



STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

— CREATING NEXT GENERATION LEADERS —

94 PANTHER DRIVE
YAZOO CITY, MS 39194

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

It is with great excitement and sincere gratitude that I welcome each of you to another year of opportunity, growth, and excellence in the Yazoo County School District. As your Superintendent, I am honored to serve alongside such an extraordinary team of educators, administrators, support staff, and leaders who are deeply committed to making a difference in the lives of our students.

Our vision is clear: **to cultivate a school district where every student thrives academically, socially, and emotionally while every employee feels valued, supported, and empowered to lead.**

The theme for this school year is “*Waves of Growth and Tides of Change.*” Throughout the year, we will remain focused on several district priorities:

- Increasing student achievement and academic growth for every learner.
- Creating safe, supportive, and engaging learning environments.
- Strengthening instructional excellence through collaboration and professional learning.
- Building meaningful partnerships with families and our community.
- Recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding educators and staff.
- Promoting innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement across every department and each campus.

The tides of change are already upon us, bringing exciting opportunities to strengthen our district and continue building a culture of excellence. Every classroom lesson, every encouraging conversation, every act of service, and every decision made with students in mind creates another wave that moves our district forward.

As we prepare for our **Welcome Back Celebration**, I encourage each of you to arrive with enthusiasm, optimism, and a commitment to making this our best year yet. Together, we will celebrate our successes, embrace new beginnings, and unite around our shared purpose of ensuring every student reaches his or her fullest potential.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, your passion for education, and your belief in the students and families we serve. I am confident that by working together, we will create waves of growth that lead to lasting tides of positive change throughout the Yazoo County School District.

I look forward to celebrating with each of you as we launch an incredible 2026–2027 school year!

Together, let's make waves that will inspire generations to come.

With appreciation,

Dr. Terri Rhea
Superintendent of Education
Yazoo County School District

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INTRODUCTION

The information presented in this manual, including the Student Code of Conduct, is deemed an extension of the YCSD Board Policy and will have the force and effect thereof. The Yazoo County Board of Education requires Yazoo County School District (YCSD) administrators, faculty members, students, and parents/guardians to comply with all Board-approved policies. The Board Policy Manual is also available online at www.yazook12.org. Physical copies of particular policies will be made available upon request.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Yazoo County School District to comply with all provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Carl Perkins Act of 1984, Section 504, the Rehabilitation Act of 1983, and IDEA.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

It shall be the policy of the YCSD Board of Education that no student shall be denied the benefit of any education program or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, limited English proficiency, immigrant status, migrant status, and/or homeless status. A free and appropriate education is available to all students with disabilities. It shall be the policy of the YCSD Board of Education that barriers to enrolling and retaining students with limited English proficiency, homeless status, migrant status, and/or immigrant status be removed, including but not limited to, the denial or delay of enrollment of such students due to lack of birth certificate, lack of school records or transcripts, lack of immunization or health records, lack of proof of residency, lack of transportation, guardianship, and/or custody requirements.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board recognizes and confirms the importance and necessity of requiring certain enrollment-related documentation. In the event students are enrolled without all required documentation, the Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative procedures to ensure and facilitate the supplemental provision of such documentation. All programs offered by the schools, within the school district, shall be open to all students in compliance with statutory and judicial requirements.

TITLE VII

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, creed, religion, sex, age, or national origin in its education programs or activities it operates.

All inquiries, questions, comments, concerns, or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and noncompliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 should be registered with **Charlotte Scott, Assistant Superintendent of the Yazoo County School District, 94 Panther Drive Yazoo City, MS 39194, 662-746-4672 ext. 1030 or charlotte.scott@yazook12.org** in accordance with the Board's general complaint and grievance policy and procedures – **YCSD Board Policies (1) GAAA – Equal Opportunity Employment and (2) JAA – Equal Educational Opportunities.**

TITLE IX

The YCSD Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the admission to or employment in its education programs or activities it operates. All inquiries, questions, or comments regarding Title IX concerns should be sent to: **Charlotte Scott Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Superintendent of the YCSD, 94 Panther Drive Yazoo City, MS 39194 662-746-4672 ext. 1030 or charlotte.scott@yazook12.org** In accordance with Board Policies GBR – Sexual Harassment and JB – Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment – Title IX, all complaints regarding sexual harassment should be filed and reviewed under the Board's student sexual harassment policy and procedures. All other complaints under Title IX will be filed and reviewed according to the Board's general complaint and grievance policy and procedures.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

The YCSD Board of Education guarantees the right to a free and appropriate education for all school-age persons regardless of disability. The school system will arrange and provide for a comprehensive evaluation for any student who is suspected of having a disability and of needing specifically designed educational accommodations, modifications, and/or related services.

Parents may contact the Office of Special Services, 662-746-4672 ext. 1022 or 662-746-4672 ext. 1023 for additional information and/or to discuss the process of requesting that their child be referred for a comprehensive evaluation. Any person having inquiries concerning the YCSD Board of Education's compliance with regulations concerning students or individuals with disabilities under the IDEA, Section 504, and/or the ADA should direct their concerns to the following individuals:

IDEA and Section 504 Concerns:

Associate Superintendent of Student Services

Gloria Jamison

gloria.jamison@yazoo.k12.ms.us

662-746-4672 ext. 1022

SPED Student Case Manager

Dr. Mary Catherine Andrews

mary.andrews@yazoo.k12.ms.us

662-746-4672 ext. 1023

ADA Concerns:

Specific School Site Administrator

YCSD Assistant Superintendent

Charlotte Scott

charlotte.scott@yazook12.org

662-746-4672 ext. 1030

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Yazoo County School District grants equal educational opportunities to all qualified persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, religion, or disability. It is the intent and desire of the Yazoo County Board of Trustees that equal educational opportunities be provided in any and all educational programs and activities. All inquiries regarding Yazoo County School District's nondiscrimination policies, requests for copies of grievance procedures, and filing of grievances should be submitted to the following person and/or his designee:

Dr. Terri Rhea, Superintendent

94 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, MS 39194

terri.rhea@yazook12.org

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-15-35; 1972 Educational Amendments, Title IX; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 503 & 504; 45 CFR Part 84 and Part 86; Brown vs. Board of Education, 347 U. S. 483 (1954); Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Parents/legal (court-ordered and signed by the judge) custodians and guardians are responsible for his/her child's attendance and behavior and/or conduct in school. Under Mississippi Law, parents/guardians who fail to compel their child to regularly attend school or fail to compel their child to properly conduct himself/herself as a student in accordance with the YCSD Board of Education-approved written policy on school behavior, adopted by the YCSD Board of Education, shall be dealt with accordingly.

Parents/legal custodians and/or guardians are required to read, discuss, and share with their child/student the contents of the 2026-2027 Yazoo County School District's Parent and Student Handbook. The parent/legal custodian and guardian shall confirm that they have read the handbook during the online registration process

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS:

As a parent is a child's first teacher, parents should obey local, state, and national laws and should hold him/herself to high ethical and moral standards. Parents should be supportive of the local YCSD Board of Education and its employees who act in the public trust. This support should involve participation in the provision and maintenance of a high-quality instructional atmosphere in each of the respective four schools in the YCSD. The FY27 YCSD Student and Parent Handbook recognizes the significance of parental support in quality education, and parents should constantly strive to maintain communication and cooperation between himself/herself and the personnel of the school system in all matters that affect the success of each and every student. By these aforementioned examples of parental support, although not inclusive, they serve to represent actions of a parent who demonstrates a respectful attitude and appreciation toward the need for education in today's society for each and every student in becoming a ***“Next Generation Leader!”***

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT(S):

The Yazoo County School District conducts individual needs assessments throughout the year – predominantly in the form of surveys. The purpose of these assessments and surveys allows all stakeholders the opportunity to give feedback concerning the effectiveness of our schools, revisions that might need to be put in place, and complete changes, for improvement, in some form and/or facet of the educational process for the students of the YCSD.

VISION OF THE YAZOO COUNTY DISTRICT

It is the vision of the Yazoo County School District to create Next Generation Leaders.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Yazoo County School District exists to create next generation leaders who pursue purposeful, productive lives.

PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS OF THE YCSD

The Yazoo County School District Community, Faculty, Staff and Students believe the following:

- High-quality, committed, and passionate teachers who embrace diversity are essential for student success;
- Change is inevitable, and we must adapt to meet the evolving needs of our students and community;
- The success of each and every student requires nurturing the needs of the whole child;
- Positive relationships yield success;
- Shared beliefs and norms create an internally cohesive environment, and
- A safe, secure environment is foundational to learning.

**YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION**

YAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Greg Moseley, District Four
Secretary Millicent Ledbetter, District Two
Dustin Wadford, District One
Lee Ethel Hogue, District Three
Wayne Allen, District Five

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Terri Rhea, Ph.D., NBCT
terri.rhea@yazook12.org
662-746-1596 ext. 1015

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Charlotte Scott
charlotte.scott@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext. 1030

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Glenda Vandevere
glenda.vandevere@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext. 1099

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

Gloria Jamison
gloria.jamison@yazook12.org
662-746-1025 ext. 1025

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Shundria Shaffer, Ph.D.
shundria.shaffer@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext.1029

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES CASE MANAGER

Mary Catherine Andrews, Ph.D.
mary.andrews@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext.1029

ATHLETICS, TRANSPORTATION, AND SAFETY DIRECTOR

Joe Odum
john.odum@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext.1210

DIRECTOR OF CTE AND DISTRICT TEST COORDINATOR

Tracey Watts
tracey.watts@yazook12.org
662-746-1596 ext.1107

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Sylvia Green
sylvia.green@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext.1027

**DISTRICT-WIDE ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIC INTEGRATION
SPECIALIST AND TECHNICIAN**

Robin Capler
robin.capler@yazook12.org
662-755-2270

**DISTRICT-WIDE SECONDARY TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIC
INTEGRATION SPECIALIST AND TECHNICIAN**

Shivochie Dinkins PhD.
shivochie.dinkins@yazook12.org
662-746-1596

CHILD NUTRITION and EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DIRECTOR

Sade McGee
sade.mcgee@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext. 1021

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT to the YCSD Board of EDUCATION and
SUPERINTENDENT MSIS DISTRICT CONTACT**

Tracy Spencer
tracy.spencer@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext. 1016

**16th SECTION LAND COORDINATOR and DISTRICT
OFFICE RECEPTIONIST**

Wakesha Crayton
wakesha.crayton@yazook12.org
662-746-4672 ext. 1018

DISTRICT-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

Melanie Nixon
melanie.nixon@yazook12.org
662-746-4672

DISTRICT-WIDE DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST

Chevis Taylor
chevis.taylor@yazook12.org
662-755-2270

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Bentonia Gibbs Elementary School

10340 Mississippi Highway 433

Bentonia, Mississippi 39040

662-755-2270

Andrea Edgecombe Ph.D., NBCT

Principal

andrea.edgecombe@yazook12.org

Brianna Walker

Assistant Principal

brianna.walker@yazook12.org

Linwood Elementary School

3439 Vaughan Road

Vaughan, Mississippi 39179

662-673-9191

Cristin Ware

Principal

cristin.ware@yazook12.org

Keshia Shaffer

Assistant Principal

keshia.shaffer@yazook12.org

Yazoo County Middle School

116 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

662-746-1596

Frank Woods Ph.D.

Principal

frank.woods@yazook12.org

Tyler Crawford

Assistant Principal

tyler.crawford@yazook12.org

Yazoo County High School

191 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

662-746-1492

Dewayne Profit

Principal

dewayne.profit@yazook12.org

Laura Hines

Assistant Principal

laura.hines@yazook12.org

Pamela Pickens

Assistant Principal

pamela.pickens@yazook12.org

Yazoo County Success Center

191 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

662-746-1492

Terrence White

Principal

terrence.white@yazook12.org

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

July 2-3	4th of July Holiday
July 20-23	Professional Development
July 27, 2026	Students' First Day
August 27, 2026	Quarter 1 Progress Reports
September 7, 2026	Labor Day Holiday
September 25, 2026	End of Quarter 1
September 28 - October 2, 2026	Fall Break
October 5, 2026	Professional Development - No Students
October 8, 2026	Quarter 1 Report Cards
November 12, 2026	Quarter 2 Progress Reports
November 23 - 27, 2026	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 15, 2026	End of Semester 1 - 60% Day
December 16, 2026 - January 1, 2027	Christmas Holidays
January 4, 2027	Professional Development - No Students
January 5, 2027	Students Return
January 14, 2027	Quarter 2 Report Cards
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 15, 2027	President's Day Holiday
February 18, 2027	Quarter 3 Progress Reports
March 5, 2027	End of Quarter 3
March 8 - 12, 2027	Spring Break
March 25, 2027	Quarter 3 Reports Cards
March 26 - 29, 2027	Easter Holidays
April 22, 2027	Quarter 4 Progress Reports
May 21, 2027	Graduation
May 21, 2027	Last Day for Students - 60% Days
May 24, 2027	Professional Development
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day Holiday

Total Student Days 180

Total Teacher Days 187

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assessment/Event</u>
2026	
7/27	Pre-Test K-Readiness (KRA) - Required Pre-K & K
8/10-9/4	Mississippi ELPA21 Dynamic Screener, Cambium - ELL (ongoing, as needed)
8/10-8/28	Brigance-3 Screener (Required Pre-K) BDI
8/3-8/21	BOY Universal Screener iReady (K-5) & IXL (6-12) Diagnostic (Complete Title One Course Summary (COS) form - ELLs, English)
8/27	Parent - Report
9/7	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
9/21-9/25	ELS (K-8 Core Subjects) Benchmark 1 Dyslexia Screener (Lexercise) - All First Grade Students
9/25	Parent - Report
9/28-10/2	FALL BREAK
10/5	Professional Development (No Students)
10/7-10/8	1st Raven's Screening
10/8	Parent/Teacher Conferences
10/19-10/23	ELS (HS Core Subjects) Cumulative Benchmark
11/12	Parent - Report
11/16-12/4	ACT WorkKeys (HS)
11/23-11/27	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS
12/1-12/4	MOY Universal Screener iReady (K-5) & IXL (6-12)
12/1/26-1/8/27	MOY K-Readiness (KRA) - Required Pre-K & K
12/7-12/11	Semester 1 MAAP EOC - 4x4 Biology, English II, Algebra 1 ELS (K-8 Core Subjects) Benchmark 2
12/16	Parent - Report
12/16-26-1/3/27	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
2027	
1/4	Professional Development (No Students)
1/5	Parent - Report
1/6-1/7	2nd Raven's Screening
1/7	Parent/Teacher Conferences
1/18	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
	Parent - Report
2/23	ACT 11th Graders
3/1-3/5	ELS (K-8 Core Subjects) Benchmark 3
3/5	Parent - Report
3/8-3/12	SPRING BREAK
3/15-4/16	MS ELPA21, Cambium - ELL EOY Universal Screener iReady (K-5) & IXL (6-12)
3/15-4/23	MAAP - 3rd Grade
3/15-4/30	Final Raven's Screening
3/24-3/25	Parent/Teacher Conferences
3/25	EASTER BREAK
3/26-3/29	ELS (HS Core Subjects) Cumulative Benchmark
3/30-4/2	3rd Grade MAAP - Reading
3/30-4/16	MAAP: ELA, 3-8; Math, 3-8; Science 5-8
3/30-5/14	Semester 2 MAAP EOC - 4x4 Biology, English II, Algebra 1
4/5-5/7	EOY K-Readiness (KRA) - Required Pre-K & K
4/13-4/15	MAAP EOC - Senior Retest
4/21	Retest - ACT
4/22	Parent - Report
5/3-5/7	Retest - 3rd Grade MAAP-Reading
5/3-5/14	Pre-K & K Performance-Based Portfolio Submission (SPAD Indicator)
5/21	YCHS Graduation
5/21	Parent - Report
5/24	Professional Development - No Students
5/31	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
6/1-7/1	Tentative ESY
6/5-7/14	Tentative ESY - JOC
6/14-6/25	2nd Retest - 3rd Grade MAAP-Reading

DISCLAIMER

This Handbook and Student Code of Conduct is not intended to, nor does it contain all rules, policies, procedures, and/or regulations that relate to the students in the Yazoo County School District. Every effort has been made to provide parents and students with complete and accurate information.

However, the Yazoo County School District Board of Education reserves the right to change program requirements, and to modify, amend, or revoke any rules, regulations, and schedules --both academic and financial. For students or parents having difficulty reading and understanding information in this document, consider contacting your student's school office for help and/or contact your school counselor and schedule an appointment for guidance.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

In 2015, Congress passed **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The federal education law has historically primarily focused on disadvantaged students. Additionally, please note that ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

As a parent/legal guardian of a child/children, in the Yazoo County School District, you are entitled to the following:

- Parents may request information on teacher qualifications at any time;
- If it becomes necessary for a school to hire a teacher who is **NOT** highly qualified, and a parent has a child who is being taught by the aforementioned teacher, the district must let the parent know this information within a four-week period of time in a written form of communication; and
- At least 1% of Title I funds will be used for parental engagement as well as the YCSD has a district-wide family and parent engagement plan that is reviewed, edited, and updated annually.

CONSENT UPON REGISTRATION

By the registration of your child (children) or any student in the Yazoo County School District, all parents, legal guardians, and students do hereby consent to and agree to obey and follow all rules and regulations, contained in this handbook, and such other oral and/or written directions of school principals or teachers, as may be necessary or desirable, to carry out the educational process of the school in a safe and orderly manner.

Furthermore, such parents, legal guardians, and students agree to abide by and follow all rules and/or school board policies of the Yazoo County School District.

Additionally, all parents, legal guardians, and students agree and are hereby informed that all students of the Yazoo County School District are subject to questioning or being taken into official custody, while at school, by any appropriately appointed law enforcement official or department of human services agent investigating an official case upon oral or written court order of the Yazoo County Youth Court, County Court, Circuit Court, or Chancery Court of the State of Mississippi.

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

Schools utilize multiple video cameras in strategic locations, inside and around the outside of each site campus, for educational and extra-curricular activities, for the safety and protection of students, staff, and visitors.

SCHOOL SITE OFFICE HOURS

School/Campus	Office Hours
Bentonia-Gibbs Elementary School	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Linwood Elementary School	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Yazoo County Middle School	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Yazoo County High School	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Much of the business, in the main front school office, is of a private and confidential nature, which involves important private information about each individual, including students, faculty, and staff. For these reasons, as well as others, there should be as little traffic as possible in this area.

