4), is strictly prohibited. The Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system expressly prohibits bullying. **Bullying is one of two Level 2 violations that has an alternate progression, please see the Bullying progression on page 57.**

2.2 Disruption of School: Causing or contributing to the disruption and interference of school operations, but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others. It is unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of a public school. An example of prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, causing, participating in, contributing to, or encouraging a food fight, elopement (leaving or attempting to leave) from campus that poses a danger to self or others, running from school personnel, refusing to comply with a search if the student is believed to be in possession of item or substance that is illegal or inappropriate for school, or any disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment.

2.3 Violation of Electronics and Technology Policy: Misuse of electronic or technological resources or devices, including, but not limited to, unauthorized access to the system network, creating or using the email or messaging account of another without permission to send communications, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated post such as Deepfakes in a non-instructional manner and disrupting a virtual classroom.

2.4 Giving False Information: Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior or alleged ethics violations by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee.

2.5 False Representation of Substances: False representation of a substance as a drug for which the student has no valid prescription or false representation of a substance as an illegal drug as defined under the laws of the State of Georgia.

2.6 Gang Affiliation: Exhibiting gang affiliation, as evidenced by a common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristic. Exhibiting, gang affiliation and/or engaging in any gang-related activity is not permitted. For the purpose of this Handbook, a gang is defined as any group or association of three (3) or more persons, whether formal or informal, as evidenced by a common name or common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristic, that encourages, solicits, promotes, condones, causes, assists, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity. Students shall not use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang-related activity, including, but not limited to:

1. Soliciting others for membership in a gang;
2. Requesting any person to pay for protection, bullying, or otherwise intimidating or threatening or physically harming any person;
3. Inciting other students to engage in any gang-related activity; and,
4. Defacing any school property with any kind of gang graffiti.

2.7 Non-Dangerous Use and/or Possession of Hazardous Objects: Displaying, using, or otherwise exhibiting intent to use a hazardous object in such a manner that is neither dangerous nor threatening to the student, other students, personnel or any other person. If the hazardous object is displayed or used in a dangerous or threatening manner, or the student exhibits an intent to use the object, in such a way that the object could be considered a dangerous weapon, refer to Level 4 violation below. This includes sharp objects and pepper spray/mace when non-dangerously used.

- **Hazardous Object:** Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight- edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal gun replica, air gun, any stun gun or taser, and pepper spray, also known as capsaicin spray or capsicum spray, and commonly referred to as Mace, or any other lachrymatory agent meant to cause irritation to the eyes, pain and temporary blindness.

2.8 Fighting: For the purpose of this violation, fighting shall include, but not be limited to, mutually and/or intentionally hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, intentional spitting or use of other bodily fluids, or other physical contact with another student or person that is not school personnel, and does not rise to the level of Excessive Physical Contact as defined in Level 3. **Fighting has an alternate progression; please see the Fighting progression on page 63.**

2.9 Inappropriate Activity of a Sexual Nature: Such conduct does not rise to the level of severity of a Level 3 violation and may include selling, buying or transmitting sexually explicit or sexually exploitative materials (that do not depict a minor or a student), public displays of affection including, includes but not limited to, groping on school property; sexual harassment that does not involve physical contact such as lewd gestures, or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; horseplay with inadvertent physical contact of student's or another's intimate body parts/genitals, such as intentional "panting" or unwelcomed sexual advances; "sexting"; requests for sexual favors; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment.

Note: *May also involve a separate sexual harassment investigation under Sexual Harassment [Policy JCAC: Sexual Harassment](#).*

2.10 Unintentional Physical or Intentional Physical Contact with School Personnel: Unintentional, but inappropriate, physical contact or action with school personnel or intentional physical contact that does not rise to the level of 3.6.

2.11 Medical Substance Containing Alcohol: Possessing any substance containing alcohol which is normally used for medical purposes that has not been reported to the appropriate school official in accordance with the Medicine Policy. When students must take medicine at school, parents must bring all medicine and related equipment to the principal or his/her designee and complete a **Student Medication Consent Form and Release**. Medicine cannot be given without written permission and instructions from the parent. **Please do not send medicine to school with students.**

- **All prescription and over-the-counter medicine must be kept in the school office unless authorized in writing by a physician and approved by the principal.** Students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, if they possess medicine at school without the principal's consent, distribute the medicine to other students, or use the medicine in a manner that is not prescribed or per label directions (for over-the-counter medicines).

2.12 Possession of Prescription Drugs: Possession of prescription medication prescribed to the student by a doctor, but that has not been reported to appropriate school officials in accordance with the Medicine Policy.

When students must take medicine at school, parents must bring all medicine and related equipment to the principal or his/her designee and complete a **Student Medication Consent Form and Release**. Medicine cannot be administered at school without written permission and instructions from the parent. **Please do not send medicine to school with students.**

- **All prescription medicine must be kept in the clinic or school office unless authorized in writing by a physician and approved by the principal in accordance with regulation JGCD-R (1): Medication-Procedures.** Students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, if they possess medicine at school without the principal's consent, distribute the medicine to other students, or use the medicine in a manner that is not prescribed or per label directions.

2.13 Viewing Obscene Materials: Accessing or viewing obscene or vulgar materials when such conduct does not involve another person.