Students are permitted in the front office **ONLY** for the following reasons:

- When called by the principal, assistant principal, or someone acting upon the approval of the principal;
- When there is an emergency; and
- When a student seeks permission to leave the campus.

No student is permitted to use the phone in the front office.

DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL CAMPUS

The Yazoo County School District recognizes that students' and parents' plans for transportation after afternoon dismissal may change. **At all campuses, schools will ONLY accept a written form of communication indicating the student's plan for dismissal and/or how the student will get home.**

Examples of written forms of communication include the following: (1) message sent via the School Status platform; (2) fax; (3) a handwritten note; (4) a screenshot of a note; and/or (5) an email. It is at the school principal's discretion as to whether a phone call indicating a change of dismissal plans will be accepted.

Any of these mechanisms deemed – abusive and/or indicative of a similar pattern (i.e., every day or every other day) will not be allowed or tolerated. The state law, regarding compulsory attendance laws, rules, regulations, and procedures, will be adhered and followed with the utmost intent of integrity and students who continue to participate in this type of truancy will be turned over to youth court for truancy, as well as, potentially fail the instructional class, he/she misses by repeatedly withdrawing early as well as withdrawing early at similar times, for excessive absences over and beyond the amount required for promotion and/or successful passage of a class – regardless of the class.

Parents may **NOT** pick up students after 2:45 p.m. This is for safety measures and to allow buses access to load students at YCMS and YCHS and exit the campuses without interruptions and/or

delays. In summary, disciplinary action shall be taken against students who are truant. Continued truancy, in any type or form, may lead to the following: (1) academic failure; (2) placement in the alternative school program; (3) suspension; and/or (4) expulsion from the regular and/or alternative school programs.

Reports of truancy shall be made in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (**MS CODE '37-13-91**) and **Policy JBA Compulsory School Attendance. (Source: Policy JBAC Truancy)**. The aforementioned statements **DO NOT** apply to pre-kindergarten students.

DISMISSAL PRECAUTIONS

1. No student shall leave school without permission from the principal or his/her designee.
2. Students having an appointment with a doctor or dentist, or for other valid reasons, may be dismissed from school as follows:
 - a. A parent or legal guardian may personally come to the school and check out a student, constituting a dismissal.
 - b. The student may present a note from a parent or legal guardian to the attendance office containing the reason for dismissal, time of dismissal, and phone number where the parent and/or legal guardian can be contacted, in order to receive a dismissal permit.
 - c. If a note and/or appointment card cannot be verified, school officials reserve the right to refuse the issuance of a dismissal permit.
 - d. Work must be made up and submitted to the teacher if a dismissal for any of the reasons stated above causes a student to miss classwork, tests, etc.
3. Any student leaving school, on school-related business, must first obtain written permission from his/her teacher and then personally sign out or be signed out at the attendance office. Upon return to school, the student must personally sign in.
4. No student shall leave school without a dismissal permit (written permission to leave) or without signing out at the attendance office.
5. Dismissal requests, during the last period of the day, if allowed at all, shall receive strict scrutiny, by the attendance office and the school principal, due to the pattern of abuse of the dismissal privilege.

AUTOMOBILE USE (YCSD POLICY JGFF)

Driving on school roads and parking on school property is a courtesy offered to students and others by the Yazoo County School District Board of Education. The parking facilities, located at the various school site buildings, are not public parking areas and are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school activities or other school-authorized events, which occur before or after the regular school day hours. Violators of this policy may be charged with trespassing and/or have his/her vehicle(s) towed at the owner's expense.

The administration, obtaining recommendations from the Yazoo County School District Police Force, shall establish rules and regulations to ensure traffic safety, and these rules, regulations, processes, and procedures shall be followed by students, parents, and/or any other welcomed visitors to any of the school campuses. If the aforementioned is not followed on multiple occasions the said student, parent, and/or other visitor could be subject to public disturbance and/or trespassing and may be arrested. The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to vehicles.

The parking facilities, located at the various school site buildings, are not public parking areas and are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school activities or other school authorized events, which occur before or after the regular school day hours. Violators, of this policy, may be charged with trespassing and/or have his/her vehicle(s) towed at the owner's expense.

The administration, obtaining recommendations from the Yazoo County School District Police Force, shall establish rules and regulations to ensure traffic safety, and these rules, regulations, processes, and procedures shall be followed by students, parents, and/or any other welcomed visitors to any of the school campuses. If the aforementioned is not followed on multiple occasions the said student, parent, and/or other visitor could be subject to public disturbance and/or trespassing and may be arrested. The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to vehicles.

Failure to abide, by **ALL** vehicle regulations, may result in the loss of the right to bring a vehicle to school or other disciplinary action.

Cross Reference: Policy JCDA – School Searches

HIGH SCHOOL PARKING REGULATIONS

All students who bring a vehicle on campus must register the vehicle with the high school by purchasing a current year parking decal from the front office.

Students **MUST** display a current decal at all times. Please see the parking contract for detailed regulations.

SCHOOL CAMPUS DRIVING REGULATIONS

As a reminder of the aforementioned regarding parking regulations, filling out the parking decal application does not hold a spot in line or guarantee that a pass will be issued. Parking decals will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Driving to school and parking in the assigned student parking lot is a privilege that requires adherence to certain rules and regulations. The student's and parent's signature indicates knowledge of and agreement to comply with **ALL** of these rules and regulations. Please see section on Student Conduct regarding possible consequences regarding improper driving on campus.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENT DRIVERS

Parking permits are non-transferable. Only a student, who is registered, and hangs an authorized permit, on the rearview mirror, will be permitted to park in the designated student parking lot. Any others will be told to leave the school grounds and must return without the car. Any missed school time will be considered as unexcused. Students who falsify a parking permit will be subject to severe disciplinary consequences. Student cars are not to be parked in any other area of the campus or grounds—except the assigned area. YCSD student motorcycle privileges (grades 9–12) require a valid permit which shows a “motorcycle endorsement” earned on the driver's license. [a valid class R license with a “L” endorsement on his/her license] The driver must show proof with application for parking permit.

1. The speed limit, on school district property, is 10 m.p.h. Drive slowly and carefully. Speeding and/or reckless operation, of a vehicle, will result in disciplinary action and/or police action.
2. Drivers are to park properly, one space per vehicle, between the designated lines. Drivers are not to park in handicapped or in fire lanes.
3. Students should park, lock their vehicles, and go directly into the building—loitering in the parking lot is prohibited.
4. No stunts, loud/modified exhaust, or riding motorcycles during the school day
5. Park head-in in designated motorcycle spaces and secure the bike.
6. It is mandatory for all students who ride motorcycles to wear protective helmets. (Mississippi law requires a helmet that meets American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) criteria whenever a student rides a motorcycle.
7. Over-the-ankle footwear is required, with long pants/jacket and full-finger gloves strongly recommended for students operating motorcycles.
8. Students are not permitted to smoke/vape or engage in any disruptive behavior while in vehicles on school grounds.
9. Students are hereby advised that vehicles parked on school grounds are subject to search at any time and may be subjected to random canine search.
10. A student must have permission to return to his/her car during the school day.
11. It becomes the student's responsibility to arrive at school on time. The attendance office will not excuse students who arrive late due to a flat tire, engine trouble, or other transportation related excuses.
12. Students are to give buses the right-of-way.
13. Use extreme caution around school buses.

14. Follow the proper traffic pattern.
15. Lock your vehicle.
16. Violations of these rules and regulations could result in being ticketed, loss of permit, and/or be towed from campus.

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Violation of the rules stated which include, but are not limited to the following: (1) failure to display a current year parking decal; (2) no parking decal displayed on vehicle; (3) parking in an unassigned space/lot; (4) parking in the grassy area; (5) parking in an area not defined as a parking area; (6) parking in a fire lane; (7) displaying unsafe and/or improper driving practices;

(8) Not following the established traffic flow; (8) reckless or improper operation of a motor vehicle while on campus; (9) driving unregistered vehicles; and/or (10) parking in a non-designated spot will result in disciplinary action that will include the following consequences:

- (1) **First Violation:** Written warning and required parental conference;
- (2) **Second Violation:** Ticket written and a fine of \$50.00; and
- (3) **Third Violation:** Parking privileges revoked for the current school year.

Important to Note and Remember: Unauthorized vehicles, parked on school grounds, are subject to towing at the owner's expense.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, all visitors must sign in at the front office immediately upon arrival and provide a valid photo I.D. All visitors must have a visible pass before moving past the front office. Neither a teacher, nor a student, shall invite any individual school without special permission from the principal or designee. By definition, ***VISITOR, UNDER THIS POLICY, MEANS ANYONE WHO IS NOT A STAFF MEMBER, A STUDENT OR OTHER EMPLOYED PERSONNEL.***

PARENT VOLUNTEER/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The YCSD Board of Education recognizes that community members, business leaders, and other stakeholders can provide valuable services, to the schools, by sharing their time, talents, and experience. An effective volunteer program allows students to benefit from individual attention, real-world experiences, and provides enrichment opportunities that supplement the regular educational program. By engaging business leaders to provide students with additional engaging relevant real-world experiences, interested community members are afforded an opportunity to become directly involved with education and this strengthens the relationship between the school and the community.

For the purpose of this policy and procedure, a **volunteer** is defined as a person who provides services, without any compensation or benefits of any kind or amount, on an occasional or regular basis in the schools or in school activities.

All volunteers shall be at least 18 years of age unless their volunteer work is;

- (1) a part of a class;

- (2) is done to fulfill a service learning or community service requirement for graduation; or
- (3) is completed by a recognized student organization.

Volunteers serve under the direction and supervision of the building principal or designated staff. When volunteers work with children, their activities will be under the direct and immediate supervision of the classroom teacher, coach, activity adviser, or other designated employee.

Approval, assignment, continuation, or termination of any volunteers shall be at the discretion of the building principal.

Volunteers are expected to abide by all board policies, procedures, and school rules when performing their assigned responsibilities. The building principal shall make volunteers aware of applicable policies, procedures, and rules before they undertake their first assignment through a volunteer orientation session, a volunteer handbook, or other similar means.

Volunteers shall perform only those tasks that have been assigned to them. Volunteers will not have access to confidential information in student records.

Persons interested in volunteering time or services should contact the building principal. Prospective volunteers will be required to complete a written application providing relevant and necessary information (A parent volunteer form is available to complete and turn back into the front office).

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (—eligible students§) certain rights with respect to a student’s educational records. Parents have the [1] right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents, 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, of the eligible student, of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.

A fee of \$.50 per page (8.5” x 11”), or \$.75 per page (8.5” x 14”) will be charged, unless the fee effectively prevents a parent or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the student’s education records.

Additionally, parents have the right to request an amendment of their student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate or misleading. Parents, or eligible students, may ask the district to amend a record that he/she believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents should write a letter to the school principal -- clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record, as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent, or eligible student, of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Finally, parents have 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.

One exception which permits disclosure, without consent, is disclosure 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 Board of Education; or a person or company

with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, educational consultant, medical consultant, or a therapist).

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. Upon request of officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, the district may disclose educational records without consent.

The district may disclose directory information regarding its students. Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

The parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all types of information about the student as directory information. The parent or eligible student must notify the principal (or designee) in writing within 14 days, of receipt of this notice, that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information.

The district may disclose directory information about former students without meeting these conditions.

The right to 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 the following:

Family Policy Compliance Office
(202) 260-3887
U.S. Department of
Education TTD: (202) 260-
8956
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, D. C.
20202-4605

PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS POLICY

The following policies and procedures were adopted in order to comply with the requirements of the **Mississippi Public Records Act** as amended. Miss. Code Ann § 25-61-5 et seq.

Records Accessibility

All public records maintained by the district, as defined by the Act, shall be made available for access and duplication, subject to the exceptions and requirements of these policies and other state or federal law

Requests for Access

Requests for access to public records shall be filed in writing and addressed to the Superintendent of Education, Yazoo County School District, 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, MS 39194. The request must state, with sufficient specificity, the nature, location, and description of the public records sought in order to enable the appropriate official(s), of the district, to obtain the records for review and/or duplication. In the event that the request lacks sufficient clarity or is otherwise unduly burdensome, it will be returned to the originator for clarification or correction. All requests to inspect or duplicate public records must be filed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on any working day in the Superintendent's office. Requests for inspection and/or duplication of records shall be honored at such time, during the day, as the documents are not being used by the appropriate officials of the district. After the records are located and made available for inspection and/or duplication, the originator of the request will be notified of a time, place, and date, not later than 7 working days from the date of receipt of the request, to allow for inspection and/or duplication. If the District is not able to comply within 7 working days, a written explanation must be provided by the district to the person making the request, stating with specificity the reasons why the records could not be produced within the 7-day time frame, and absent mutual agreement, the records must be produced no later than 14 working days from receipt of the request.

Fees Charge

As allowed by statute, the district shall charge and collect fees to reimburse it for the actual costs of searching, reviewing, duplicating, and mailing copies of public records. All applicable charges shall be paid to the district in advance of complying with any requests, pursuant to the following schedule:

- ☐ **Photocopying:** \$.50 per page (8.5" x 11"), \$.75 per page (8.5" x 14");
- ☐ **Searching and Reviewing:** An hourly charge of \$7.00 or, in the event it is necessary for administrative personnel to conduct the search and review, an amount which equals the actual wage per hour of such person;
- ☐ **Postage:** Actual cost of postage shall be assessed for all records mailed;
- ☐ Any request that will require considerable assistance of school personnel for searching and reviewing shall be subject to a minimum deposit of \$25.00. In the event that the actual cost is found to be less than \$25.00, the balance shall be refunded to the originator of the request at the appointed time for the inspection and/or duplication.

Exempt Records

The following records are exempt from the Mississippi Public Records Act and from this policy and shall not be subject to disclosure, except under other authority and under appropriate circumstances:

- ❑ Records furnished to public bodies by third parties which contain trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information, as provided by the Act;
- ❑ Records, which are confidential or privileged, as provided by constitutional, statutory law or case law of this state or of the United States;
- ❑ Records which are developed among judges, judges and their aides, and juries;
- ❑ Personnel records, including but not limited to applications for employment, test questions and answers used in employment examinations, and letters of recommendation;
- ❑ Test questions and answers in the possession of a public body which are to be used in future academic examinations;
- ❑ Records which represent and constitute the work product of an attorney representing the district;
- ❑ Records which are related to litigation by or against the district, or in anticipation of prospective litigation, and communications between the district and the attorney in the course of an attorney client relationship;
- ❑ Records which would disclose information about a person's individual tax payment or status;
- ❑ Records concerning the sale or purchase of property for public purposes prior to the announcement of the purchase of sale where the release of the record would have a detrimental effect on the sale and purchase;
- ❑ All educational records of students and former students, as defined by The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); such exemption shall also apply to letters of recommendation respecting admission to any educational agency in institutions;
- ❑ Records that are maintained regarding the process of detection and investigation of unlawful activity, in addition to such records as defined in Miss. Code Ann. Section 45-20-1 of the Mississippi Code of 1972; and
- ❑ Commercial and financial information of a proprietary nature required to be submitted to the district.

Denial of Access

If the district denies a request for access to or copies of public records, the denial will be in writing and must state the specific statutory exemption that applies. The district will maintain a record of all denials for a period of up to 3 years.

Policy:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200991>

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Any student that has not paid for any type of fundraising merchandise on the day it is due will be dropped, from the membership, of the club and/or student organization and the money will be collected through the office.

LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY

All articles, which are found, should be taken to the principal's office immediately. Lost and/or stolen items should be reported to a teacher and/or principal immediately. Articles, left unclaimed, at the end of the semester, will be donated to a charity or similar organization.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills will be held regularly as specified in school board policy and State Board of Education regulations. All students will comply with established evacuation procedures and the specified instructions of employee and staff personnel.

Mandatory emergency drills are as follows:

- (1) One earthquake drill held in October;
- (2) Monthly fire drills;
- (3) At least one lockdown drill per year;
- (4) Two active shooter drills per year – each of them conducted within the first 60 days of the start of each school semester;
- (5) Two emergency bus evacuation drills per year – each of them conducted within the first 60 days of the start of each school semester; and
- (6) Two tornado drills per year -- each of them conducted within the first 60 days of the start of each school semester.

EXCESSIVE MOVEMENT IN THE HALLWAY

Students should always remain in class during class time. If there is an emergency, the teacher will give the student a hall pass. No student shall be in the hall without a valid pass (student identification). The student must present the pass, to any teacher or staff member, upon request. Students, absent from class, without a valid pass, will be considered truant. Anytime a student is in the hall, he or she should walk on the right side of the hallway. Congregating in groups, walking several abreast, and amount of loitering block the normal flow of traffic and must be avoided. Students **MUST** keep moving while in the hallway.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS/DELAYED START (YCSD POLICY: EBBD)

Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=225044>

TRANSFERRING RECORDS

Note: *The Yazoo County School District does transfer records upon request from another school. (YCSD POLICY: JBAAA)*

RESIDENT STUDENTS

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION BADGES

- (1) Each student, in the Yazoo County School District, must obtain (every student will be given one to begin with), maintain, and be responsible for a current student identification badge and it must be worn on a lanyard;
- (2) Badges will be made at the onset of the 2026-2027 school year, and the badges and lanyards will be issued, to the students, within the first month of school;
- (3) The cost of a replacement badge, for a lost or destroyed badge and lanyard is \$5.00 (\$3.00 for the I.D. and \$2.00 for the lanyard);
- (4) Students must have his/her identification badge and lanyard on around his/her neck to be properly displayed (visible) at all times while on school campus;
- (5) Consistent failure to do so will result in in-school detention;
- (6) The student's ID badge may also be required, at times, for special school-sponsored activities to be identified as a current student – it will NOT cover the cost of admission to school-sponsored events; however, it may afford the students' discounts at different times throughout the school year;
- (7) Students will always have the opportunity to buy a replacement badge and lanyard at any time if his/hers is lost or destroyed; and
- (8) I.D. badges may not be damaged or defaced. A new identification badge will be required for any such incident.

ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

A compulsory-school-age child is defined as a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1st of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1st of the calendar year.

This also includes any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1st and has enrolled in kindergarten. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten student shall be allowed to withdraw his/her child from kindergarten one time, and that child shall not be deemed a compulsory-school-age child until the child attains the age of six (6) years.