2.14 Entering into Areas Designated for the Opposite Sex: Entering, directing, or soliciting another student to enter into an area designated for the opposite sex only.

2.15 Theft: Theft including, but not limited to, attempted theft, extortion, bribery, theft by deception, and/or possession of stolen property. *For theft greater than \$500, refer to Level 3.11.*

2.16 Vandalism or Damage to Property: Vandalizing or damaging school or personal property, regardless of whether there is a monetary loss of value. *For vandalism greater than \$500, refer to Level 3.12.*

2.17 Verbal Abuse: Verbally abusing others, including but not limited to, threats or intimidation, use of profanity towards others including school personnel (Georgia law prohibits the upbraiding, insulting, or abusing of any teacher, administrator, or bus driver upon the premises of any school in the presence and hearing of a student). Use of slurs or acts of bigotry related to or directed toward another person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, or disability. This includes, but is not limited to, harassing, or taunting in person, on the Internet, in writing, or other mode of electronic communications.

2.18 Possession of Vaping Devices/Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, or Related Products: Possession, distribution, or use of a device to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device. This includes,

but is not limited to, devices manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette (includes but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-cigs, Juuls, vapes, vape pens, vaping cartridges, hookah devices, hookah look-alikes, advanced personal vaporizers) and related products. Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, or exchanging any tobacco product, or smoking paraphernalia. Students are responsible for possession or use of these products regardless of lack of knowledge of what is contained in the item. *For products containing THC or other mood-altering substances, refer to Level 3.10 Drugs.*

2.19 Unintentional Physical Contact with Students that Causes Harm: Unintentional, but inappropriate, physical contact or action with students that causes harm.

2.20 Attempting to Make Harmful Contact with Another Student; Attempting to Start a Fight: This includes but is not limited to situations where fighting words are exchanged with possible posturing to inflict physical harm and/or verbal altercations, and yelling.

2.21 Trespassing: Entering or remaining on a public-school campus, school bus, or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry.

2.22 Cell Phone Filming or Posting: Using an electronic device to film and/or post images within the school building or on school grounds during the school day, without the permission of a school administrator or designee. Electronic devices include any device used to access the Internet, Wi-Fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, tablets, laptops, Chromebooks and gaming devices.

LEVEL 2 PROGRESSIONS

LEVEL 2 VIOLATIONS	Elementary		Middle & High	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1 st Violation	In-School Suspension for one (1) day	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for one (1) day	In-School Suspension or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) days	In-School Suspension or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days.
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Ten (10) days of Out-of-School Suspension or referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out of School Suspension for five (5) days	Ten days of Out-of-School Suspension or referral to a Disciplinary Hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary responses may be appropriate. Accumulation of any two (2) or more Level 2 violations in one academic school year may lead to a disciplinary hearing.				

FIGHTING PROGRESSION

Fighting at school is among the most serious violations committed by students, as it endangers the safety of others and disrupts the learning environment.

Fighting: For the purpose of this violation, fighting shall include, but not be limited to, mutually and/or intentionally hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, intentional spitting or use of other bodily fluids, or other physical contact with another student or person that is not school personnel, and does not rise to the level of Excessive Physical Contact as defined in Level 3.

FIGHTING Level 2.8	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for two (2) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for four (4) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for four (4) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for six (6) days	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for six (6) days	Ten days of Out-of-School Suspension or referral to a Disciplinary Hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary responses may be appropriate. Accumulation of any two (2) or more Level 2 violations in one academic school year may lead to a disciplinary hearing.				

VAPING PROGRESSION

It is unlawful for any individual under the age of 21 to use, possess, purchase, or sell vaping devices (O.C.G.A. §16-12-171).

2.18 Possession of Vaping Devices/Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, or Related Products: Possession, distribution, or use of a device to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device. This includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette (includes but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-cigs, Juuls, vapes, vape pens, vaping cartridges, hookah devices, hookah look-alikes, advanced personal vaporizers), nicotine pouches, and related products. Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, or exchanging any tobacco product, or smoking paraphernalia. Students are responsible for possession or use of these products regardless of lack of knowledge of what is contained in the item. *For products containing THC or other mood-altering substances, refer to Level 3.10 Drugs.*

Possession of a Vaping Device Level 2.18	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	In-School Suspension and includes an Alternative Prevention Course or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for two (2) days	In-School Suspension and includes an Alternative Prevention Course or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for four (4) days	In-School Suspension (3) days and includes an Alternative Prevention Course	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days.

2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for four (4) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for six (6) days	Ten days of Out-of-School Suspension or referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for six (6) days	Ten days of Out- of-School Suspension or referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term Suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Alternative Prevention Courses may be a combination of online and face-to-face sessions offered throughout the school year. Accumulation of any two (2) or more Level 2 violations in one academic school year may lead to a disciplinary hearing.				

LEVEL 3 VIOLATIONS

A student who has committed a Level 3 violation may receive a consequence of long-term suspension through the end of the current semester or expulsion through the end of the current semester plus one, two, three, or four additional terms at a disciplinary hearing.