Students, excluded from this requirement, are those determined to be incapable of school attendance, by school officials, as based on medical documentation or an identified handicapping condition and those in a legitimate home school instructional program as determined by a school attendance truancy officer.

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in school within fifteen (15) calendar days, after the first day of the school year, or if a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences during the school year, the principal shall report such absences, to the school attendance officer, **within two school days or within five calendar days**, whichever is less, according to the method prescribed by the State Department of Education and on the form designated for that purpose by the district. **(Source: MS Code 37-13-91, 37-13-92; JEA 5-13-09).**

REGISTRATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Admission requirements for the district shall be as follows:

ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENT

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to a pre-kindergarten program of the Yazoo County School District unless that child will attain four (4) years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to a kindergarten program of the Yazoo County School District unless that child will attain five (5) years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade of any school in the Yazoo County School District unless that child will attain six (6) years of age on or before September 1st of that school year

Any child who transfers from an out-of-state school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in school at the same grade level if:

- ☐ The parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
- ☐ The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
- ☐ The child was legally enrolled in school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state; or
- ☐ The Superintendent has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state. **(Source: MS Code 37-15-9, JEB 5-13-09).**

INITIAL ENROLLMENT

1. Present a certified birth certificate (long form as recommended);
2. Obtain verification of required immunizations (Mississippi Form 121);
3. Complete the student registration packet (on-line for returning students and on-site for new students);
4. Attainment of the age of four years on or before September 1st of the current year for enrollment in the pre-kindergarten program and/or five years on or before September 1st

of the current school year (for kindergarten enrollment:) or attainment of the age of six years on or before September 1st of the current school year (for first grade) (Policy JEB); and

5. Provide **proof of residence** (see below for additional information regarding acceptable proofs) in the school attendance zone for which student registration is made.

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

Children, who are currently enrolled in Yazoo County School District, will provide annual updated residency documents and information as required. A District employee will verify the accuracy, of the residency documents provided, through home visits to the physical address of the student(s), when necessary.

These visits will be unannounced and will require a face-to-face interview process with the school official.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Check one in **Group I** and **Group II** and **if applicable** check a **or** b in **Group III**

Group II: Acceptable Bills (All of these must indicate a service address directly on the bill.)

- a) _____ Current Utility Bill (Must be dated within thirty days of enrollment)
 - (1) _____ Electricity Bill
 - (2) _____ Gas Bill
 - (3) _____ Landline Telephone Bill
 - (4) _____ Cable TV or satellite TV Bill; or
 - (5) _____ Water Bill

A driver's license or voter identification card are not acceptable as proofs of residency.

- a) _____ Other Residency documentation may be approved by YCSD Administration

Group III: Guardianship or Affidavit Guardianship

_____ **a.** Student is living with a legal guardian and a certified copy of the Court Decree (or petition), if pending, has been received declaring the district resident to be the legal guardian of the student and further declaring that the guardianship was formed for a purpose other than establishing residency for school district attendance purposes. This certified copy of the court decree **MUST BE SIGNED** by the judge – just the mere filing of the document **DOES NOT** make it legal and binding

AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY (YCSD POLICY: JBC)

_____ **b.** Custodial parent(s) are residing with an adult in a home not owned or rented by the custodial parent(s) will present documents to show legal custody. The **non-custodial adult**, in the home, must prove residency through Group I and Group II (above) and sign the affidavit.

Please Note: Affidavits will be checked, each semester, for updated proofs of residency.

In addition, the custodial parent(s) will present three of the items below:

- _____ Doctor or Dentist Bill
- _____ Bank Statement
- _____ Automobile License Plate Receipt
- _____ Cell Phone Bill
- _____ Insurance Policy
- _____ State or Federal Benefit Check Salary Check Stub
- _____ IRS Documentation or Correspondence
- _____ Other Residency Documentation as Approved by YCSD Administration

(Source: LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code Annotated 37-15-31 (1993 Supp.) State Board Policy 7301 JFAA 7-17-13)

STUDENTS NOT LIVING WITH A CUSTODIAL PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

A Student/Family Questionnaire documenting the reason for the student living in a home without a parent or legal guardian must be completed.

The residency committee must approve enrollment, of a student, not living with a parent or legal guardian. The Residency Committee will be appointed by the Superintendent. If any documents are found to be falsified, one cannot utilize an affidavit and/or any documents for the same address that was found to be falsified when attempting to register.

STUDENT LIVING WITH ADULT OTHER THAN PARENT/GUARDIAN

If a child is living with an adult, other than parents or legal guardians, *in loco parentis* authority will be recognized to establish residency, of the minor, in situations that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) death or serious illness of the child's parent/guardian;
- (b) abandonment of the child;
- (c) child abuse or neglect;
- (d) unstable family relationships or conditions in the home of the

parent/guardian having a detrimental effect on the child; and/or
(e) students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with a host family

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Must have:

1. Receipt of a withdrawal form/official transcript/a copy of the cumulative record insert sheet from the last school attended;
2. Proofs of residence requirements satisfied in the attendance zone for which student registration/application is made;
3. Completion of a student information profile/emergency card and/or registration packet; and
4. Presentation of required valid certificate of compliance for immunization.

Parents/guardians are **required** to accompany a student enrolling, in the district, for the first time. The enrolling student will not be allowed to stay, on the school campus, until the registration process is complete, and a schedule is issued to the student.

Any guardianship, formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes, shall not be recognized by the Board.

Transfer students will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript from the last school attended. If such has been lost or destroyed, the last school attended shall be responsible for initiating a new record.

If the last school attended is not appropriately accredited, the student seeking enrollment will be required to take a placement assessment to determine the best instructional grade/class placement. The principal will place the student in the grade/course best suited to his/her educational achievement level, needs, and abilities (**Source: YCSD Board Policy JG**).

Any child in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade who fails to present a certified birth certificate, upon registration, shall not be allowed to attend school until in compliance.

Students who attend Yazoo County Schools must be residents of the school district. Non-resident students will only be allowed to attend the YCSD, through the legal transfer process, and will be required to adhere to all requirements of a resident student. All documents must be provided, to the school, on the day of enrollment or the student will not be allowed to stay or attend until he/she complies, and registration is complete.

Credits or units, through or from a school not accredited by an appropriate state, regional, or national accrediting agency, will not be accepted nor counted toward graduation or promotion by the Yazoo County School District. Students, who transfer to this school system, from a non-accredited school or institution must take and pass a diagnostic assessment, for the purpose of the best placement, or retake the courses or grades earned from the non-accredited institution in order to gain official credit (**Source: MS Code: 37-15-31, 37-15-33, 37-151-93**).

EXPELLED STUDENTS REQUESTING INITIAL ENROLLMENT

Parents, guardians, or students **must** indicate, on the registration information, if the student requesting enrollment, has been **expelled from a private or public school or is**

currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion or expulsion proceeding involves an act of violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other activity, that may result in expulsion, the Yazoo County School District is **NOT** required to grant admission before one calendar year after the date of expulsion.

Failure to disclose this information may result in immediate denial of enrollment in the Yazoo County School District or immediate withdrawal from the Yazoo County School District.

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY

Transportation is outsourced for ALL students who attend the public schools of Yazoo County School District – including grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. Riding the school bus to and from each school site, within the Yazoo County School District, is a privilege and students who have that privilege revoked must be transported by their parents or guardians to and from school.

All inquiries in reference to routes, accidents, or problems should be directed to: **Mr. Joe Odum at 662-746-4672 ext. 1210.**

ATTENDANCE

Yazoo County School District believes that regular school attendance is paramount to student success. Research indicates that a student's attendance is directly proportional to the student's graduation from high school and lifelong success. The district is committed to working with the student, as well as the parents, when the student's attendance is affected by extenuating circumstances. Through collaboration and partnership, the student's level of success is greatly enhanced. Mississippi Law requires students to attend **66%** of his or her individual instructional day, as fixed by the local school board, for each individual school in order to be considered present.

ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION POLICY

For all students in grades 6-12, exemption from the second and fourth nine-week exams is an earned privilege. A student will be considered, for exemption, if he/she has no office referrals in a teacher's class. Office referrals, in regard to the exemption policy, can be defined as any minor and/or major infractions – excluding tardies and cell phone violations. Additionally, the student must also meet the following requirement regarding total days of attendance and grades:

<u>Attendance Per Semester</u>	<u>Grades</u>
3 absences	C
4 absences	B
5 absences	A

A student, who is exempt, has the option to take an exam if he/she feels it will improve his/her grade.

All absences will be counted -- except those that are school-related such as choir, band trips, athletic contests, etc.

A rare and unique exception, with regard to determining a student's exemption status, can be made by the school principal if he/she so deems that the student is deserving of an exemption (i.e., an immediate family member's death occurs, and the student possesses a current average of 90-100 or other unforeseen examples of tragedy and the student has a current average of 90-100).

Please Note: It is the student's responsibility to gather and provide documentation of school-related absences.

Out-of-school suspensions will invalidate the privilege of exemption in all classes.
(Source: Policy JBAC COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY)

TRUANCY

A "compulsory-school-age child" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1st of the current calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the current calendar year; and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program **(Source: MS CODE 37-13-91 (2) (f)).**

"Being truant" is a student who is absent without a valid excuse as identified in **Policy JBA, Compulsory School Attendance.**

Reports of truancy shall be made in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law **(MS CODE 37-13-91) and Policy JBA.**

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy is Standard 10.

An "**unlawful absence**" is an absence, for an entire school day or during part of a school day, by a compulsory-school-age child, in which the absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, if a compulsory-school-age child has an absence that is more than fifty percent (must be present 66%) of the instructional day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the compulsory-school-age child is enrolled, the child **must be** considered absent the entire school day.

As interpreted by the Mississippi Department of Education, each student must be present for 66% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school in order to be considered in full day attendance (MDE District Memo Implementation of House Bill 1530, Kent 5/17/13).

Each of the following scenarios shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence, of the excuse, is provided to the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee.

- a) An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory-school-age child's attendance of an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee. Such activities may include

field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals, college visits, and/or any other similar activity.

- b) An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury, which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- c) An absence is excused when isolation of a compulsory-school-age child is ordered by the county health officer or by the state board of health.
- d) An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family member of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
- e) An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school-age child where an approval of the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency.
- f) An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory school-age child at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if such child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- g) An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory school-age child or such child's parents adhere, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration to interfere with the education and academic success of the child.
- h) An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his/her designee, that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. Approval of such absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- i) An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory- school-age child's nonattendance.

Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child, subject to the provisions of this policy who refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this policy or who intentionally falsifies any information required to be contained in a certificate of enrollment, shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of **Section 97-5-39, MS Code of 1972.**

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the school which such child is eligible to attend or such child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the principal or school superintendent shall report such absences to the school attendance truancy officer of the youth court (**Source: MS CODE: 37-13-91 and LEGAL REFERENCE MS Code 37-13-91**).

The Superintendent delegates the authority, of reporting excessive absences to the School Attendance Officer, to the building Principal at each school site campus who may assign to

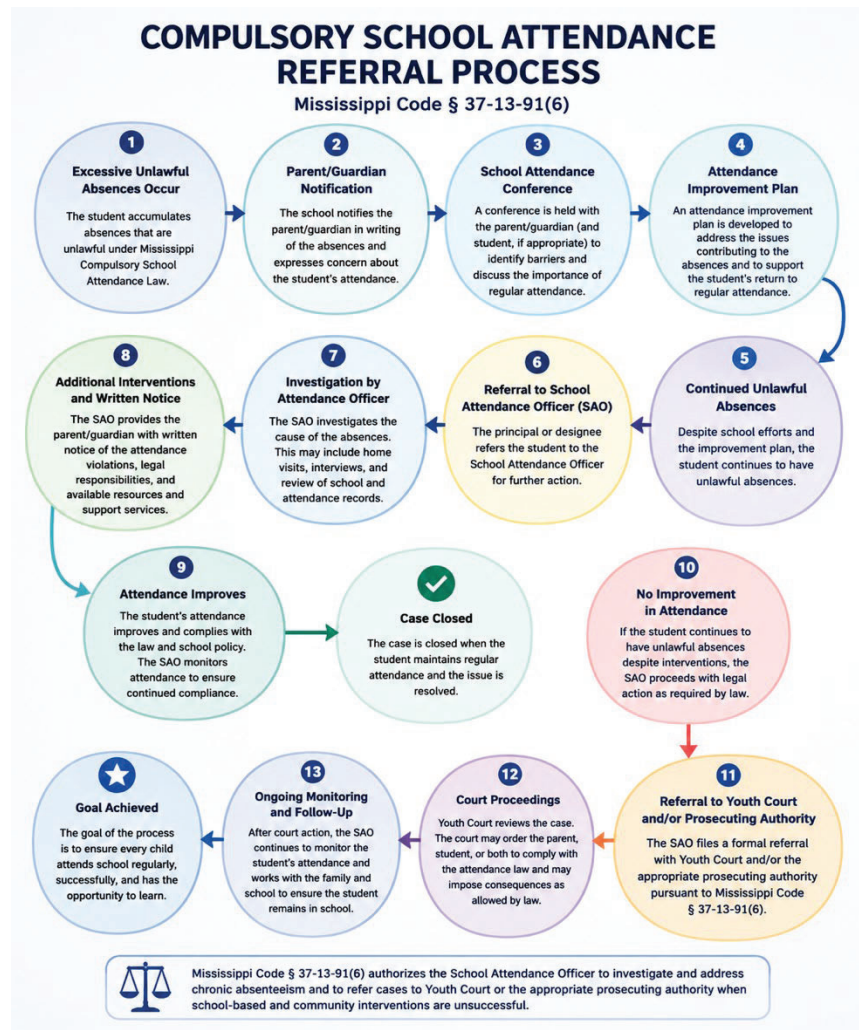
his/her designee. Therefore, and in summary, each student must be present for 63% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school in order to be considered in full day attendance

Compulsory School Attendance Referral Process (MS CODE 37-13-91(6))

Mississippi law requires all individuals between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) to enroll in and attend school. This law also applies to all five-year old students enrolled in a full-time public kindergarten program.

Required Demographics for Reporting Unexcused Absences at 5 and 12 Days

- ✓ **Student's Name, Date of Birth, MSIS or SSN, Grade, Gender**
- ✓ **Parent's/Guardian's Name, Contact Information including phone numbers**
- ✓ **Unexcused Absences-including out-of-school suspension days (suspensions are to be reported to the school attendance officer as they occur)**
- ✓ **Must be signed by superintendent or designee**



Suspensions are unexcused absences and must be reported as they occur.

In-school suspensions should not be considered absent.

ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES

For an absence to be considered excused, the parent must provide one of the following forms of documentation upon his/her (the student's) return before **three additional school days** **mature** (within three days of school upon his/her return):

- A written notification shall contain the date written, the date(s) of the absence, the cause of absence(s), and the parent or legal guardian name and contact information (maximum of 5 handwritten notes per semester).
- A note signed by a medical provider including the dates under care.
- Documentation of the isolation of the student if ordered by the county health officer;
- Documentation of a death or serious illness of an immediate family member which would include a child, spouse, grandparent, parent, brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister;
- Documentation of a military deployment of an immediate family member which may include a child, parent, brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister;
- Documentation of the required attendance at court or administrative proceedings if the student is a party or under subpoena as a witness;
- The religion to which the student or the students' parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event; and
- Any other reason deemed appropriate by the school administration.

Please Note: All absences shall be considered unexcused until proper documentation is provided to the school. If proper documentation is not provided within three days, the absence will be considered unexcused and counted toward truancy.

The District Administration recognizes school attendance as one of the most important responsibilities of the students, parents, guardians, and staff. Students who attend school regularly have fewer discipline problems and possess a better opportunity to achieve success at higher levels. Additionally, positive school attendance affects the district's funding allocation and receipt of state funding, as well as, most importantly, the teacher's ability to remediate the student, with regard to, missed critical instruction and potential regression academically while simultaneously attempting to effectively provide assurance of make-up work provided has been mastered (**Source and Cross Ref.: JBD Absences and Excuses**).

MAKE-UP WORK

Both the **STUDENT AND TEACHER** are responsible for making sure that make-up work is completed in the event of an absence. If a student misses the day of a test, they will be required to make-up the test upon returning to school. If a student is absent the day before a test and no new

materials have been introduced, he/she must make-up the test upon returning to school; if new materials were introduced before the test was given, the student will be given one (1) additional day to make-up the test. If a student is absent 2-5 consecutive days, the student will be given one (1) week to make up the work. Concerning daily and/or classroom work, if the student is absent one (1) day, then the student has one (1) day to make up the –classroom and/or daily work assigned. Essentially, regarding daily work, a student should be given the number of days he/she was absent to complete all of the missed assignments that are not defined as – tests.

If a student is absent more than 5 consecutive days, the principal or assistant principal will use discretion in setting the time for make-up work to be completed.

COLLEGE AND MILITARY DAYS

The Board of Trustees of the Yazoo County School District has approved a maximum of two (2) days for juniors and seniors (*for a total of 4 days during both years*) to visit a college campus without affecting the attendance policy. The request must be made and approved in advance of the campus trip. As verification of the student's visit to the college campus to discuss admission, degree programs, financial aid, housing, etc., the signature of a college official shall be required. Required forms should be picked up 5 days prior to campus visit from the counselor's office.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees of the Yazoo County School District has approved a maximum of two (2) days for a student to meet with military personnel without the attendance record of said student being affected. The request must be made and approved in advance of the arranged meeting. As verification of the arranged meeting held to discuss options for entrance into the military, possible scholarship opportunities, an explanation of an ASVAB score, etc., documentation must be provided to the school officials regarding the said – military meeting.

RELEASE TIME FOR STUDENTS

Twelfth grade students may be dismissed, prior to the beginning of the last block, with the following condition and/or stipulation. For every dual credit class, a senior takes and is successfully completing, he/she may leave a block earlier if he/she chooses to complete the class independently.

Eleventh grade students may be dismissed at the beginning of the **LAST PERIOD** of the school day provided they have a signed note from an employer verifying employment and a notarized permission slip from a parent granting the student permission to leave school for work. Freshmen and sophomore students must remain at school the entire day unless they are properly checked out by an authorized person on the notarized check-out form filed in the office.

This handbook does not contain all the rules and regulations governing all co-curricular activities. It is the student's and/or parent's responsibility to obtain those rules and regulations from the leaders, sponsors, and/or coaches and adhere to them.

ACADEMICS, GRADING, AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Consequently, teachers shall employ formative assessment strategies for the purpose of adjusting ongoing instructional strategies and procedures to improve the learning progression of all students. Summative assessments shall also be utilized to measure a student's progress toward or degree of accomplishment relative to the stated goals and objectives (standards) for a subject. Both types of assessments shall be factored/averaged into the final grade received, with the primary weight being on the summative assessments and denoting the degree of mastery learning of material presented.

GRADING SYSTEM/SCALE

To evaluate student performance for the purposes of promotion, retention, or other alternative programs, the following numerical values, found below, shall be used in determining letter grades. Numerical values will be utilized on reports of progress and report cards.

To summarize, a standard numerical grading system shall be implemented and maintained in the district. The representative numerical grade scale shall be as follows:

Grades K-12:

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

The Pre-Kindergarten students will be assessed through a checklist of Early Learning Standards for 4-Year-Olds from Mississippi Department of Education.

The Yazoo County School District utilizes an established grading system to communicate to parents a periodic evaluation summarizing significant factors of the student's success in the educational program (**Source: *Board Policy IHA***).

The grading system is based upon student achievement and performance, bearing in mind that any system incorporates both subjective and objective considerations in student evaluation.

ACADEMIC COURSE CHANGES

There will be no changing or dropping of courses after ten (10) days, from the opening day of school, unless deemed necessary by the principal and counselor.

SPECIFICS REGARDING THE RECORDING OF NUMERICAL GRADES

Only numbers and/or numerical marks will be used in recording grades. Grades on report cards will be recorded in numerical form. Semester exam grades and semester averages will be recorded as numerical grades as well. Nine weeks tests and/or semester exams will carry **no more weighting** than any other test and/or assessment given. All grades on permanent records will be recorded as numerical grades.

Numerical Grades shall be indicative of progress towards or degree of accomplishment relative to grade level standards and objectives of the subject and shall represent only the quality of assignments completed or not completed. Grades shall be recorded **no less than every other week** and **shall be listed by standard with a description of the assignment/assessment**.

A record of assignments pursuant to the evaluation of progress toward set standards will be recorded and filed for potential use in parent-student conferences. Actual grades may be recorded, in the grade book, for reference with parents at conferences. Teachers will maintain overall averages, within an attainable passing range, and a curve will not be used in grading.

Since learners only progress effectively when they complete work assigned, students are expected to complete all assignments. **Hence, teachers shall thoroughly pursue work not turned in prior to assigning term grades, exacting a reasonable penalty for late work when appropriate. When a student does not turn in an assignment prior to the end of a term, a grade of zero may become part of the average for that term.** Students, with any missing work noted, prior to the end of any grading period will be ineligible for exemption from taking exams.

Teachers are expected to reteach students according to substandard or failing formative and/or summative work. Teachers will select which assignments qualify for a redo opportunity, with the exception of term/semester exams or Dual Enrollment/Advanced Placement courses, that are considered college caliber courses and are guided by external institutions. Principals shall work with grade levels or departments to develop consistency in redo procedures at the school level. Students must go through **teacher prescribed** remediation and intervention before being permitted to redo work.

The opportunity to redo work and/or assignments can be rescinded if a student abuses the opportunity. Since students sometimes have this option for grade improvement, no extra credit will be assigned or awarded. Teachers shall adhere to district or school prescribed weighting for competency areas.

WEIGHTING OF GRADES IN KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADE

In reference to grades and their perspective weights in kindergarten through 5th grade, the Yazoo County School District believes that to get an accurate representation of the growth and success of a student in a class, the teacher will implement and utilize the following processes and procedures throughout the 2026-2027 school year:

- A minimum of 9 daily grades – meaning approximately one (1) daily grade per week for the nine-week grading period;

- A minimum of 4 assessment grades – meaning approximately every two (2) weeks, a student will be given a summative assessment and a grade will be recorded; and
- Daily Grades will be equal to 55% of the total average each nine weeks and summative assessments will be equal to 45% of the average each nine weeks.

WEIGHTING OF GRADES IN GRADES 6 – 8

In reference to grades and their perspective weights in 6th grade through the 8th grade, the Yazoo County School District believes that to get an accurate representation of the growth and success of a student in any class, the teacher will implement and utilize the following processes and procedures throughout the 2026-2027 school year:

- A minimum of 12 daily grades – meaning approximately one (1) daily grade per week for the nine-week grading period and then where appropriate and applicable, a second daily grade can be taken in the same week in order to obtain a total of 12 daily grades by the end of the nine weeks;
- A minimum of 4 assessment grades – meaning approximately every two (2) weeks, a student will be given a summative assessment and a grade will be recorded; and
- Middle School: Daily Grades (minimum of 12 – see statement above) are equal to 45% of the total average for the class each nine weeks, and summative assessments (minimum of 4 – see statement above) are equal to 55% of the total average each nine weeks for the class.

WEIGHTING OF GRADES IN GRADES 9 - 12

In reference to grades and their perspective weights in 9th through 12th grade, the Yazoo County School District believes that to get an accurate representation of the growth and success of a student in any class, the teacher will implement and utilize the following processes and procedures throughout the 2026-2027 school year:

- A minimum of 12 daily grades – meaning approximately one (1) daily grade per week for the nine-week grading period and then where appropriate and applicable, a second daily grade can be taken in the same week in order to obtain a total of 12 daily grades by the end of the nine weeks;
- A minimum of 5 assessment grades – meaning approximately every 8-10 days of instruction, an assessment should be administered and recorded; and
- High School: Daily Grades (minimum of 12 – see statement above) are equal to 45% of the total average for the class each nine weeks and summative assessments (minimum of 5 – see statement above) are equal to 55% of the total average each nine weeks for the class.

EXAMPLES OF DAILY ASSIGNMENTS/APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVELS

Examples, of different assignments, of what constitutes —**daily work and/or classwork** that is graded, for accuracy, and recorded in the grade book might include the following: (1) Classwork; (2) Labs; (3) Guided Practice; (4) Bell Work; (5) Homework; (6) Completed Lab Report; (7) Current Event; (8) Weekly Notebook Checks with Described Expectations and Criteria; (9) Quizzes; and (10) any other quality assignment aligned to a grade level standard that can determine mastery through its completion.

EXAMPLES OF TESTS/ASSESSMENTS IN APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVELS

Examples, of different assignments, of what constitutes —**tests/assessments** that are graded for accuracy and recorded in the grade book might include the following: (1) Unit tests; (2) Major Tests; (3) Multiple Skills Tests; (4) Performance-Based Assessments; (5) Components of the District Chosen Digital Platform Benchmark Assessments; and (6) any other major summative assessment, aligned to a grade level standard, that can be utilized to determine mastery by its successful completion.

CALCULATING TERM GRADES

Grade Pre-K: based on standards-based mastery requirements; and

Grades K-12: based on all assignments such as classwork, quizzes, project-based grades, writings, multiple types of products and projects, and homework

CALCULATING FINAL GRADES

First and second semester grades will be added and divided by two. For secondary courses of one semester length, the final grade will be the same as the semester grade.

GRADING CHANGES

(1) No school board member, school superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, guidance counselor, other teachers, coaches, or any other administrative staff member(s), of the school, or the central office staff of a local school board shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to change, alter, or otherwise affect the grade, received by a student, from his/her teacher except as otherwise specifically allowed by this section.

(2) A teacher's determination, of a student's grade, as a measure of the academic achievement or proficiency, of the student, shall not be altered or changed in any manner by any school official or employee other than the teacher except as provided in this subsection.

A school official or employee having authority provided under formally adopted written rules and procedures, adopted by the local school board to change a student's grade, can take such action only upon it being determined that the grade is an error or that the grade is demonstrably inconsistent with the teacher's grading policy.

(3) Any local school district, or personnel employed by the school district, that violates the provisions of this act shall cause the local school district or school to be subject to losing its accreditation in the manner determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board of Education (**Source: LEGAL REF.: MS Code 37-11-64**).

TRANSFER GRADES

Students transferring to the Yazoo County School District with, only letter grades, will be assigned the following numerical grades: A – 95, B – 85, C – 75, D – 67, F – Below 60 (not lower than 50)

Letter grades may be converted to number grades as recorded by the transfer student's previous school, if an official notice regarding the grades is received by the school within six weeks after enrollment.

ACTIVE PARENT

Online access to students' grades, discipline, attendance, and all school news is available through the district's website at www.yazook12.org in Active Parent. The URL address for Active Parent is the following: MS.8200.activeparent.net. Parents must enroll to access this information.

Enrollment will take place during registration. If you are already a member of Active Parent, it is not necessary to re-enroll. Additionally, one can seek out and download the Yazoo County School District app from the Apple and/or Google Play store and obtain this information as well.

REPORT CARDS

The report card, issued at the end of each grading period, is the official notification to the home and the parents and/or legal guardian of a student's progress.

A student's progress report and report card, will be available, based on the YCSD Board approved school calendar. At the end of each nine-week grading period, a parent/teacher conference will be encouraged and scheduled, virtually or in-person, based on preference and needs of the parents and/or legal guardians to come to the school to meet with teachers regarding his/her student's progress. If the conference is held virtually, the report card will be sent home with the student provided the student's device has been turned in to the appropriate school and any pending fines are paid (4th nine weeks). If a conference is scheduled in-person, the report card will be given to the parent/legal guardian during the conference. The final (end-of-year) report card is always mailed to the home address, provided by the student at the time of student registration, again providing that the student's device has been turned in to the appropriate school and any pending fines are paid.

Each report card provides for current grade averages and class absences.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS (YCSD Board Policy IHE)

A fixed set of criteria, based on student performance, will be used to determine promotion from one grade level to another at each school level.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION

Students in grades kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade must pass both math and English language arts. If students do NOT pass all of these subjects with at least a –60 yearly average, he/she will be retained in his/her current grade.

Students in grades 4 through 8 must pass English language arts, math, and science as these courses are all considered major core classes.

Students in grades 6 through 8 – in addition to successfully passing English language arts, math, and science – students will be retained in his/her current grade, if he/she fails **TWO OR MORE** subjects of any content and/or discipline.

Students who score –proficient or –advanced on their state assessments, and **do not** pass the course, will be discussed, if necessary, by a district committee for potential promotion.

EXPECTED GRADE LEVEL PERFORMANCE

The following link serves to represent, for a parent, the end-of-the-year expectations, outcomes, and/or basically what a student should know and be able to perform collectively as he/she readies to transition to the next grade level. This link is applicable from the elementary level all the way through high school, and as a parent, one can download the grade level(s) that are specific to you and your student(s): <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents->

HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION

A student will be classified as a:

Freshman upon promotion from the 8th grade

Sophomore after successfully completing a minimum of 6 units [1 math; 1 English; 1 science; 1 history; and electives identified, by MDE, as a requirement of graduation];

Junior after successfully completing a minimum of 12 units [2 math; 2 English; 2 science; 2 history; and electives identified, by MDE, as a requirement of graduation]; and

Senior after successfully completing a minimum of 18 units [such as the aforementioned above which are specific required courses identified, by MDE, as a requirement for graduation].

LISTS OF DISTINCTION AND HONOR

The Yazoo County School District recognizes three types of honor rolls:

- The –**Superintendent's List** shall be composed of all students with nine-week averages no lower than **95**.
- The –**Principal's List** shall be composed of all students with nine-week averages no lower than **90**.

- The —**A/B Honor Roll List** shall be composed of all students with nine-week averages no lower than **80**.

These lists shall be determined at the end of each 9-week grading period and published on all social media channels and/or platforms as well as with the local news and media outlets.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Yazoo County School District aims to prepare the youth of this community for their roles as future citizens by providing optimum educational experiences, opportunities to develop leadership and other social skills, and instruction in the values necessary for continuation of our changing democratic society. In order to accomplish this mission, it is important to us to recognize students who excel academically, exhibit leadership skills, and demonstrate good citizenship. Awards are given to students periodically, throughout the year, as in the aforementioned sentences when earned and/or deserved specifically.

GRADUATION – SENIOR HALL of FAME

The YCSD High School Honors Committee selects the Yazoo County High School **Hall of Fame**. The committee is composed of faculty and staff members, appointed by the administrative leadership team. The committee will screen and recommend a minimum of 10 student applicants to the Hall of Fame. In order to receive consideration, a graduating senior will successfully apply to the committee, which will include a recent photograph. An incomplete application will not be placed before the committee for consideration. The recommendation of the committee is final. Early graduates are eligible to apply for Hall of Fame.

Graduation Recognition (Diploma Bound)

Honors- Students with a 90.0-93.99 GPA

Special Honors- Students with a 94.0-100+ GPA

CLASS RANK AND QUALITY POINT AVERAGE (QPA)

PROCEDURE(S) FOR DETERMINING

The academic class rank for diploma bound seniors will be determined by averaging the semester grades, in all subjects attempted, from the date of entry into the 9th grade through the end of the second semester of the senior year. Rank will be computed to the hundredth of a percent except when necessary to break a tie, in which case thousandths of a percent will be used. Averages, will be obtained, by adding numerical grades using the following scale (Non-academic courses such as physical education, choir, band, JROTC, and remedial math/English and other compensatory or remedial courses **will not** be computed for class rank.)

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses = 1.10 x grade Accelerated/Honors courses (as recognized in this handbook) = 1.05 x grade All other courses = 1.0 x grade

A student's rank in class will be available after the spring semester of the senior year to determine the valedictorian, salutatorian, and other academic achievements. A student must be enrolled for four (4) semesters prior to graduation (summer school does not count) and must have completed a four (4) year course of study to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian of the senior graduating class.

Weighted Grades (AP, Accelerated, etc.) are used for the purpose of determining rank in class and honor graduates only.

Early graduates are considered in the ranking of the class; however, he/she is **NOT eligible** for the classification of Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

STAR STUDENT and STAR TEACHER DETERMINATION

The Star Student will be selected by the guidelines handed down from the Mississippi Economic Council, using the ACT scores, that are received by Yazoo County High School. Scores will be reviewed when the school receives notification from the Mississippi Economic Council.

MISSISSIPPI SEAL OF BILITERACY

The purpose of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines is to provide assistance, examples, and resources to local school districts on the process of awarding and recognizing students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school students.

Recognition for demonstrating a level of biliteracy must be indicated on the high school transcript for recognition acknowledges attainment of biliteracy in English and a world language for students, employers and postsecondary institutions. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for college and career and for engagement as a global citizens.

STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENTS

LITERACY-BASED PROMOTION ACT ASSESSMENTS

Third Grade MAAP ELA Summative Assessment: The Literacy Based Promotion Act, as part of Senate Bill 2347, calls for students scoring, at levels one and two in reading, on the established state assessment for third grade **to not be promoted to fourth grade**. Results from the assessment are used to address specific reading deficiencies of students who do not

achieve a passing score. Multiple re-test opportunities are provided to students, in mid-May and late June/early July, in an effort to support all students in earning his/her promotion to the fourth grade.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (Grade Pre-K and K): This is a baseline assessment to inform parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what young children know and are able to do upon entering school. Results will be used to deploy resources and appropriate instructional supports for students in kindergarten and first grade.

The assessment is administered during a pre-test window in August/September and a post-test window of April/May to determine the growth of the student.

MAAP (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program) **STATE MANDATED ASSESSMENTS**

MS ELPA21 (Grades K-12): This assessment is an English language proficiency assessment administered to all students who have been officially identified as English Learners (ELs). This assessment is administered annually to monitor English Learners' progress in acquiring mastery of academic English. Academic language is defined as the language required to succeed in school that includes deep understandings of content and communication of that language in the classroom environment. Students are assessed in four areas: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Results are utilized for school and district accountability purposes as well as to determine individual student progress. Students must achieve Proficiency overall, in reading and in writing, to exit the EL program. This assessment is administered during the months of March and April.

MAAP (Grades 3-8) – These are criterion-referenced **English language arts and mathematics tests** that are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards.

MAAP Science (Grades 5 and 8) - This is a criterion-referenced assessment that is aligned with the 2018 Mississippi Science Framework. Results are used for school and district accountability purposes as well as to determine individual student progress. This assessment is administered the first two weeks of May.

MAAP (Grades 9-12) - These are criterion-referenced assessments, in Algebra I, English II, and Biology I, and they are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. Results are utilized for school and district accountability purposes as well as these assessment results are requirements of graduation for students earning a high school diploma. These tests are administered during late April to mid-May – administration may be earlier if the high school is operating on a block schedule.

MAAP-A – (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate) Mississippi is required, under Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), to provide high-quality alternate assessments for

students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD). These alternate assessments are aligned to academic content standards that apply to all students in reading, writing, and mathematics in grades 3-8 and is administered once in high school. These assessments also align to content standards, for science, in at least one grade in each of the 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade bands.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECT AREA TESTS

MAAP ELA (English II) – The English II Subject Area Test measures knowledge of language arts, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills according to competencies found in the 2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework, Revised for Tenth Grade. The English II Subject Area Test consists of both a multiple-choice component and a writing component. Students must pass both components to acquire a passing score on the English II Subject Area Test. The multiple-choice component of the English II Subject Area Test contains items that measure four competencies that address vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing, and grammar.

MAAP Science (Biology I) – The Biology I Subject Area Test measures a student's knowledge of basic biological concepts, the use of science skills, and the application of biology to real-world problem solving and decision-making. Students will interpret data, apply concepts, and draw conclusions in answering the questions. This test consists of 89 multiple-choice items, which may include charts, diagrams, or graphs. Questions from the following assessment strands are distributed throughout the test: Chemical Basis of Life, The Cell, Genetics and the Molecular Basis of Heredity, Natural Selection and Diversity, Ecology, and Nature of Science.

MAAP Mathematics (Algebra I) -- The Algebra I Subject Area Test measures a student's knowledge of and skill level in applied algebra. The test consists of 65 multiple-choice items. Many multiple-choice items contain charts, graphs, or diagrams that the student will use to determine the correct answer. Questions from the following five competencies are distributed throughout the test: Number and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, and Data Analysis and Probability.

ACT (Grade 11) -- This is a curriculum-and-standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses student's academic readiness for college. Results are used for college admission and scholarship purposes, as well as, to meet mandated state graduation assessment requirements as a component of school and district accountability. A –live version is administered, at no cost, to juniors during regular school hours at the student's home campus.