Failure to provide notification of charge, adjudication, or conviction of a felony: Upon any enrolled student being charged, adjudicated, or convicted of a felony violation as defined in Level 4, Rule 3, or Rule 4, the student shall immediately notify the Principal and the Superintendent of said charges, adjudication, or conviction and shall provide to the Principal and Superintendent a copy of all documents received by the student concerning said charges, adjudication, or conviction, including any probation terms. This includes any violation held in abeyance or given first offender status. Failure to provide the required documents shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTIFICATION Level 3.2	Elementary		Middle & High	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for one (1) day	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Ten days of Out- of-School Suspension or referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Gang Related Activity: Engaging in a gang-related activity that encourages, solicits, promotes, condones, causes, assists, or abets any illegal or disruptive act.

GANG RELATED ACTIVITY Level 3.3	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out- of-School Suspension or referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Excessive Physical Contact: The use of *excessive physical force* resulting in harmful contact with a student or person other than school personnel referenced in Level 4. This includes, but is not limited to, fights that are beyond a Level 2 fight, that are violent and advance planning is evident, cause a major disruption to the school operational environment or educational process, group fights of three (3) or more individuals, and/or fights that cause harm. Harm may include, but is not limited to, significant injuries such as swelling, bleeding, concussions, broken bones, sprains, and/or where medical attention was sought for a significant injury.

EXCESSIVE PHYSICAL CONTACT LEVEL 3.4	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Sexual Misconduct: Any inappropriate act of a sexual nature that involves physical contact or that rises above a Level 2 offense; any intentional act of indecent exposure of the intimate body parts/genitals, including “flashing,” “mooning,” or “streaking” as those terms are commonly understood, any act of indecent fondling, groping or touching of the student’s own intimate body parts or the intimate body parts of another; any act of viewing or possessing of any materials which depict a minor or any student in a sexual manner; any act of recording images of intimate body parts, whether of oneself or of another person. **Note: May also involve a separate sexual harassment investigation under Sexual Harassment Policy JCAC.**

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT LEVEL 3.5	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Ten days of Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Any incident of sexual misconduct will be reported to law enforcement and state agencies as required by law. Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Attempting to make inappropriate physical contact or action with school personnel. or Physical Violence Against Personnel, No Physical Harm: Spitting or committing acts of physical violence against teachers, school bus drivers, or other school officials or employees is prohibited. For the purposes of this rule, physical violence is defined as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature or posturing to inflict physical harm with school personnel that does not result in physical harm (Could include resisting a School Resource Officer).

ATTEMPTING TO MAKE INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT or ACTION – SCHOOL PERSONNEL or PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONNEL THAT DOES NOT CAUSE HARM LEVEL 3.6	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion

2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Ten days of Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Alcoholic Beverages: Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, exchanging, receiving, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage at school, at any school-related activity, prior to attending school, or prior to a school-related activity.

Alcoholic Beverages Level 3.8	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short- Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Prescription Medication: Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, exchanging, distributing, or receiving any prescription drug not prescribed to the student in possession; wrongfully possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, exchanging, distributing, or receiving any prescription drug that is prescribed to the student; or the use of any substance represented to be a prescription drug prior to or after attending school or a school related activity that was not prescribed for the student.

When students must take medicine at school, parents must bring all medicine and related equipment to the principal or his/her designee and complete a **Student Medication Consent Form and Release**. Medicine cannot be given without written permission and instructions from the parent. **Please do not send medicine to school with students.**

All prescription medicine must be kept in the clinic or school office unless authorized in writing by a physician and approved by the principal in accordance with regulation JGCD-R (1): Medication-Procedures. Students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, if they possess medicine at school without the principal's consent, distribute the medicine to other students, or use the medicine in a manner that is not prescribed or per label directions.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION LEVEL 3.9	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Drugs: Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, exchanging, receiving, or being under the influence of any substance or chemical that is mood altering when taken that has not been prescribed to the student taking the substance or the chemical, or any illegal drug or narcotic as defined by the Official Code of the State of Georgia, Mood altering substances or chemicals may include but not limited to hemp products, cannabis or cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Delta variants, THC variants, synthetics and substances represented as drugs.

DRUGS LEVEL 3.10	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion

3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a Disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Theft Greater than \$500: Theft, including but not limited to, attempted theft, extortion, bribery, theft by deception, and/or possession of stolen property when the value of the property is greater than \$500, as estimated by school officials.

THEFT GREATER THAN \$500 LEVEL 3.11	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Vandalism or damage to property greater than \$500: Vandalizing school or personal property, with the cost of damages being greater than \$500, as estimated by school officials. This includes, but is not limited to, unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).

VANDALISM OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY GREATER THAN \$500 LEVEL 3.12	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for ten (10) days	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion

2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Damaging or Setting Off a Fire Alarm or attempting to start a fire: Willfully damaging or destroying a school fire alarm; setting off a school fire alarm with no reasonable belief that a fire exists on the school premises. This violation shall also include refusing to evacuate the building when a fire alarm sounds, or an evacuation of a school is ordered. Attempting to start a fire on school grounds or at school events.

DAMAGING OR SETTING OFF A FIRE ALARM LEVEL 3.13	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of- School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of- School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of- School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of- School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long- term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Terroristic Threats: A terroristic threat is any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm, to commit any act of violence or to burn or damage property.