ACT Work Keys (Grade 11 and 12) – ACT Work Keys is a system of assessments, curriculum, and job profiling that all help to determine, build, and measure essential workplace skills that can affect job performance and increase opportunities for career changes and advancement.

Please Note: Students can register at their own cost, for the ACT, for additional test administrations on Saturdays in September, October, December, February, April and June at the following site address: www.act.org.

Please Note: In reference to the **ACT Work Keys**, please see the high school counselor for more information with regard to whether this specific assessment is an option for you as a student.

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NORMED, CRITERION-REFERENCED AND FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS GIVEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

ELS Predictive Benchmarks and/or Common/Benchmark Interim Assessments (Grades K-12)

Customized criterion-referenced common assessments designed to reflect Mississippi state tests in both format and content for the subject areas of Language Arts, Math, Science (5th and 8th Grades and Biology I). Results are utilized to guide classroom instructional decisions, to determine advanced course placement as well as sometimes serving as nine week and semester tests when appropriate. They are administered typically at the conclusion of the first three nine-week periods for third through eleventh grades and at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth nine weeks for first and second grade students. Again, in summary, these assessments are criterion-referenced and designed to reflect Mississippi state-mandated assessments in both format and content for the subject areas of: (1) English language arts; (2) math; (3) science (5th and 8th grades); (4) science (Biology I)

STAR Early Literacy (Pre-Kindergarten – 1st Grade):

This is an adaptive assessment where right and/or wrong student responses determine the difficulty level of questions. Results can be used to guide classroom instructional decisions as well as serve as a universal screener, which helps in the possible identification of specific math and reading deficiencies. This assessment is administered typically three times a year during September, January, and April.

i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment – (Grades K-5):

The I-Ready diagnostic assessment is an online platform or adaptive assessment program for ELA and mathematics that aids educators in determining a student's instructional needs, personalizing his/her learning, and monitoring progress for growth throughout the year. The diagnostic is an assessment designed to help teachers support each student and creates a path of personalized instruction.

IXL Diagnostic Assessment (Grades 6-12)

This digital assessment platform is a comprehensive K-12 curriculum which combines quality curriculum with a –real-time diagnostic, along with personalized guidance (a skill path), and then –actionable analytics to yield and give a teacher, and a student, everything needed for the personalization of instruction, accelerated progress, and overall growth.

ACT Aspire

This –pre-ACT assessment can be given in grades 3 through 10. ACT Aspire is a unique, connected approach to measuring student progress. The system is anchored by the ACT® test, for students in grades 11 and 12, and provides empirically based readiness benchmarks at every grade that it is administered. ACT Aspire is used to **highlight progress and growth**, over several school years, with a targeted aim toward the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards

and Benchmarks. Outcome data links to the reporting categories of most all state standards. This means ACT Aspire measures student progress using the most comprehensive academic guideposts available.

Pre-ACT 8th/9th Grade

This –pre-ACT is another practice form of the ACT and is the first step toward preparing students for the ACT Test. This assessment is most advantageous in supporting 8th, 9th, and 10th graders with an early practice experience for the ACT test. Additionally, this –pre-ACT provides an early indicator of college and career readiness that helps educators, students, and parents identify areas of academic strength and opportunity.

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams (Grades 10-12):

An assessment administered, at the conclusion of an AP course, that is the culmination of a semester and yearlong College Board Advanced Placement (AP) course(s). Results are used to earn college credit at the majority of colleges and universities in the United States. This is a paper-based college-level exam developed and scored by college and university faculty members. AP exams enable students to apply critical thinking skills. Scores are used for college credits and are accepted by most two-and four-year colleges and universities. Students must take AP courses before taking the AP exam. This assessment is administered late April to early May.

ASVAB (Grades 11 or 12):

The ASVAB is a nationally normed assessment of The Department of Defense. Results are used to determine aptitude for a career in the armed forces as well as student vocational strengths. This assessment is administered potentially and most commonly during the eleventh or twelfth grade which is also most often the second year in JROTC and/or Career and Technical School course.

Students are administered the ASVAB at no cost.

EXPECTATIONS of GRADUATION PARTICIPANTS

GRADUATION POLICY

Graduation is an important and dignified ceremony, which has significant meaning for the graduating seniors, parents, families, and Yazoo County High School faculty and staff. The ceremony signifies the successful culmination of thirteen years of education.

Participation in any Yazoo County School Graduation is limited to those students who have completed all graduation requirements, as specified by the Yazoo County School Board and the Mississippi State Board of Education.

In addition, students participating in graduation exercises and the graduation ceremony, **SHALL** comply with **ALL** of the rules and regulations which include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Attending scheduled practice sessions is mandatory and **NOT** a choice if one seeks to participate in the ceremony;
2. Graduates are to be courteous during the entire ceremony and are to refrain from any activity that is disruptive, distracting, or dangerous. Please follow directions -- Avoid all unnecessary conversation and movement during the mandatory practices and the graduation exercise itself;
3. Graduates are not to carry anything with them into the ceremony;
4. Any student who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or of any controlled substance will not be allowed to participate. In addition, smoking is not allowed at any time before, during, or after the ceremony;
5. Graduates are to dress appropriately for a ceremony of this nature. Proper dress and/or attire **MUST** be worn at the mandatory practice sessions, or the student will be disciplined accordingly which could result in **NOT** participating in the graduation ceremony -- Examples of inappropriate dress are beach or sports apparel, flip-flop type sandals, jeans, t-shirts, etc.;
6. Noisemakers (airhorns, cowbells, etc.) are **PROHIBITED** at both the practices and the ceremony and these items will be confiscated by security and police personnel monitoring the event;
7. Please be reminded that any individual who engages in any type of inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be removed from the mandatory practice sessions as well as the graduation event; and
8. One is to adhere to any other regulation deemed appropriate by the school administration and it **MUST** be strictly adhered to for continued participation in the graduation ceremony exercise.

REMINDER: All debts to the school must be cleared in order to participate in the ceremony and other graduation-related activities.

EARLY GRADUATION

Early graduation involves the completion of all high school academic requirements in less than a traditional four-year program. A student applying for early graduation will meet the same standards required of all graduates of Yazoo County High School.

A student who plans to graduate early will schedule a conference with the student's counselor and parent/guardian to arrange a course of study. The principal will appoint a standing committee each year to examine all requests for early graduation and make a final decision as to the validity of the student's request.

Members of the committee will include the principal, a guidance counselor, and three classroom teachers. Factors to be considered in evaluating the request include:

- (1) stated reasons for requesting early graduation;
- (2) recommendations secured by the student from five current or former high school

- teachers;
- (3) the intellectual and academic qualifications of the student;
 - (4) the completion of three semesters at Yazoo County High School immediately preceding graduation; and
 - (5) a B average in all courses attempted at Yazoo County High School;

The committee will render a decision regarding the student's request for early graduation. If the decision is denied, the committee will justify the decision, in writing, to the parent/guardian of the student. The decision of the committee will be final.

GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA STUDENTS

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering 9th grade. There are three endorsement options identified by the Mississippi Department of Education: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic.

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering ninth grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
 - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
 - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	- English I - English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

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Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

Beginning with the graduating cohort class of 2018-2019, the MDE implemented new graduation requirements, which included diploma endorsement options and the College and Career Readiness (CCR) class. In addition to MDE, staff from the MCEE, Get2College, the MS Secretary of the Treasury, and many other stakeholders developed the CCR curriculum with **financial literacy** embedded into the course, which requires passage of the financial literacy course for graduation beginning with the graduating class of 2032.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

(Begins with Incoming Freshmen Class of 2018-2019)

A **Certificate of Completion** is not a high school diploma or an Alternate Diploma, but rather an acknowledgement of the student's participation in and completion of his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion must adhere to a fixed set of criteria.

GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR THE SUBJECT AREA TESTING PROGRAM:

State Board Policy 3804 and 3803 provides approved options for students to meet the high school end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements through approved alternative measures. State Board Policy 3804 and 3803 applies to past, current, and future Mississippi students.

While it is possible that a student will meet one of these options before taking the subject area test, this policy states that a student is eligible to use any of these options once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test.

Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirement outlined in State Board Policy by attaining any one of the measures in the Graduation Options Quick Reference Chart for the Subject Area Testing Program Requirements.

All students who are enrolled in an end-of-course Subject Area Test course for the first time must participate in the assessment in order to earn the Carnegie Unit. The assessment score will constitute 25% of the student's final grade in the course.

The following graduation options provide opportunities for students to obtain a certain score or level on the ACT, ASVAB, ACT Work Keys, MS-CPAS2, or other state-approved industry certification(s).

Students also may obtain a grade of –C or higher in a dual credit/dual enrollment course, corresponding to the end-of-the-year assessment that was not passed.

Assessment Options	Algebra I	Biology I	English II
ACT	17 (ACT Math Sub- Score)	17 (ACT Science Sub- Score)	17 (ACT English Sub- Score)
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment/ College Credit	C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course	C or higher in BIO credit-bearing course	C or higher in ENG credit-bearing course

CONCORDANCE TABLES

The Graduation Options listed below are applicable to any Subject Area Testing Program assessment.

ASVAB + MS-CPAS or Industry Certification	Must have an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements (Year 1 and 2 combined for an average of 60 or above) OR 2. Industry certification attainment based upon industry standards (Only MDE approved certifications may be used)
ACT Work Keys + MS-CPAS2 or Industry Certification	Must have a Work Keys Silver Level plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements (Year 1 and 2 combined for an average of 60 or above) OR 2. Industry certification attainment based upon industry standards (Only MDE approved certifications may be used)

Please Note: The college credit option is only applicable if the student is enrolled in high school and college at the same time.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

While participation in the graduation exercise is not a requirement for graduation, seniors who plan to participate in commencement must attend practice and must be on time. A schedule will be given to each senior during the last week of April explaining all of the details.

Graduates who choose not to participate in the graduation ceremony may pick up their diploma at school the day following the graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION EXPENSES

There are many expenses associated with one's senior year. These include, but are not limited to, a class ring, invitations, a cap and gown, and senior portraits, which can accumulate! The school does emphasize; however, that it cannot predict, nor can it assume any responsibility for a senior's performance in required course work. It is, therefore, the student's responsibility to determine his/her own status relative to the cost of graduation and the purchase of any of these aforementioned items.

Invitations, class rings, the cap and gown, pictures, and any other graduation expenses incurred, by the student, will not guarantee graduation from high school. Seniors will be permitted to order these materials if it is possible to complete graduation requirements; whether the senior is allowed to graduate is based on successful completion of the year's program.

In summary, graduation ceremonies are held for ALL students who have met the state-prescribed graduation requirements.

INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Please Note: Please see the **YCSD Instructional Management Plan** for a comprehensive list and description of all of the curricular programs and educational software platforms utilized by the faculty and students, at each school campus, in the district.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Grade Results, an educational curriculum platform, provides online courses and a comprehensive set of credit recovery, credit acceleration, remediation, alternative, and special education services to students. The program is designed to help students recover credits that were previously failed. **Grade Results** is research-based and offers an extensive, personalized, and ever-expanding curriculum powered by a cutting-edge, one-to-one delivery system. Not all classes are offered through **Grade Results** and not all students are eligible. Students must consult with their school counselor to determine if they are eligible for the program. Once all of the work is completed, students will earn a 65 and receive credit for the previously failed class. Students may recover credits at a rate of up to two courses per year.

Only four credits earned through credit recovery may be used.

DUAL CREDIT

Yazoo County High School offers Dual Credit courses through Institutions of Higher Learning. The purpose of the dual credit program is to provide, the opportunity, for high school students to earn college credit prior to graduation from high school. Dual credit courses also count as an advanced elective credit toward a high school diploma.

To be eligible for enrollment in dual credit courses, students must meet the following requirements:

- Have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- Have earned 14 core credits or be classified as a junior or senior;
- Passed a minimum of 5 credits from courses taken in the preceding school year;
- Not have any disciplinary infractions resulting in expulsion; and
- Pay the required course fee to the appropriate Institution of Higher Learning.

The grade earned, from the Institution of Higher Learning, will be the grade awarded and assigned for dual credit at the high school. The grade will become a part of the student's high school GPA and will affect class ranking. Preferences will be given to seniors for dual credit classes. Juniors will then be placed according to highest GPA and availability in classes

SCHOOL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Counseling services exist to lead in the development of students as they progress through school. These services are designed to help all students in their educational planning, career decision-making, and personal-social development. Counselors are committed to collaborating with students, parents, and other stakeholders, as advocates, to help students gain the greatest benefit from their school experiences.

Comprehensive social emotional learning programs and services are vitally important to the Yazoo County School District in successfully –Creating Next Generation Leaders‖ by educating students from a holistic perspective and point-of-view. The district has taken a comprehensive approach to implementing and providing the best of evidenced-based social emotional learning programs and services from the pre-kindergarten level to the 12th grade as students become young adults. Programs utilized throughout students' educational journeys are designed to address the following:

- Managing behavior;
- Showing empathy toward others;
- Conducting social awareness;
- Building strong relationships;
- Maintaining personal responsibility;
- Setting goals; and
- Making responsible decisions.

SPECIALS AND/OR AUXILLARY CLASSES IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Each student has one specific –special class per day. These classes may include **music, physical education, health, technology (STEM/Maker Space), general computer science, and/or library/media**. Students will participate in a variety of activities and be provided a well-rounded education. Specifically, in **music class**, students will explore different styles and genres of music through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement.

Musical skills are developed throughout the year. Additionally, **physical education classes** provide a time for exercising and participating in cooperative games, as well as competitive games. Students learn the importance of good sportsmanship and physical exercise. Schools offer physical education classes that provide cognitive content and learning experiences in a variety of activity areas such as basic movement skills, physical fitness, rhythm and coordination, and competitive games. Through many planned physical activities, each student should reach the optimum physical, mental, emotional, and social level of development.

Students are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothes on the designated days of attending PE classes. Please let your child's school know if he/she ever has any temporary

special needs that would prevent him/her from participating in physical education class as this is a state-mandated requirement (injuries, sickness, etc.).

An additional type of special class is that of **Computer Science/Technology (STEM and Maker Space)** class, which prepares students for a world of 21st- century technology by providing instruction in science, technology, engineering, robotics, computer ethics, care, and appropriate use. Students work on various programs, such as coding software, each week.

A dedicated **STEM/STEAM classroom** is equipped with various types of instructional materials and equipment such as the following:

- Design and Engineering Centers;
- STEM Challenges;
- Robots and Robotic Activities;
- Real-World STEM/STEAM Challenge Kits;
- Project-Based Learning Units; and
- Maker Space Projects and Challenges.

In the **library/media center space**, every child has a specified time to visit and participate in checking out books, reading digital versions of literature and informational text, and/or participating in a Maker Space Activity and/or Challenge!

ABSTINENCE EDUCATION POLICY (YCSD POLICY ICG)

OUR BELIEFS:

The **Yazoo County School Board** believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

The **Yazoo County School Board** is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic. The district seeks to affirm its commitment in creating healthy and responsible teens by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, by doing the following:

- ❑ Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes;
- ❑ Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective abstinence-only sex education programs, referred to in state law specifically as
- ❑ The District shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, –Abstinence-Only curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice, the curricula of –Abstinence-Only developed by both the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE’s approved curriculum list.

ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION

The **Yazoo County School Board** has adopted a Mississippi Department of Education approved – Abstinence-Only Education Curriculum and the following statements apply:

- ☐ Requires the implementation, of such program and curriculum, in the **Yazoo County School District** specifically in the 7th grade;
- ☐ Requires boys and girls in the 7th grade to be separated into different classes when "Abstinence-Only" sex-related education is discussed or taught;
- ☐ Prohibits any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby; and
- ☐ Prohibits instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms.

Definition

Abstinence-only education includes any type of instruction (in the 7th grade) that teaches some or all of the following:

- ☐ the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- ☐ the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining;
- ☐ the harmful consequences to the child, the child's parents and society that bearing children out of wedlock is likely to produce, including the health, educational, financial, and other difficulties the child and his or her parents are likely to face, as well as, the inappropriateness of the social and economic burden placed on others;
- ☐ the notion that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teach how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances;
- ☐ the notion that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and related health problems;
- ☐ the current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support, and homosexual activity; and
- ☐ that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship, in the context of marriage, is the only appropriate setting for sexual intercourse.

No program of instruction under this **Abstinence-Only** curriculum may include anything that contradicts excluded components specified in state law. The instructional program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.

Parent's Rights

Each school, providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly, or other official setting shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice thereof to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for

such instruction or presentation. The notice must also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

Procedures

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall establish procedures to support this policy.

The Superintendent will provide the **Yazoo County School Board** with an annual report on the outcomes of the – Abstinence-Only education program. If funding is available, this report shall include quantitative, as well as qualitative, analysis of the program and shall include the perspective of students, teachers, and parents/guardians.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with the Board's policy review process and/or any potential change in state law.

Justification

This policy shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, including but not limited to, MS Case Law (1) 37-13-171; (2) 37-13-173; and (3) 37-13-175, as amended and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

DISTRICT-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST SUPPORT

The district-wide Positive Behavior Specialist observes and assesses students' behavior in a deemed crisis situation and communicates with the student's teachers, caregivers, and families best-practice for implementing intervention plans and cross-training with other involved educators. This person also observes students in their respective educational environments – analyzing data and conducting appropriate screeners to aid in the success of the student. He/she models the implementation of behavior programs and strategies in the school environment and facilitates transition activities for specific subgroups groups of students, where applicable and appropriate, providing modifications and adaptations as they relate to support student success. Finally, this person monitors and records progress in terms of, for example, targets on a student's Tier III intervention regarding a behavior/behavior related intervention within the MTSS Systems of Support. This person provides the utmost integrity in maintaining student confidential records and progress reports regarding behavior challenge.

DISTRICT-WIDE DYSLLEXIA IDENTIFICATION and THERAPY SERVICES

The district, in compliance with Miss. Code Ann § 37-173-15, will screen students during the second semester of kindergarten and during the first semester of first grade for characteristics of dyslexia. Per the Mississippi Department of Education MTSS Guidance Document, districts must accept a dyslexia evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist, psychometrist, or speech-language pathologist.

For Yazoo County School District to accurately determine the individual needs of a student, administration of the CTOPP (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing) is preferred, as well as the GORT (Gray Oral Reading Tests) and/or an OWLS (Oral and Written Language Scales).

Students with a dyslexia diagnosis might also receive intervention services and/or qualify for an IEP through IDEA; however, not all students with dyslexia will need additional supports. Some students with dyslexia are successful when receiving high-quality Tier 1 instruction along with some general accommodations. The appropriate supports to put in place for a student with dyslexia should be determined by the MTSS utilizing data-based problem-solving.

The primary purpose of Dyslexia Therapy is to provide daily/bi-weekly/weekly dyslexia language therapy and instruction at each assigned campus, as well as provide professional development, at each respective campus and the district level, as needed and when appropriate, according to specified and prescribed District guidelines.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Yazoo County School District provides multiple career pathway options for high school students, including (1) career and technical enhancement courses; (2) career and technical education programs of study at the high school – more commonly referred to as CTE Pathways; and (3) career exploration at the elementary and middle school levels.

Students interested in career and technical education programs of study should plan their schedule of classes around the career cluster beginning in the 9th grade. It is the policy of The Yazoo County School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to career and technical education programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Yazoo County School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all career and technical programs.

Individuals with questions, complaints, or in need of additional information concerning Yazoo County School District Career and Technical Education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria may contact the **Director of CTE, Ms. Tracey Watts, at (662) 746-1596, ext. 1107 or via email at tracey.watts@yazook12.org**

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Student transportation to and from school and/or school sponsored trips is a privilege. Students are subject to the same student conduct expectation and rules while being transported. This right is maintained whether the YCSD is in charge of transportation of students, or whether the transportation of students has been contracted to a private company or firm.

Reports of inappropriate behavior on the busses are to be directed to the school level. Issues with the driver or safety concerns are to be sent to the **Transportation Director, Mr. Joe Odum, at 662-746-4672, ext. 1210 or via email at john.odum@yazook12.org.**

REQUEST FOR A TRANSCRIPT

Release of any information of an official school record shall be in accordance with regulations governed by **PL93-380**. Upon the written request of a student or parent for transcripts, the transcript shall be sent to any designated college, training agency, or employment office via the software platform -- Parchment.

STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Accident insurance, under a group policy, shall be made available to students enrolled in the school district. Students participating in athletics are required to have accident insurance coverage. A signed affidavit from the student's parent/guardian stating that he/she has adequate coverage of their own for their child will be a suitable substitute for coverage under the student insurance program.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES OFF-CAMPUS

Field trips or excursions have long been a part of the educational program of the Yazoo County School District. The board approves the use of field trips under regulations established by the superintendent and reported to the board. The following guidelines have been set to implement the planning of field trips and excursions as part of, and directly related to, classroom learning activities:

- ☐ *All trips must be well planned, properly timed, and related to regular learning activities;*
- ☐ Each student who goes on a field trip or excursion must have a **"Yazoo County School District Off Campus Permission Form"** completed and signed by the parent/guardian prior to leaving campus;
- ☐ Transportation, inside and outside the school district, is subject to all school policies and regulations. Attention, as well, is paid to the school and classroom discipline procedures in terms of eligibility to attend and off-campus field trip/excursion; and
- ☐ All field trips/excursions are considered educational opportunities and no student will be counted absent from school on the day(s) he/she is on the trip/excursion.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Yazoo County School District offers specialized programs and services to those students who are found to show identified needs beyond the regular education classroom setting. These services include the following:

- (1) Gifted Education classes;
- (2) Special Education Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services, as regulated by

the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 (IDEA 2004); and
(3) Services are regulated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972.

Each of these service options involves a referral process and a determination of eligibility dependent on meeting the program criteria for participation.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted education classes and services are offered to students in grades two through six who meet established criteria. If a parent/guardian feels that his/her student should be considered for gifted education services, she/he should contact his/her student's teacher, the guidance counselor at the student's school campus, or the gifted coordinator at the district office at 662-746-4672.

DYSLEXIA LANGUAGE THERAPY

In accordance with HB 1031, all students will be screened in the spring of kindergarten and fall of first grade. If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the screener results and will be invited to attend a Teacher Support Team (TST) meeting. The team and parent will review results and discuss the interventions to support the student's academic needs. If deemed necessary and appropriate, the student may be eligible for dyslexia language therapy as a tier III intervention.

MULTI-TIERED INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

State Board Policy IEI

Yazoo County School District has standardized procedures to ensure that:

- ☐ all students can be successful in their learning, and
- ☐ all students receive a free and appropriate public education.

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is designed to meet the needs of every student and is in place in place at all school sites within the Yazoo County School District.

One aspect of the MTSS model includes the following three tiers of instruction:

- (1) **Tier I:** quality classroom instruction based on the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards;
- (2) **Tier II:** focused supplemental instruction, and
- (3) **Tier III:** intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

Teachers will use progress-monitoring information and instructional resources to complete the following:

- (1) Determine if each student is making adequate progress;
- (2) Determine whether to continue the current intervention that is in place or make any sort of change/revision;
- (3) Identify any student as soon as he or she is falling behind; and
- (4) Differentiate instruction to ensure that every student masters essential skills.

Monitoring of student progress is an on-going process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark testing, and/or large-scale assessments. If strategies in Tier I are unsuccessful, students will be referred to Tier II for targeted intervention by the classroom teacher. If Tier II interventions are unsuccessful, the student will be referred to the school's Teacher Support Team (TST) for potential discussion of Tier III interventions (intensive interventions).

The school-level MTSS TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier III specifically intensive interventions. Interventions will be designed to address deficit areas, research-based, implemented as designed by the Teacher Support Team and school interventionist, and supported by data regarding the effectiveness of the interventions.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS AT TIER I, II, AND III AND INSTRUCTIONAL INTERVENTIONS

Interventionists work with classroom teachers to implement prescribed interventions to help students improve behaviorally and/or academically. Tier II interventions, academic and/or behavior in nature, are carried out by the classroom teacher, while Tier III interventions are carried out by the school site interventionist and/or the school guidance counselor, with the cooperation of the lead teacher, the classroom teacher, and the Teacher Support Team (MTSS).

CHILD FIND PROCESS

It is the policy, of the district, that district-wide child identification, location, and evaluation processes and procedures in Yazoo County are ongoing throughout the calendar year.

If you have questions regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of data about your child, you may contact: **Mrs. Gloria Jamison, the Child Find Coordinator** @ Yazoo County School District, 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, MS 39194 Phone: (662) 746-4672 ext.1029.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Yazoo County School District provides special education services, which serve students who have physical, mental, communicative, intellectual, and/or emotional disabilities. Related services such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, adaptive P.E., counseling, and transitional support are also provided as appropriate and necessary.

SPEECH LANGUAGE SERVICES

Speech language services, a component of special education, is provided to students who qualify for these services through a series of assessments

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM and SERVICES

Pre-kindergarten is available in the Yazoo County School District. The district has the capacity to serve approximately 60 students (40 students @ BG and 20 students @ LW) – with a population of no more than 20 students per classroom – including both a certified teacher and a paraprofessional.

The pre-kindergarten program in the Yazoo County School District is funded through Title I federal dollars as well as other external sources such as various grants when possible.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act, enrollment action, in the best interest of the child shall be taken, pursuant to federal guidelines and **Board policy (JFABD 4-10-13)**.

ELL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS)

When a child is determined to be an English Language Learner, as defined by Public Law 107-110, enrollment action, in the best interest of the child shall be taken, pursuant to Federal guidelines, under section 1112 (G) and 3302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and **Board Policy (JAB 4-10-13)**.

MIGRANT STUDENTS

When a child is determined to be migrant as set forth under Title I, Part C, Public Law 103-382 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, enrollment action, in the best interest of the child, shall be taken, pursuant to federal guidelines and Board policy. The Yazoo County School District is a part of a migrant consortium, which is coordinated by Jackson State University.

HEALTH SERVICES

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The following requirements are intended to protect your child. Please help us, to help you, by following these state laws and regulations, set forth by the State Board of Nursing, as they are listed below:

A child exhibiting any of the following conditions should not be in school:

- ☐ Fever and/or vomiting within the last 24 hours;
- ☐ Diarrhea;
- ☐ Undiagnosed skin and/or eye irritation; and
- ☐ Symptoms or any other illnesses not diagnosed by a doctor.

Any child with a temperature of 100 degrees and above, vomiting or suffering diarrhea must be picked up from school immediately. Student sent home with any of these conditions cannot return to school until free of symptoms without medication for 24 hours.

MEDICATION

Please do not send medicine to school without completing a medication form. Medication forms are provided in the school office for this purpose.

MEDICATION WILL NOT BE GIVEN BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL WITHOUT THIS COMPLETED FORM. THIS APPLIES TO NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AS WELL. ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN A PROPERLY LABELED BOTTLE OR CASE WITH THE PRESCRIPTION LABEL MATCHING YOUR DOCTOR'S FORM. THE STUDENT'S DOCTOR MUST SIGN THE FORM, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF MEDICATION (prescription or non-prescription).

PLEASE DO NOT SEND PRESCRIBED OR NON-PRESCRIBED MEDICATION WITH A STUDENT TO THE SCHOOL.

ALLERGIES

Parents should complete a food allergies form and turn it into the front school office and the Child Nutrition department in order for alternate items to be served at breakfast and lunch.

HEALTH SCREENING

All students are eligible for certain types of health screening in grades Pre-K-12th Grade. If you choose not to participate in these screenings, you must provide the principal with written notification within the first week of school.

MEDICAL HISTORY

The school nurse needs to know all medical problems or allergies that your child may have in order to provide the proper treatment, if and when necessary. **Medical History Forms must be completed on each child.** These forms will be provided during registration, and also is located in the nurse's office for parents who enroll their child/children after the registration period has ended.

INHALERS AND EPI-PENS NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL THE FIRST DAY WITH COMPLETED MEDICAL FORMS IN HAND. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE LEFT AT THE SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.

If additional information or explanation is needed, please contact your school nurse.

Linwood Elementary 662-673-9191

Bentonia-Gibbs 662-755-2270

Yazoo Middle School 662-746-1596

Yazoo County High 662-746-1492

INFESTATIONS: HEAD/BODY LICE, SCABIES

(Invasion of the body by arthropods, including insects and mites):

A student with an infestation, e.g., head/body lice or scabies, is required to comply with District procedures for removal of the insect. Parents are requested to notify the school when head lice are found so the nurse and school staff can check the classroom to prevent further spreading of this pest. Special procedures (see below) are required before a child can be re-admitted to school after having head lice.

The student must be free of live lice and nits (eggs) before returning to school. A pediculicide treatment should be used on the student, and live lice and nits (eggs) must be removed from the hair. A second treatment is required in seven (7) days. Information will be sent home upon request.

Students must be checked by his/her doctor, and/or the school nurse. A return-to-school clearance must be given to the principal, and/or the school nurse, before a student will be allowed to return to the classroom.

School personnel are required by law to report a child's third head lice infestation to the State Department of Health for appropriate action when appropriate and necessary.

HEAD LICE:

First Occurrence: A phone call will be made to the parents or guardian to come and pick up the student and treat the student's hair and other belongings.

Second Occurrence: (same as first occurrence)

Third Occurrence: The parent will be called to come and pick up the student, treat the student's hair and all personal belongings, as well as gain clearance from the Mississippi Department of Health by obtaining a clearance form to return to school.

SCABIES (*Sarcoptes Scabiei*):

Treatment is required with an anti-scabicide medication. Permission to return to school must be given to the principal before admission to the classroom will be allowed.

BED BUGS:

In general, schools are not conducive to bed bug infestations. Bed bugs prefer an environment where they can hide during the day and come out at night to feed on a sleeping host. Because bed bugs can travel in belongings, school employees are trained to identify bed bugs and signs of bed bugs in the classroom and the student's items. Upon identifying bed bugs or suspected bed bug introduction, the school nurse and/or school administrator will follow designated procedures for dealing with bed bugs.

If the bed bugs are found on the student's person or a student is experiencing skin conditions that might be associated with bed bug bites, parents/guardians of the affected child will be notified. After an inspection of the affected area, it may be necessary to investigate the student's home setting.

Parents will be provided educational information regarding bed bugs as a means to assist with the prevention and management of bed bug in their home. The student may **NOT** be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained.

FIRST AID AND MEDICATION:

Minor first aid is provided in the nurse's station. If a student becomes ill, the office will contact the parent or guardian. Students must obtain a hall pass from the classroom teacher before going to the nurse or office. If a student becomes ill, it will be reported to the office immediately.

All pupils dismissed, because of an emergency, will be sent home immediately or taken to a doctor only after parents have been notified. If the school is unable to contact either parent, and the emergency warrants such, the school reserves the right to take the pupil to a doctor or hospital.

Finally, the District participates in a partnership with UMMC (University MS Medical Center) with regard to the service of –telehealth medicine℥ if needed and appropriate. Parents must give permission for his/her student to participate in this service free-of-charge. Parents are provided a written summary of the –telehealth medicine℥ visit regarding his/her child.

CHILD ABUSE POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Yazoo County School District for all employees to be aware of any suspected child abuse within the district.

Each district employee has a responsibility to observe students closely, watching for sudden changes in behavior. Remember that one only has to suspect abuse. Employees are required by law to report any signs of abuse to their immediate supervisor.

Once the information is reported to the school principal, the school principal will notify the proper authorities, as well as, the superintendent or his/her designee.

STUDENT CONDUCT and BEHAVIOR

STUDENT RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION POLICY:

Student Restraint and Seclusion (Cross Ref: BOARD POLICY JCBA, MS CODE: 37-9-69; 37-11-57): The Yazoo County School District Board of Trustees supports a positive approach to behavior that uses proactive strategies to create a safe school climate that promotes dignity, creates authentic student engagement, and improves student achievement for all students.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-9-69 and 37-11-57, it is recognized that staff may intercede in situations wherein students are displaying physically violent behavior or are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others. The use of excessive force or cruel and unusual

punishment regarding student management is prohibited. Restraint and/or seclusion shall not be utilized as a punitive measure.

Only school personnel trained in the use of restraint and seclusion should be used to observe and monitor these students. Staff engaged in monitoring students shall have knowledge of effective restraint and seclusion procedures, emergency procedures, and knowledge of how to debrief students after the use of restraint or seclusion effectively.

This policy, in no way, shall inhibit the right of staff to reasonable self-defense in accordance with the provisions of the 5th and 14th amendments to the Constitution of the United States, or the Constitution of Mississippi, nor negate the obligation of the district to provide a safe work environment.

In any situation in which a student is a danger to himself/herself or others, and it becomes necessary to contact law enforcement or emergency medical personnel to intervene, nothing in this policy guidance shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

Restraint:

Physical restraint is considered to be an emergency response after all other verbal and non-verbal de-escalation measures have failed in effectiveness. When using physical restraint for students who are a

danger to themselves or others, staff should take precautions necessary to ensure the safety of the student and the staff members engaged in restraining the student.

1. Physical restraints that restrict the flow of air are prohibited in all situations;
2. The use of mechanical restraints is prohibited, except by law enforcement, and
3. The use of chemical restraints is prohibited.

Seclusion:

The use of seclusion occurs in a specially designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. The room or space, used for seclusion, may not be locked and staff shall be present to monitor the student. Seclusion shall cease once the student regains control of his or her behavior.

Administrative Procedures:

This policy and the supporting procedures are designed to ensure the safety of all students, school personnel, and visitors. The following provisions shall be adhered to:

- a. Staff and faculty shall be trained at **least annually** on the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Teachers, and other district personnel, shall be trained on how to collect and analyze student data to determine the effectiveness of these procedures in increasing appropriate behavior;
- b. Administrators shall document incidents of the use of physical restraint or seclusion by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint or seclusion event;
- c. A review, of the use of a restraint and seclusion process, shall be conducted by the school to determine if revisions of behavioral strategies are in place to address dangerous behavior or if positive behavioral strategies were not in place at the time of the restraint or seclusion;
- d. The school board shall review this policy and incidents of seclusion and restraint data at a minimum, annually. At a minimum, the Superintendent shall make quarterly reports of incidents of restraint and/or seclusion to the school board. The school district shall report the incidents to Mississippi Department of Education annually;
- e. This policy and supporting procedures shall be reviewed with all staff on an annual basis;
- f. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for reporting the use of restraint or seclusion to the local board of education and to the Mississippi Department of Education; and
- g. After reviewing the district reports of incidents in which restraint and seclusion were used, if necessary, the superintendent shall make recommendations to the board for possible revisions to this policy. The review and/or revisions to this policy shall be documented on the school board meeting agenda and the subsequent minutes of the school board meeting. The school district or school shall maintain records of its review of and any resulting decisions or actions regarding the use of seclusion and restraint.

Parental Notification:

- a. All parents shall receive, at least annually, written information about the policies and procedures for restraint and seclusion issued by this school district. The written policies shall be included in the code of conduct, student handbook, school board policy manual, and any other appropriate school publication;
- b. Parents or guardians shall be notified verbally, or in writing, on the day of the restraint or seclusion or no later than 48 hours following the incident. In the event a parent cannot be reached by telephone, a letter shall be sent informing the parent of the incident and the person

- who can be contacted at the school to address any questions the parent may have. At the time the parent is notified, the school shall schedule a debriefing with the parent to discuss the incident;
- c. A complaint from a parent regarding the physical restraint or seclusion of their child may be submitted in writing to the principal. The written complaint must state the student's name, the nature and date of the restraint or seclusion, the persons involved (teacher, witness, etc.) and requested action; and
 - d. The principal shall provide an initial response to the complainant within five school days. If the parent is not satisfied with the response, he/she may request (in writing) a review by the superintendent. Within 10 days from receiving the request for a review, the superintendent will issue a decision.

STUDENT BULLYING

Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=230695>

STUDENT BULLYING PROCEDURES

Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=105583>

The Yazoo County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that exhibits the following:

1. places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, and/or
2. creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

A hostile environment means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior, and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Yazoo County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The district encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be

appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take –reasonable actions as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the Yazoo County School District defines –reasonable action as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

LEVELS OF INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Items Prohibited on School Property: The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal, or any District administrator is authorized to contact law enforcement officials and/or to take appropriate disciplinary action, including recommendation for immediate expulsion, consideration for placement in the YCSD Success Center, suspension, detention, and/or in-school detention, against any student, for misconduct.