TERRORISTIC THREATS LEVEL 3.14	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of- School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate. <i>Per O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181, administrators are authorized to remove immediately any student alleged with a violation of terroristic threats to a remote learning setting with offered counseling supports, through the pendency of an investigation."</i>				

Pepper Spray; Use without Intent to Harm: Use or discharge of pepper spray/ stink spray by any student when no intent to harm or injure is evident shall be prohibited. The level of disruption by the discharge or use may determine the severity of the consequence.

PEPPER SPRAY: USE WITHOUT INTENT TO HARM LEVEL 3.16	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Non-lethal Weapons: Possession or use of a gun replica or toy gun that is portrayed as a weapon or could reasonably be mistaken for a weapon.

NON-LETHAL WEAPON LEVEL 3.17	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for three (3) days	Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
2 nd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for five (5) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion
3 rd Violation	Short-Term Out- of-School Suspension for seven (7) days	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion.	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion.	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion.
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

LEVEL 4 VIOLATIONS

If a preschool through third grade student commits a Level 4 offense, specifically if the student possesses a weapon, illegal drugs or other dangerous instrument, or the student's behavior endangers the safety of other students or school personnel, then school administration or a hearing officer may assign age-appropriate consequences without first referring the student to the MTSS process.

A student who has committed a Level 4 violation may receive a consequence of expulsion through the end of the current semester plus one, two, three, or four additional terms or up to permanent expulsion.

Possession of a Firearm, Dangerous Weapon, or Explosive Compound: Possessing, using, selling, buying, giving away, bartering, or exchanging any firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive compound, or an object that can reasonably be considered and/or used as a weapon. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.1, a violation of this rule has a mandatory minimum one-year of expulsion, but may result in permanent expulsion, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

It is unlawful for any person to carry, or to possess, or have under his/her control while within a school safety zone or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the District any dangerous weapon, firearm, or explosive compound. Any person violating this rule will be reported to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

- **Dangerous Weapon:** Includes any weapon or object that could reasonably be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm to another. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharp objects that are used or pepper spray that is discharged or used with intent to cause harm or injury, a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifles, mortar, hand grenade, or other similar weapon designed to explode.
- **Explosive:** Includes any bomb, firebomb, Molotov cocktail, firecracker, fireworks, stink bomb, bullet, shell, gun powder, grenade, missile, or any other type of explosive device and/or substance, including a set fire. A student in possession of any such item will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct, with the

matter being reported to law enforcement authorities.

- Firearm: Includes, but is not limited to, a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other weapon, which will or can be converted to expel a projectile.

POSSESSION of a FIREARM, DANGEROUS WEAPON, EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND LEVEL 4.1	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	PK-3rd Grade – Short- Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one-year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Physical Violence Against Personnel with Physical Harm: It is prohibited for any student to intentionally make physical contact which causes physical harm to teachers, school bus drivers, or other school officials or employees. Harm may include, but is not limited to, significant injuries such as swelling, bleeding, concussions, broken bones, sprains, or where medical attention was sought for a significant injury.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONNEL WITH PHYSICAL HARM LEVEL 4.2	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	P-3rd Grade –Short- Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	P-3rd Grade – Disciplinary Hearing Expulsion for one year 4th - 5th Grade - Requires a disciplinary hearing, Permanent Expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Charge, Adjudication, or Conviction of Felony (All Others): This includes any conduct (on campus or off campus) which results in the student being criminally charged with a felony, This includes, but is not limited to, the adjudication or conviction of a student of an violation that is designated as a felony under the laws of the State of Georgia, or a felony under the laws of the United States of America, and which makes his/her continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

ADJUDICATION OR CONVICTION OF FELONY (ALL OTHERS) LEVEL 4.3	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	P-3rd Grade –Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one-year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Charge, Adjudication, or Conviction of a Felony (“Seven Deadly”): Being charged with or the adjudication or conviction of an enrolled student or a student seeking enrollment of one or more of the following violent criminal violations, and which makes his/her continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school, or which disrupts the educational process: a. Murder (O.C.G.A. §16-5-1); Voluntary Manslaughter (O.C.G.A. §16- 5-2); Rape (O.C.G.A. §16-6-1); Aggravated Sodomy (O.C.G.A. §16-6-2); Aggravated Child Molestation (O.C.G.A. §16-6-4); Aggravated Battery (O.C.G.A. §16-5-24); and Aggravated Armed Robbery (O.C.G.A. §16-8-41).

ADJUDICATION OR CONVICTION OF A FELONY (“SEVEN DEADLY”) LEVEL 4.4	Elementary		Middle & High	
	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>	<i>MINIMUM</i>	<i>MAXIMUM</i>
1 st Violation	P-3rd Grade –Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one-year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Sexual Acts: It is prohibited to engage in sexual acts on school campus or during school activities. This includes, but is not limited to, any act of sexual intercourse, oral sex, or sodomy as the term is defined by the laws of the State of Georgia. This includes sexual battery and sexual harassment involving physical contact. **Note: May also involve a separate sexual harassment investigation under Sexual Harassment Policy JCAC.**

Sexual Acts Level 4.5	Elementary		Middle & High	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1 st Violation	P-3rd Grade –Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one-year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
Combination of local interventions, supports, and disciplinary response may be appropriate.				

Terroristic Threats: Level 4 Terroristic threats shall include, but are not limited to, bomb threats, making false calls to 911 which have the effect of causing a lock-down of a school building, the evacuation of a school building, or the search of a school building, or any bus, property, or building belonging to the school district by the school resource officer or any other public safety officer or agency, or the use of electronic communication to convey text, video, images or spreading false rumors which have the effect of causing a disruption of the school.

TERRORISTIC THREATS Level 4.6	Elementary		Middle & High	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1 st Violation	P-3rd Grade – Short-Term Out of-School Suspension for ten (10) days 4th - 5th Grade - Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face long-term suspension or expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face a one-year expulsion	Out-of-School Suspension and referral to a disciplinary hearing, where the student may face permanent expulsion
<i>Per O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181, administrators are authorized to remove immediately any student alleged with a violation of terroristic threats to a remote learning setting with offered counseling supports, through the pendency of an investigation."</i>				

JURISDICTION TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

School Administrators are authorized to take disciplinary action for misconduct that occurs:

1. On school grounds;
2. Off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event;
3. Off the school grounds at a non-school activity, function or event, but where the misconduct leads to a potential danger or disruption of school or any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct; and,
4. En route to and from school or any school-related activity, on the bus, and at the bus stop.

Authority to take disciplinary action also extends to any off-campus non-school-related actions by students, *at any time of the year*, which have a direct or immediate impact on school discipline, the educational operation or function of the school, or the welfare of students or staff. Such acts could include, but is not limited to, a felony, a delinquent act which would be considered to be a felony if committed by an adult, an assault upon another student, a violation of the laws prohibiting controlled substances, or sexual misconduct 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 (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.5). A student whose presence on school property may endanger the welfare or safety of other students or staff, or whose presence may cause substantial disruption at school, may also be subject to discipline.

Notification of Charge or Commission of a Felony

Any student seeking enrollment into the Henry County School District and who has been charged with, convicted or adjudicated of a felony, or for an act that would constitute a felony under the law if committed by an adult, and including any charges, conviction or adjudication that results in an abeyance or given first offender status, or incarcerated for any period of time, prior to the student being enrolled in the Henry County School District, the student and the student's parent shall immediately notify the Principal and the Superintendent of said charges, conviction or adjudication, and shall provide to the Principal and Superintendent a copy of all documents received by the student concerning said charges, conviction or adjudication, including any bond or probation terms.

Prior to the student enrolling in the Henry County School District, the Superintendent shall make a decision of proper placement of the student. The student's placement may include provisional or long-term status anywhere within the district. Any placement may also include, at the Superintendent's discretion, a safety or transition plan. Upon enrollment, failure of the student to abide by the terms of any developed safety or transition plan may be grounds for disciplinary action, including referral to a Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

Failure of any student to provide the required documentation upon enrollment shall be a violation of the Code of Conduct and will result in the student being referred to a Disciplinary Hearing Officer for disciplinary action.

While the student's placement is pending, the student will not be permitted on campus, unless authorized by the Superintendent. The student will not be permitted to participate in any regular school activities, extracurricular activities, athletic activities, or school-sponsored social events. If the student and the parents are dissatisfied with the placement of the student by the Superintendent, they shall have the right to appeal the Superintendent's decision by filing written notice with the Superintendent within five (5) days thereof. The Board shall consider the student's placement within ten (10) school days of the Superintendent receiving written notice of the student's appeal. If no appeal is received by the Superintendent, then the Superintendent's decision shall become final.

Disciplinary Authority of Teachers and Administrators

Teachers: Teachers shall maintain discipline and order in the classroom, and are authorized to give verbal warnings, written reprimands, assign students to detention, refer students to the school office, and employ any other discipline and behavior management techniques except for short-term or long-term suspension or expulsion of a student, discipline which is forbidden by law, or discipline which is permitted under the Student Handbook or by Henry County policy to be administered only by an Administrator or Student Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

For any day assigned to detention, students will be required to spend a period of time, not to exceed one (1) supervised hour, completing assigned schoolwork. Students may complete activities centered around social and emotional learning, restorative practices, character education, and other activities that assist students in understanding the root cause of their behavior and how they take responsibility for their actions. No other activity will be allowed during detention (this includes no manual labor). Transportation of students assigned to detention is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents.

One (1) day advance notice shall be given to allow students to make alternate transportation arrangements for those days when assigned to detention.

School Administrators: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, school administrators (principals and assistant principals) have the authority to administer any discipline or behavior management technique which a teacher is permitted to use, may assign all school level discipline, which may include in-school suspension, and short-term Out of School Suspensions. Although there are no appeal rights guaranteed by law under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-750 for students serving a short-term suspension (suspension of 10 days or less), parents/guardians may contact the school Principal to discuss their child's discipline. If further support is needed after the Principal's decision, the parent/guardian may submit a parent concern to the Office of Student Conduct ([Parent Concerns Link](#)). Administrators may assign students Out- of- School Suspension up until the time of a disciplinary hearing (even if for a longer period of time than a short-term suspension) and refer any disciplinary matter to a student Disciplinary Hearing Officer for a disciplinary hearing. Any student who has been suspended pending a disciplinary hearing shall be allowed to make up schoolwork that is missed due to the suspension pending the disciplinary hearing and shall be permitted on school grounds to pick up class assignments at the office unless an administrator determines that allowing the student to pick up work assignments at the school office constitutes a danger to other students or staff. However, students who are suspended pending a disciplinary hearing are not allowed on school grounds to participate in regular school activities, extracurricular activities, athletic participation, and other school events.