Possession of the following items on school property, a school bus, or at a school-related activity is prohibited:

alcoholic beverages	fireworks	mace
tobacco in any form	stink bombs	noise-making devices cigarette
lighters/matches	firearms	walking canes
electronic cigarettes	cartridges, bullets	gang paraphernalia
hookah/vapes/juuls	gun caps	bandanas, bandana sweat bands
drug paraphernalia	paint guns	fingernail files
illegal or –look alike drugs	ammunition	gambling paraphernalia
(in any form)	water pistols	
weapons of any type of	toy/toy weapons	playing cards
slingshots	gun jewelry	pornographic materials
(–look-alike)		
knives	laser lights	inappropriate internet sites
incendiary materials	personal defense spray	stolen property

Additionally, the following statements should be adhered to at all times:

- ☐ Students are not permitted to sell or trade any items at school without permission from the principal;
- ☐ Students are not permitted to sit on the tops of desks or tables in the school building;
- ☐ Students are expected to properly dispose of all garbage and litter;
- ☐ Animals are not allowed on campus except for instructional or service purposes approved by the principal;
- ☐ Students are not permitted to bring food into classrooms without permission from the principal;
- ☐ Students are not permitted to possess and/or take medication unless taken in the school office or with the school nurse.

Contraband property, confiscated by school officials, may be returned only to the parent or legal guardian. School personnel shall not be held responsible for prohibited items that have been confiscated.

LEVEL A INFRACTIONS:

These behaviors are usually minor infractions that should be managed by the teacher at the classroom level. However, if a Level A behavior is of a continuous nature, a major nature, or if the teacher's actions are unsuccessful in correcting the misconduct, then a Level A misbehavior may be, at the principal's discretion, upgraded to a Level B misbehavior. A record of the action is to be maintained.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

NOTE: A reasonable effort must be made by the classroom teacher to contact the parent before Level A misbehavior is sent to the principal to be upgraded a Level B offense.

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Leaving playground without permission; ○ Using bathroom on the ground; ○ Cheating; ○ Disrespect to other students and/or adults on On campus; ○ Littering; ○ Throwing any objects; ○ Sleeping in class; ○ Excessive noise in the classroom, hall, or Cafeteria; ○ Not obeying any posted rules in the classroom and/or other areas of the school building; ○ Improper physical contact and/or public Display of Affection; ○ Disregard of authority; and ○ Other behavior deemed by the principal to	○ School-Wide Discipline Plan
ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
○ Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: Dress Code Violation(s) which includes the bringing of a blanket, of any kind or sort, to school. No blankets are to be at school at any time. If they are, the blanket will be confiscated, and the student can be sent to ISS, if warranted and necessary, by the school principal. Additionally, the student may get the blanket back at the end of the current semester or the end of the school year.	○ First Offense: Student corrects problem or reports to In-School Suspension (ISS); ○ Second Offense: Student corrects problem or reports to in-school detention until the student complies; Parent is contacted; and ○ Third Offense: Out-of-School suspension and continues until parent returns to the school with the student; and ○ Fourth Offense – Any offense after the third offense will upgrade to level B offense.

Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: - o Attending class without appropriate materials; - o Cheating; - o Disrespect to other students and/or any other adults on campus; - o Disruptive conduct to the learning environment; - o Littering; - o Loitering; - o Sleeping in class; - o Improper physical contact (non-physical or argumentative) and/or Public Display of Affection; - o Not obeying posted rules; - o Disregard of authority; - o Any infraction/action listed on the K-5th grade chart above: and - o Other behavior deemed by the principal to fall under Level A including dress code violations.	o School-Wide Discipline Plan
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GRADES 6-12, LEVEL A

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: o Four Tardies -- offenses to be viewed per semester	- o First Tardy – Teacher of record inserts the period tardy into student information system; - o Second Tardy – Teacher of record inserts the period tardy into student information system; - o Third Offense – Teacher of record inserts the period tardy into student information system; and - o Fourth Offense – Student reports to office and is assigned In-School Detention.
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: o Dress Code Violation which includes bringing a blanket, of any sort or kind, to school. Note: If any blankets are brought to school, they will be confiscated and the student can be sent to ISS, if warranted and necessary, by the school principal.	- o First Offense: Student corrects problem or reports to In-School Suspension (ISS); - o Second Offense: Student corrects problem or reports to in-school detention until the student complies; Parent is contacted; and - o Third Offense: Out-of-School suspension and continues until parent returns to the school with the student; and - o Fourth Offense – Any offense after the third offense will upgrade to level B offense.

UPGRADE LEVEL A TO LEVEL B INFRACTION:

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences given by the classroom teacher have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal, along with documentation of prior strategies used by the teacher, to correct the misbehavior. A conference with the principal will determine if an upgrade from Level A to Level B is appropriate.

The principal’s list of Level A behaviors, along with a consistent series of consequences, will be used by every teacher to correct misbehavior. Other Level A behaviors and consequences are determined and posted by grade level teachers. Principals may, at times, exercise their authority concerning designated Level A behaviors and apply consequences whenever necessary.

Parental contact should be a step in every teacher’s assertive classroom discipline plan or grade level discipline plan.

LEVEL B INFRACTIONS AND BEHAVIORS:

These behaviors are either (1) of a more serious nature than Level A misconduct or (2) Level A misconduct that, due to the frequency of the behavior or ineffectiveness of the teacher’s actions, have been upgraded from Level A. Misbehavior classified as Level B or upgraded to Level B requires intervention by the principal. Students exhibiting Level B behavior shall be referred to the office, by teachers, for administrative action and may result in the involvement of law enforcement authorities. A record of action is to be maintained in the Yazoo County School District student information system.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

LEVEL B INFRACTIONS, PRE-K TO GRADE 5:

Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:	CONSEQUENCES:
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Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Gambling; ○ Improper touching; ○ Racial slurs; ○ Threats to other students (automatic upgrade to Level C depending on severity and if warranted by the school principal); ○ Sexual Orientation – slurs; ○ Destroying school property; ○ Spitting at or on someone; ○ Obscene gestures; ○ Cheating; ○ Profanity; ○ Indecent exposure; ○ Fighting (automatic upgrade to Level C depending on Severity and if warranted by the school principal); ○ Strong-arm tactics (intimidate/extortion); ○ Theft; ○ Possession of pornographic material, gang paraphernalia, signs, or symbols; ○ Disrespect to teacher or staff person (any adult on the school campus); ○ Intimidation (verbal); ○ Unauthorized selling of any items by student while at school (i.e., selling chips; candy; snacks; etc.); ○ Upgrade from Level A; and ○ Other behavior deemed by the principal to fall under Level B.	○ First Offense – Principal/parent/student conference and 1 day of ISD; ○ Second Offense – 1-3 days of in-school suspension; and ○ Third, Fourth, and/or Fifth Offense – 1-3 days in-or-out-of-school suspension.
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LEVEL B INFRACTIONS, GRADES 6-12:

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Skipping class (without leaving campus); ○ Gambling; ○ Throwing inappropriate objects on campus; ○ Improper driving on campus; ○ Profanity; ○ Verbal Altercation ○ Racial –slurs; ○ Sexual Orientation –slurs; ○ Cheating; ○ Unauthorized selling of products not approved by the principal or his/her designee; ○ Obscene gesture directed at student; ○ Improper physical contact and/or public display of affection; ○ Strong-arm tactics (intimidate/extortion); ○ Theft; ○ Disrespect to teacher or staff person; ○ Unauthorized selling of any items by student while at school (i.e., selling chips; candy; snacks; etc.); ○ Any infraction/action listed on the K-5th Grade list above; ○ Upgrade from Level A; and ○ Other behavior deemed by the principal to fall under Level B.	○ First Offense -- Principal/parent/student conference and possible restitution as warranted by the school principal/or 1- 3 days of ISD; ○ Second Offense – 1-3 days of in-school detention and possible restitution as warranted by the school principal; and ○ Third, Fourth, and/or Fifth Offense – 5 days in-or-out-of-school suspension and possible restitution as warranted by the school principal.

LEVEL B INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES GRADES Pre-K-12:

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: - Cell phones, –smart watches, watches with computer or internet features, I-Pads, camera or video devices, radios, tape players, sound reproducing equipment, beepers, gaming devices, any other video game players and any unauthorized items BEING USED DURING SCHOOL HOURS; - Utilizing a Chromebook device, or any other computer device that has not been assigned to said student through or by means of a Fixed Asset Inventory Number; - Logging into a device utilizing another student(s) account and/or password instead of one's own assigned information given by the technology department at the onset of the school year; - Logging onto a device and repeatedly utilizing one's personal email address, instead of the school district assigned email address, to avoid the firewalls and blocked URL addresses; - Additional consequences as noted in the Cellular Telephone/Electronic Device policy may be implemented based on activity occurring at the time of confiscation. Note: Any student, who refuses, to turn over his/her cell phone, to school administration, will automatically be suspended 3 days out-of-school.	First Offense – device held by school for five (5) days; Refusal to give up phone on request will result in 3-day suspension. Second Offense – device held by school for ten (10) days. Refusal to give up phone on request will result in 3-day suspension. Third Offense – device held by school for twenty (15) days; . Refusal to give up phone on request will result in 3-day suspension. Fourth Offense – device held by school for twenty (20) days. Refusal to give up phone on request will result in 3-day suspension. Fifth Offense -- Device held by school for the remainder of the school year. Refusal to give up phone on request will result in Success Center

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: Bullying and cyber bullying.	Suspension (in/out of school) and change of placement.

UPGRADE FROM LEVEL B TO LEVEL C

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences for Level B misconduct have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal for a conference to determine if an upgrade from Level B to Level C is appropriate.

Students who are suspended at the end of school will be required to take all exams on the last exam day. If suspended days exceed the number of days remaining in the school year, the suspension days will be served at the beginning of the next school year.

LEVEL C INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

These behaviors are: (1) of a more serious nature than Level B or (2) Level B misconduct that, due to the frequency of the behavior or ineffectiveness of previous actions, has been upgraded from Level B. Students exhibiting Level C behavior shall be referred to the office by teachers for administrative action and may result in the involvement of law enforcement authorities. A record of the action is to be maintained in SAMS; the Yazoo County School District Student Information System.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form, to the office, when referring a student to the office for administrative action.

LEVEL C Pre-K-GRADE 5:

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Flagrant disregard for authority; ○ Smoking or possession of products (i.e., matches, lighters, etc.) and/or electronic cigarettes/vapes; ○ Upgrade from Level B; and ○ Other behavior deemed by the principal to fall under Level C.	○ Out-of-School suspension for 5 days

LEVEL C GRADES 6-12:

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Obscene gestures directed at teacher or staff; ○ Disrespect for a teacher or staff member – total disregard for authority (deemed to be much more severe than a Level B offense); ○ Profanity directed at teacher or staff; ○ Racial and/or sexual slurs (complete derogatory remarks of a racial nature and/or of a sexual nature that pose a high likelihood of inciting discontent of one or more than one person); ○ Improper touching that presents as sexual harassment; ○ Utilizing – strong-arm tactics as a mechanism to intimidate and/or bully another student; ○ Possession of a chemical defense device such as mace; ○ Smoking or possession of products (i.e., matches, lighters, etc.) and/or electronic cigarettes/vapes; ○ Upgrade from Level B (such as theft and/or gambling – depending on the severity); and ○ Other behavior deemed, by the principal, to fall under Level C.	All Offenses/suspensions may be up to (5) days based on principal discretion ○ First Offense –Suspension and parent conference; ○ Second Offense –Suspension and/or referral for a change of placement; and/or ○ Third Offense – Suspension out of school and will be referred for a change of placement.

Note: The actions in –bold type face on the above Level C chart are also notably similar to a few of the actions noted on the previous Level B chart – the intent here is for a student to have more accountability and consequences for a more severe behavior displayed at the discretion of the school administration.

LEVEL C GRADES Pre-K-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Strong-arm tactics; ○ Theft (\$51 – \$ 299); ○ Leaving campus without permission; ○ Flagrant disregard for authority (extreme insubordination); ○ Inappropriate intentional physical contact and/or public display of affection; ○ Fighting – physical aggression requiring separation which may result in an injury that may require treatment and/or deemed of a serious nature by the principal; ○ Falsifying documentation turned into the school office; ○ Unauthorized engaging of the fire alarm; ○ Inciting/creating a riot, havoc, or disorder; ○ Upgrade from Level B; and ○ Other behavior deemed by the principal to fall under Level C.	All Offenses/suspensions may be up to five (5) days based on the principal’s discretion. ○ First Offense – Suspension and parent Conference and possible restitution if warranted by the action and the school principal – please note – with regard to the action – fighting and the severity of the aggression the school principal has the discretion to refer the student for a change of placement to the YCSD Success Center; ○ Second Offense – Suspension and/or referral for a change of placement and possible restitution if warranted by school principal; or ○ Third Offense – Suspension out-of-school and will be referred for a change of placement and possible restitution if warranted by school principal.
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: ○ Cell phones, –smartl watches, watches with computer or internet features, camera or video devices, radios, tape players, sound reproducing equipment, beepers, video game players and any unauthorized items BEING USED DURING SCHOOL HOURS; and/or ○ Additional consequences as noted in the Cellular Telephone/Electronic Device policy may be implemented based on activity occurring at the time of confiscation, which includes but is not limited to, a 3-day out-of-school suspension for not handing over/turning in device when asked by the school principal(s).	Additional consequences may be implemented based on the activity occurring at the time of the confiscation. ○ If scanning or taking pictures of test, the student may also be recommended for expulsion; ○ If scanning or taking pictures of any assessment which is a part of the Mississippi Assessment and Accountability system (state testing), the student will be recommended for expulsion and test will be invalidated; and/or ○ Students who inappropriately video, photograph and/or otherwise record any event during normal school hours and/or school sponsored events may be recommended for change of placement. School personnel will not be held responsible for prohibited items, which have been confiscated.

UPGRADE LEVEL C TO LEVEL D:

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences for Level C misconduct have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal for a conference to determine if an upgrade from Level C to Level D is appropriate and warranted.

Students who are suspended at the end of school will be required to take all exams on the last exam day. If suspended days exceed the number of days remaining in the school year, the suspension days will be served at the beginning of the next school year.

Proper law enforcement officials will be called upon when necessary.

LEVEL D INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES:

At this level, school resource officers are involved. These behaviors are of a more serious nature than Level C behaviors and/or actions. Administrative action is required and shall result in the involvement of other local law enforcement agencies or organizations. A record of the action is to be maintained.

The Yazoo County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms, or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors, and guests. Because of such dangers, the school board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms, or weapons. In addition to a school board decision, a report will be filed with Youth Court.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

NOTE: – Student shall mean a person enrolled in public or private school, college or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five (5) years from public or private school, college, university, or whether the person is an adult or a minor.

LEVEL D GRADES Pre-K-12:

The following acts of misconduct are considered major, and the student will automatically receive Level D.

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes but is not limited too: ○ Upgrade from Level C; ○ Prescription drugs, illegal drugs, alcohol and/or inhalants; a. Selling/distribution b. Unauthorized use (whether on campus or off campus; students with the odor of use; or at school under the influence); and/or c. Unauthorized possession. ○ Arson (willful and malicious burning of any part of a building or its contents); ○ Simple Assault or Battery upon a Yazoo County School District employee (the intentional or unintentional, lawful threat by word or act to do violence to the person of another, coupled with an apparent ability to do so, and the doing of some act which creates a well- formed fear in the other person that violence is imminent; the actual unlawful and intentional touching or striking of a district employee against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to district employee); ○ Aggravated assault upon a student by a student; and/or ○ Possession of firearms or other deadly weapons (A weapon is defined as any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge bomb, grenade, mine, live bullet rounds and clip or powerful explosive on educational property. A weapon is further defined as any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, and/or switchblade knife. ○ Vaping of an illegal substance, such as THC, HHC (hydrogenated THC) or any illegal drug or substance (will be subject to Drug Policy: Suspicion-Based). ○ Indecent exposure – yourself or another person; <i>(Continued on next page)</i>	○ On the first offense, the student or students will receive an out-of-school suspension (of up to ten days). The student or students will be referred for a change of placement; ○ State law requires that any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance is in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance law, a knife, a handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, MS Code of 1972, and MS Code Section 37-11-18 shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the Superintendent or Principal from such school. This expulsion will be a change of placement to the alternative program . Such expulsion shall take place immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. If the student was expelled or is a party to any expulsion proceeding for an act of violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion to the alternative program, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment, back in the regular school environment, to the student before one calendar year after the date of expulsion to the alternative school program; and/or ○ The parent or guardian will be notified, and a hearing before the District Discipline Hearing Placement Committee will be scheduled to determine a punishment. The principal may suspend the student from school until the District Placement Committee has met and determined a punishment and the final outcome. That decision will be forwarded to the school board for further action.

(LEVEL D – continued)

The following acts of misconduct are considered major, and the student will automatically receive Level D offense.

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes but is not limited to: <i>(Continued from previous page)</i> blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies [this does not apply to the blade of a pencil sharpener which has been removed for the purpose of harm to school property and/or others], unaltered nail files and clips, and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance on educational property, and any imitation weapons.); ○ Students who cause, encourage, or aid another individual to possess, use, or transfer a weapon or controlled substance; ○ Bomb Threat (Definition: Any such communication directed at school district employee, shelter direct or indirect, which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment or creating a safety hazard or unsafe situation.); ○ Explosives (Definition and Explanation: Preparing, possessing, or igniting on school district property, explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.); ○ Sexual Acts (Definition and Explanation: Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to harassment, battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape); ○ Aggravated Battery (Definition and Explanation) Intentionally or unintentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon); ○ Inciting or participating in a major student disorder. (Leading, encouraging, or assisting in [major] disruptions that result in destruction or damage of private or public property or personal injury to participants or others); ○ Theft or vandalism exceeding \$300; replacement cost plus. (Reference: 37-111-19, MS Code of 1972); ○ Threat towards a teacher or another student; ○ Breaking and entering, pay for damages plus possession and use of chemical weapon such as mace, pepper gas, etc.; ○ Transmission of, downloading, printing, retrieval of, or the storage of any material from an unauthorized web site; and/or ○ Any other offense which the principal may reasonably deem to fall within Level D.	(Please see the previous page for consequences Assigned to the –Actions listed on the left side of the page.)

The school utilizes discipline forms whenever a student violates any of the rules and regulations of the school. A copy of this form, indicating the violation and action taken, is sent home with the student each time the student requires administrative action.