Although generally progressive in nature, discipline should be appropriate for the misbehavior and the age of student. **Consequently, administrators have the latitude of assigning discipline in relation to the misbehavior.** For example, students who engage in more serious acts of misbehavior, such as fighting, are not entitled to a warning before any other disciplinary action is taken.

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school.

In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in the Student Handbook, the principal or his/her designee may undertake corrective measures which he/she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided such action does not violate School Board policies or procedures, or state or federal laws.

Disciplinary Hearings

Disciplinary Hearing Officers are independent decision makers appointed by the Board of Education to hear disciplinary matters. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary here within, Disciplinary Hearing Officers have the authority to issue a short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion of any student found to have violated the Code of Conduct. If a hearing is called, the student will be suspended from school until the hearing can be held. The hearing will be held no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of the suspension unless the parent and school mutually agree to an extension, or the conduct of the student or parent causes a delay beyond said ten (10)-day period. Prior to the hearing, students and parents will receive a notice to include the following:

1. The rules which the student has allegedly violated.
2. A description of the student's acts.
3. The names of the witnesses who may testify against the student (witnesses may be added prior to and during the hearing).
4. The maximum consequence that the student could receive.
5. The time and place for the hearing.
6. That the student is entitled to require witnesses to be present at the hearing and the student will have to present evidence, examine any and all witnesses presented and have an attorney at the student's expense, to represent the student. School administrators should be notified prior to the hearing if a subpoena is to be issued by the Superintendent.

Parents/guardians should contact the school if they would like the notice and other documents related to the hearing in a language other than English. Language interpreter services are also available, upon request, for a student disciplinary hearing.

At the hearing, students and parents/guardians will have the right to present witnesses and evidence, to examine any and all witnesses presented, and to have an attorney, at the parent's/guardian's expense, to represent the student. Any teacher called as a witness shall be given notice no later than 3 days prior to the hearing. O.C.G.A. §20-2-754(b)(4). The decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer may be appealed by submitting a written notice of appeal to the Superintendent of Henry County Schools by hand delivery or by mail to Henry County Board of Education, 33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, Georgia 30253, within twenty (20) calendar days from the date the decision is made.

A student disciplinary hearing is formal, although the strict rules of evidence as applied in a court do not apply in a disciplinary hearing, the school has the burden of proving that the student engaged in acts that violated the student code of conduct. The student will have the opportunity to present evidence and/or witnesses for the Disciplinary Hearing Officer's consideration but is not required to do so. The Disciplinary Hearing Officer will determine whether the student committed or did not violate the code of conduct as set forth by the school.

The Disciplinary Hearing Officer shall make a verbatim or written record of any information orally presented at the hearing. A transcript of the hearing will not be prepared unless there is an appeal to the Board of Education. The record and documentary evidence shall be kept on file by the Superintendent or designee for a period of twenty (20) days after the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer. If no appeal is filed within twenty (20) days of the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer, the record and documentary evidence may be destroyed. If an appeal is filed, the record and documentary evidence will be kept until thirty-one (31) days after the appeal(s) become final, at which time the record and documentary evidence may be destroyed.

All parties shall be afforded an opportunity to present and respond to evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses about any matters logically relevant to the charge against the student. The Disciplinary Hearing Officer may limit unproductively long or irrelevant questioning.

The parents or legal guardian of the student may give testimony at the hearing and make a statement to the Disciplinary Hearing Officer concerning their feelings about the proper disposition of the case and to answer any questions. The student may be represented by counsel at the student's expense at the hearing. If parents intend to be represented by counsel at the disciplinary hearing, the parents must notify the school twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the hearing so that the school district may elect to retain legal counsel to represent its interests. Failure to notify the district of a student being represented by counsel may cause a delay or continuance of the hearing.

All parties shall be entitled to subpoena witnesses for the hearing. A student or parent/guardian shall submit all requests for subpoenas to the student's principal at least three (3) days prior to the time of the disciplinary hearing.

All student disciplinary proceedings and hearings conducted by either the Disciplinary Hearing Officer or the Board of Education are confidential and are not subject to the open meetings law. Only the following persons are permitted to attend a school disciplinary hearing conducted by a Disciplinary Hearing Officer: the accused student, parents or legal guardians of the accused student, legal counsel, a provider of interpretative services, school staff, and witnesses.

Any written records, transcripts, exhibits, or other documents assembled or used in any manner with regard to the conduct of any student disciplinary hearing are not public records and are not subject to public inspection.

Students who receive long-term suspension, expulsion or permanent expulsion may file an appeal to the Henry County Board of Education. The student's appeal must be in writing and delivered to the Superintendent.

When a hearing is appealed, the student disciplinary proceedings and hearing records will be compiled for the Henry County Board of Education and Superintendent review, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-752(4). The Henry County Board of Education will review the transcript of the hearing, make a decision based solely on the record, and notify students and parents, in writing, of the Board's decision. At the hearing before the Board, students have the right to be represented at the students' and parents' expense, by an attorney. The attorney or parent will not, however, be permitted an oral argument at the disciplinary hearing appeal. Students and parents may appeal the Board's decision to the Georgia Board of Education by giving the Superintendent written notice within thirty (30) days of the decision of the Henry County Board of Education.

Academic Honesty

Coursework submitted by a student must be the student's own, original work. Students shall not cheat on any assignment by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance (including but not limited to artificial intelligence or similar intelligence-based technologies to generate responses to assignments) or commit the act of plagiarism. Students who commit such acts are subject to not receiving credit on the assignment in question and will be subject to disciplinary action as well.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in extracurricular activities in Henry County Schools is a privilege and not a property right. It is understood by all students, parents, guardians, coaches and sponsors that the top priority is academic progress. Everyone involved in these activities will make every effort not to interfere with that ultimate goal. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish a minimum standard of behavior. Therefore, coaches or sponsors may establish rules and consequences that are more severe than the stated code. Organization rules must be in writing and approved by the administration of each school. The athletic code of conduct will be enforced in Henry County middle and high schools. However, consequences for violations

A through D below will start over when the student begins high school. Consequences for "Violation E" below will carry from middle to high school.

NOTE: Parents/guardians must report any arrest of the student to the athletic director or sponsor within 72 hours of the arrest, even during school breaks. Failure to do so will result in the student being suspended for one (1) calendar year upon evidence proving an arrest occurred.

Violations and Consequences

- A. Violation: Violation of school rules resulting in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during the season.
Consequences: The student may resume participation when –
1. All assignments are completed and released from ISS, and/or
 2. The student returns to school on the next school day upon completion of OSS.
- B. Violation: Assigned to Long-Term Suspension (LTS) or Expulsion (EXP).
Consequences: Dismissed from extracurricular while serving LTS or EXP.
- C. Violation: If found to have been charged with a delinquent act identified as a misdemeanor under the laws of Georgia, regardless of location or time of the alleged act and whether in or out of school:
Consequences:
1. 1st Conviction of an act identified as a misdemeanor under the laws of Georgia - Meeting with athletic director or principal, head coach or sponsor, parents, and student, and a one (1) game or activity suspension.
 2. 2nd Conviction of a delinquent act identified as a misdemeanor under the laws of Georgia - Suspended one (1) calendar year from all extracurricular activities (begins with date of charges).
 3. 3rd Conviction of a delinquent act identified as a misdemeanor under the laws of Georgia - Suspended from all extracurricular activities for the rest of his/her 7-8 or 9-12 education.
- D. Violation: If found to have been charged with an act identified as a felony under the laws of Georgia, regardless of location or time of the alleged act and whether in or out of school:
Consequences:
1. Suspended until case is adjudicated.
 2. 1st Conviction of a delinquent act identified as a felony under the laws of Georgia - Suspended one (1) calendar year from all extracurricular activities (begins with date of arrest).
 3. 2nd Conviction of a delinquent act identified as a felony under the laws of Georgia - Suspended from all extracurricular activities for rest of his/her 7-8 or 9-12 education.
- E. Violation: If found to have been charged or convicted/adjudicated with an act identified as Murder, Rape, Armed Robbery, Aggravated Child Molestation, Aggravated Sodomy, Aggravated Sexual Battery, and/or Voluntary Manslaughter under the laws of Georgia, regardless of location or time of the alleged act and whether in or out of school:
Consequences:
1. Suspended until case is adjudicated.
 2. 1st Conviction of such an act under the laws of Georgia - Suspended from all athletics for the rest of 7th-12th grade education.

NOTE: A second or subsequent arrest for a misdemeanor charge/delinquent misdemeanor violation will result in the student being suspended until the case is adjudicated.

A combination of a felony conviction and a misdemeanor conviction will result in the student being suspended from all extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year. A combination of a felony conviction and two (2) misdemeanor convictions will result in the student being suspended from all extracurricular activities for the rest of his/her 7-8 or 9-12 education.

Appeal Procedure

Any student wishing to appeal an athletic suspension must submit, in writing, to the County Athletic Supervisor the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined as outlined. This request will then be forwarded to the members of the review committee for their consideration. Parents/guardians will be given a written statement of decision from the committee. The review committee will be made up of the Henry County Schools Athletic Supervisor, one (1) building-level administrator, and one (1) system-level administrator. **Any student wishing to appeal a suspension from any other extracurricular activity must submit, in writing, to the principal the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined as outlined. This request will then be reviewed by the principal and the organization sponsor. Parents will be given a written statement of decision from the sponsor or principal.**

LIST OF HENRY COUNTY BOE POLICIES



Students and parents hereby are notified that all Henry County Board of Education policies can be found online, in the Henry County Schools Board Policy Manual (<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/PolicyListing.aspx?S=4088>). A copy of any policy can be requested from your child's school by contacting the main office, or by contacting the Office of Legal Compliance at (770) 957-6601. Board policies directly relate to students, parents, employees, and the community were approved by the Henry County Board of Education at the time of this publication. (A complete list of [all HCSOE policies](#) is available on the district website.) **From time to time, the Board of Education may revise or repeal any such policy and will do so after appropriate public notice.**

To access from the website:

- Use your cursor to scroll over the heading in the navigation bar entitled "About HCS."
- On the pull-down menu, select Board of Education, then click on "Board Policies" to access the [Board Policy Manual](#).

Constituent Services

The Henry County Board of Education believes that family and community members shall be offered appropriate and expedient means to address and resolve differences that may arise in an amicable way. The Board expects complaints to be recognized and addressed in an orderly and timely manner. The Board believes complaints are best resolved when handled as close to their origin as possible. **An expedient way of ensuring any student concern or your family's issue, concern, grievance, or complaint is addressed, is to raise it first with the classroom teacher, coach, or involved employee, then provide information to your child's principal at the school where the student(s) is enrolled.** A list of school principals is available within this Handbook on page 41 and on the HCS website.

Common language around the process for resolving differences is found in the [Board Policy KN: Complaints](#):

- a concern or grievance is defined as any claim by a parent, student, or member of the public that an action, inaction, or operation of the School District or a Board of Education employee has negatively affected either them or a person subject to Board of Education policies and regulations. These shall be recognized and addressed in an orderly and timely manner, handled through informal discussion with the principal or equivalent site-based administrator.
- a complaint is defined as a written submission which may allege that the action or lack of action, taken by a person in the school system, or by the School District or the Board is in violation of Board Policy or applicable school law. These shall require formal action.

Many employees are available to assist, and in the spirit of complaint resolution, employees should not be subject to extensive negative criticism.

Concerns Resolution Levels

Informal discussion is the first level of resolution. The below HCS Student-Family Concerns Support and Communication Protocol is provided as a general guide.

HCS Student-Family Concerns Support and Communication Protocol			
Area of Concern	First Step	Second Step	Third Step
General School Concern, Student Schedule, School Procedures, School Hours	Secretary/ Front Office	Assistant Principal	Principal
General Classroom-Related Concern	Teacher	Assistant Principal or Counselor	Principal
Grading or Report Card, Student Retention Concern	Teacher	Assistant Principal or Counselor	Principal
Teaching Content, Assignments, Extra Assistance for Student (Curriculum and Instruction) Concern	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal
Athletics	Coach	School Athletic Director or Assistant Principal	Principal

Special Education Services	Teacher	Student Support Facilitator (SSF) or Case Manager	Assistant Principal or Principal
Student Conduct & Discipline, Hearings, Hearing Appeals	Assistant Principal	Principal	Student Conduct and Prevention Department
Mental Health and Wellness	Counselor or Social Worker	Assistant Principal	Principal or Student Services Department
Medical Needs and Health Concerns	Teacher or Clinic Aide	Assistant Principal	Principal or Student Services Department
Facility/School Campus	Assistant Principal	Principal	Facilities and Maintenance Department
Student Chromebook (Student)	Submit help ticket (via Student Device or School Technician)	School-based technology support team	Assistant Principal or Principal
Student Chromebook (Parent/Guardian)	Submit help ticket (via IIQ ticket system)	Teacher	Assistant Principal or Principal
Software Programs on Device	Submit help ticket (via Student Device or School Technician)	School-based technology support team	Assistant Principal or Principal
Access to Parent/Guardian Portal (Campus Portal, IC or Henry Connects)	Campus Portal Liaison at School Location	Data Clerk at School Location	Assistant Principal or Principal
Transportation	Transportation Route Supervisor	Transportation Director	Transportation Executive Director
Gifted Education Programs	Teacher	Assistant Principal or Principal	Learning and Performance Division
Policy and Regulation	Assistant Principal or Principal	Leadership Services Division	Office of Legal Compliance

As a resource for families and the local school, other district-level offices or departments of the school system are available during the informal stage to assist parents/guardians by providing general information; to direct members of the public to the correct school or administrative office; and to bring affected parties together for any appropriate discussion.

If additional support is needed after the first level of resolution, there are formal internal procedures for handling an issue, concern, grievance, or complaint made by family and/or community members within Henry County Schools. **Constituents who have questions, requests, or other information about issues, concerns, or grievances should address them at the school where the student(s) is enrolled, or with leaders at the site of concern.** Constituents who contact Board Members with a complaint will be referred to the Superintendent. The steps for formal internal complaint submission and resolutions are described in [Board Regulation KN-R \(1\): Complaints – Procedures](#), among other complaint policies available to the public in the Board Policy Manual from the HCS website. For additional information, please visit the Constituent Services information on the HCS website: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/divisions/chief-of-staff/constituent-services>.

We thank you, and we look forward to a great school year!

Bright Futures begin in HCS



We have a **VISION** to ensure a high-quality, world-class education for every student...

And a **MISSION** to empower all students with exceptional opportunities and access that lead to success in a global society.

Our Board of Education believes...

- All children can learn at or above grade level and will have an equal opportunity to do so.
- Family and community involvement is critical to student success.
- All learning environments will be supportive, safe, and secure.
- Effective teachers, leaders, and employees produce excellent results.

We have developed a Community-Inspired 2026-2031 Strategic Plan as we pursue continuous improvement in the ways in which we serve our students and families:

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS STRATEGY MAP