THE COPY SENT HOME IS FOR PARENTAL NOTIFICATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO DELIVER THE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION TO HIS/HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

BOARD POLICY for SMOKING AND OTHER USES OF TOBACCO:

<https://yazoo.msba.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200962>

BOARD POLICY for INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES:

<https://yazoo.msba.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=103010>

Interrogations and searches of students will be conducted in accordance with federal, state laws, statutes, and local school board policies.

Section I: DESKS

Desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks issued to them by the school.

School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections, at any time, for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of desks may occur when

DISCIPLINE AT THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Students attending the Achievement School District, as a vocational or technical student, from the high school in this district will be required to adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Yazoo County School District. Students who have received out-of-school suspension from his/her – home school, or the Career and Technical Center, will not be allowed to attend the other for the duration of the suspension.

DISCIPLINE AT THE YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUCCESS CENTER

The Alternative Program has a separate handbook that lists expectations, rules, and regulations. Upon assignment to the Alternative Program, students will be apprised of the guidelines for student behavior as stated in the Alternative Program's student/parent handbook and are asked to sign a document stating that this has been thoroughly explained to him/her and that he/she understands the consequences for any undesirable behavior stated in the – Success Center handbook specifically.

STUDENT CONDUCT AT AFTER SCHOOL OR OUT-OF-TOWN SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students traveling in private vehicles to after-school activities held either at the high school or out-of-town will be the responsibility of their parents. However, once on school property, whether at the high school or an event at another school in which the high school is a participant, the students are under the jurisdiction of the school district. Students traveling under school official's supervision (regardless of transportation) **are subject to all of the school district's rules and regulations. Students should be aware that they and/or their baggage is subject to search before, during and/or after any school-sponsored trip.**

School rules apply to any off-campus events regardless of where they are held.

The **Mississippi High School Activities Handbook** states that the superintendent, principal, coach, or other representative, of the school, shall be responsible for the conduct of those connected with their school, both at home and on trips.

USE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT:

It is the philosophy and belief of the YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT that the responsibility for managing student discipline violations rests with the faculty, staff, and administration. Thus, every effort is made to handle such problems in-house, according to the policies and procedures established by the district and the school. However, when violations of state laws or municipal ordinances occur, or when students or parents refuse to work within the established policies of the district and school, or where the security of a person or property appear to be in jeopardy, the building level administrators will not hesitate to call the police and initiate arrest and prosecution proceedings.

DRUG USE: YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOLS/JCDAC:

The provisions, of this policy statement, shall apply to all students during all of the periods of time that they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of the Yazoo County School District, as defined by the laws of the State of Mississippi, and while participating in, going to, or coming from any school function sponsored by the principal or other authority of this district.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS OR ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

No student attending school in the Yazoo County School District shall be permitted to carry on his/her person or have in his/her possession in any way any controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law; alcoholic beverages, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium, heroin or derivatives or compounds, drugs commonly called LSD, —pepl pills, tranquilizers, or any other narcotic drug, barbiturate, look-alike drugs, substance ingredient or compound which may cause the person to be under the influence thereof, and no person shall use the same, at any time, while subject to the rules and regulations of the school district.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS POLICY:

This policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care of a licensed physician and who is taking medication, which is under the supervision and direction of such physician.

However, the student, parent, and school personnel must adhere to the rules and regulations governing medication as outlined in Board Policy: JGCA – Administering Medication in School for this limitation to apply.

PENALTIES:

Any student violating any of the provisions of this policy statement shall, at the sole discretion of the principal involved and the superintendent of schools, be automatically suspended for a period of ten (10) days (subject to a discipline hearing) and may be expelled to the alternative program in the sole and absolute discretion of the school board.

Depending upon the circumstances, the student may be turned over to law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution. In all such cases of a student found in possession of any substances labeled as –drugs or drug paraphernalia, the parent or legal guardian must be notified immediately.

DISSEMINATION OF THIS POLICY:

The Yazoo County School Board mandates that this policy be disseminated to all students, parents, and school personnel at the beginning of each school year.

WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES/JCDAE:

The Yazoo County Board of Education prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, and any other device/object, which is capable of causing bodily harm to another person. This policy applies to all students, parents, and school personnel, as well as, the general public.

The restriction, on weapons, not only applies to the school grounds; it applies to buses, school functions (whether at home, in transit, or at another location), and it applies to any situation or circumstance that directly involves the school.

The only exception to this policy is that of a duly authorized law officer. Anyone having a valid permit to carry a firearm other than an officer of the law **shall not be allowed the right to have in his/her possession a weapon which the permit applies on school premises as defined above.**

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THIS POLICY:

Students will be suspended immediately and may be expelled, to the alternative program, if the evidence warrants such action. The length of expulsion, for a student who is determined to have brought a gun to school, is a period no less than one year, except that the chief administrating officer of the Yazoo County School District shall be allowed to modify such expulsions on a case-by-case basis to accommodate students with disabilities **(Source: LEGAL REF.: *No Child Left Behind, Gun-Free Schools*)**.

Any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school must be referred to the appropriate criminal justice and/or juvenile delinquency system.

Staff members will be suspended until an investigation into the matter is concluded. If the evidence clearly indicates that the staff member willfully violated this policy, the staff member's contract shall be terminated at that time, and the incident may become a part of the staff member's record.

Anyone not considered school personnel, who violates this policy shall be prosecuted to the full extent of law **(Source: LEGAL REF.: *Tinker v. Des Moines*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969); 37-7-301 (e) 37-9-71)**.

STUDENT DETENTION AND SUSPENSION:

In-School Detention -- In-School Detention (ISD) is designed to minimize the need for out-of-school suspension except when the student's presence will lead to potential violence or further

disruption of others and instruction. In the ISD classroom, students will be required to complete all schoolwork, as well as, complete all work assigned by the ISD monitor.

Out-of-School Suspension— Out-of-school suspension is the denial of the privilege of attending school. Students, under current suspension, shall not be present upon any school grounds or property or attend any school-sponsored activity or event except for a prearranged conference with the principal. Students, under current suspension, who are on school property or attending a school-sponsored event or activity may be suspended for additional days or may be prosecuted for criminal trespassing.

In the case of suspension, by the school principal, the parent and/or guardian shall be notified within 24 hours of such suspension and advised of the reason thereof. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours, a parent and/or guardian, shall be notified, before the student is dismissed.

No student shall be sent home during normal school hours until a parent and/or guardian has first been notified.

When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resources of the school, the board hereby authorizes the school principal or his/her designee, to suspend any student for a violation of any published rule or regulation or for any act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student's behavior.

DUE PROCESS:

Students, facing suspension, shall be given oral or written notice of charges against him/her by the principal or his/her designee.

If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be explained to the evidence that the principal or his designee has against him/her and then shall be given an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

In all cases of suspension, the parent and/or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court shall be notified in writing within 24 hours of such suspension giving the reason(s) thereof.

Suspension, in excess of 10 school days, may be given only by the action of the Board of Trustees and then only after such student has been afforded notice, opportunity of a hearing, and other procedural rights consistent with state and federal due process requirements.

A student may request a hearing before the District Disciplinary Committee regarding his/her punishment. Students, under current suspension for 5 or more days, must return to school accompanied by a parent and/or guardian before he/she will be readmitted to school and allowed to attend class.

A student must complete the suspension before he/she receives credit for previous work done. In reference to any potential second semester suspension, if it occurs at or near the end of the semester, it may be completed during the summer. If a student transfers to another school because of the suspension, he/she must serve his/her suspension before re-entering any classes in the Yazoo County School District. Student transfers will not be used to circumvent consequences resulting from suspensions.

During the time a student is serving a suspension or expulsion to the alternative program, he/she will not be allowed to participate in or attend extracurricular activities, including graduation, athletic events, band, or any school functions, etc.

DUE PROCESS:

<https://yazooco.msapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=230687>

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES:

The Board realizes that there may be conditions, in the school system, that need improvement and that students have some means to effectively express their concerns which will be considered and handled with fairness.

Students' complaints and grievances shall be resolved through orderly processes and at the lowest possible level. However, the Board shall provide channels for eventual hearings, should circumstances dictate.

Complaints and grievances shall be approached in the following manner:

1. The opportunity, shall be provided, to any student or his/her parents to discuss with his/her teacher a decision or situation, which he/she considers unjust or unfair;
2. If the matter remains unresolved, the student or his/her parents, or the teacher, may bring the matter to the principal's attention for his/her consideration and action;
3. The student may also bring the matter to the class officers or the student council for possible presentation to the principal;
4. If the matter is still unresolved, it may be brought to the superintendent for his/her consideration and decision; and/or
5. Complaints that remain unresolved, following any action of the superintendent, may be referred in writing to the Board.

(Source: LEGAL REF.: 1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; 45 CFR Part 86; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; 45 CFR Part 84)

It is the intent of the Yazoo County School District Board of Trustees to comply with all provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and P.L.94-142.

The Board directs that no person shall on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or religion be discriminated against or excluded from or denied the benefits of any program or any opportunity or activity. This action of the Board applies to all applicants for employment in the Yazoo County Schools, present employees, and students.

The school board directs the superintendent of schools to serve as the local officer of compliance. The compliance officer will receive complaints directed toward the school system, investigate the complaint, and take necessary action.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Terri Rhea, Superintendent, 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194, or by calling 662-746-4672.

Click Here: [Complaint and/or Grievance Form](#)

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICIES

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Sexual harassment, in any form that is directed toward students, is prohibited. Persons who violate the policy will be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences up to and including termination (for employees) and expulsion to the alternative program (for students) as dictated by the nature and severity of the violation and other relevant considerations. If appropriate, the circumstances constituting the violation may be reported to law enforcement agencies or child welfare agencies for further investigation and action.

Definition – For purposes of this policy, sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communications of a sexual nature, and any other gender-based harassment, whether initiated by students, school employees, or third parties, when:

- a. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student's education, including any aspect of the student's participation in school-sponsored activities, or any other aspect of the student's education;
- b. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student's academic performance, participation in school-sponsored activities, or any other aspect of the student's education;
- c. The conduct has the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment.

The following are **examples** of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment, depending on the circumstances:

- a. Verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature, including graphic comments, the display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, and sexual propositions;
- b. Repeated unwelcome solicitations of sexual activity or sexual contact;
- c. Unwelcome, inappropriate sexual touching; and/or
- d. Demands for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats with regard to the student's educational status.

Initial Confrontation of Accused Harasser Not Required:

A student who invokes the harassment complaint procedure will not be required to present the complaint to the accused or suspected harasser for resolution. Students will be permitted

to report allegations of suspected harassment to any appropriate administrator, teacher, counselor, or employee, and **such persons have a duty to promptly refer such allegations** to the Superintendent or to take such action as may be required by the procedures established under Board Policy.

Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures Authorized:

In no case will any employee, who is the subject of a complaint, be permitted to conduct, review, or otherwise exercise decision-making responsibility in connection with the processing of the complaint.

Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures:

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment may report such acts to any appropriate school administrator on the – Sexual Harassment Complaint Form located online or by contacting **Dr. Terri Rhea PhD NBCT Superintendent --at the District Office @ (662) 746-4672 ext. 1024 or @ terri.rhea@yazook12.org**. The Board encourages the reporting party to reduce all complaints to writing but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

A. Reporting:

The school principal or designee is the person who should receive the initial oral or written report(s) of sexual harassment at the school-site campus level. In the event a principal appoints a designee, such designation should be conspicuously posted. In accordance with Board Policy, however, the principal/designee may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. If the complainant or reporting party refuses to make or sign a written complaint, the principal/designee should carefully document the allegations in writing and record the date and circumstances of the interview. In addition, any other adult personnel, who receives a report of sexual harassment, shall inform the campus principal/designee immediately. Failure to forward any harassment report or complaint as provided herein, may result in disciplinary action against the principal/designee/personnel. If the complaint involves the campus principal/designee, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Title IX Coordinator, **Mrs. Charlotte Scott, Assistant Superintendent, @ (662) 746-4672 ext. 1030 or @ charlotte.Scott @yazook12.org**, by the reporting party or complainant.

B. Investigation:

By authority of the Board, the campus principal/designee, upon receipt of a report of complaint alleging sexual harassment, shall immediately undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school officials or by a third party as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods deemed pertinent by the investigator. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, consideration should be given to the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and

surrounding circumstances. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The investigator shall make a written report to the principal/designee upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the principal/designee, the report may be filed directly with the Title IX Coordinator. If the complaint involves the Superintendent/or Title IX Coordinator, the report may be filed directly with the School Board President

The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy. Upon receipt of a report, the appropriate administrator will take appropriate action or make an appropriate recommendation. Such action or recommendation may include any sanctions as listed in the Student Code of Conduct and/or employee handbook, including but not limited to: a warning, a verbal reprimand, a written reprimand, counseling, reassignment, suspension to the alternative program, or termination (if an employee). The result of the investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant in accordance with state and federal law regarding data and records privacy.

C. **No Retaliation:**

The Board will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence or any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

D. **Right to Alternative Complaint Procedures:**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse, which may include filing charges with the Federal Office of Civil Rights, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

E. **Harassment or Violence as Abuse:**

Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Mississippi Law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under appropriate Mississippi Code Sections shall apply.

DISTRICT DRESS CODE

Optimal learning situations depend on the best possible behavior and attitude of the student. Students are encouraged to take pride in themselves and to strive to meet public appearance expectations for success.

Students should be neat and clean, thus reflecting favorably on themselves and the school. Safety, health, and individual dignity provide the basis for any dress code. If

clothing is disruptive to the learning scenario or if it is embarrassing to others, steps will be taken to deal with the individual student as outlined further below in this approved dress code for students.

It is believed, by the administration, that parents/legal guardians, as well as teachers, should recognize the main purpose of public education is to provide an education for the students that will allow them to become productive citizens in our society. Thus, any disruption or concern, caused by the student, as a result of dress, will call for appropriate disciplinary action by the school authorities.

Teachers may, at any time, counsel with students about attire that may not be acceptable. When there is any doubt that students are not adhering to the standards of the approved dress code, the principal or his/her designee will be the final authority.

In summary, all students are expected to be clean and appropriately dressed for school. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruption to any learning environment and should encourage a serious and successful approach to school. The Yazoo School District Board of Education prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause a substantial disruption of, or interference with, normal school operations. The local school site principal will be the final authority for determining appropriate dress within the framework of the policies, processes, and procedures below.

General Regulations of the Dress Code:

1. All students will carry clear backpacks;
2. Clothing advertising alcoholic beverages, drug culture(s), or clothing with obscene language or gestures shall not be worn;
3. Acceptable shoes shall be worn at all times -- shower shoes, house shoes, slides, flip-flops, slippers, and crocs are not acceptable shoes specifically in grades 6-12. Alternatively, students in grades Pre-K-5th [elementary school], crocs ARE defined as acceptable shoes and can be worn. When participating in PE class, students should wear shoes with non-marking soles;
4. Students may NOT wear shoes with wheels at any time in grades Pre-K-12th;
5. Jerseys shall be worn in a manner as not to conceal anyone's pants, trousers, and/or jeans, which may be considered –sagging;||
6. Shirts, except those with straight hems, shall not be worn unbuttoned;
7. Shirts shall be long enough to cover the stomach;
8. Shirts, with slits, that expose the midriff, may not be worn;
1. Shirts shall not be unbuttoned below the second button;
2. Sleeveless shirts shall not be worn;
3. If a student chooses to wear a hoodie, the hood **MAY NOT** be worn inside the building;
4. Hats, head scarves, headbands, rollers, sunglasses, or any other headwear which may interrupt the education process, shall not be worn on campus during normal school hours;
5. No fraternity jerseys or shirts shall be worn or clothing with slogans and advertisements, including tobacco and alcohol, that are detrimental to a wholesome atmosphere (Mississippi Code Sec. 37-11-39);

6. Walking shorts, dresses, skirts, and skorts shall be worn at an appropriate length of 5 inches above the top of the kneecap and may not have a long slit up the side-- Clothing shall not be excessively low in front or back; dresses shall not be backless or strapless or expose one's midriff;
7. Trench coats or duster style coats are not allowed;
8. Students enrolled in Career and Technical courses may have other dress code requirements related to health and safety issues.
9. Bike shorts, bicycle shorts, and/or any type of spandex clothing may not be worn;
10. Pajama pants, pants and/or jeans, with holes, exposing skin shall NOT be permitted;
11. A belt must be worn and fastened if pants are loose fitting – pants must be worn at the waistline --Under NO circumstances, will a student be allowed to wear pants that “sag;”
12. Leggings will not be allowed;
13. Yoga pants that have noticeable material mimicking spandex are not allowed; and
14. Grooming or dress styles, such as transparent clothing or indecent clothing, which is disruptive to a proper classroom atmosphere or disrupt classroom management will not be tolerated.

Please Note: ANY CLOTHING CONSIDERED, BY THE PRINCIPAL OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE, TO BE TOO REVEALING, SHALL NOT BE WORN.

Any dress or personal appearance that the administration feels is disruptive or presents a safety hazard to the instructional process will be dealt with on an individual case basis.

Clear Backpack Guidelines:

The clear backpack requirement is a part of a comprehensive approach to school safety. It is supplemented by other measures, such as increased security personnel, surveillance systems, increased number of cameras, access controls, automatic locking access gates to campuses, mental health support services and proactive threat assessment programs. By combining multiple strategies, the YCSD is creating a more robust safety framework, while still providing students with a secure and nurturing learning environment.

Student athletes and/or students who are a part of MSHAA defined activities are responsible for placing his/her athletic bag(s) in the designated location noted by the school principal(s) upon arrival to school each day.

STUDENTS MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL IF THEY FAIL TO ABIDE BY ANY OF THE GUIDELINES LISTED ABOVE.

Please Note: The school administration will be the judge if dress, appearance, and/or other guidelines of the aforementioned are in question of the violation of the dress code of the Yazoo County School District.

VIOLATIONS OF THE DRESS CODE

Students and parents are reminded that the dress code is in effect both at school and at school sponsored activities on and off campus.

Consequences of a Dress Code Violation:

1. The **first violation** results in a warning;
2. The **second violation** results in one-day of in-school detention; and/or
3. The **third violation** will result in the student either being assigned in-school detention for 1-3 days or suspended out-of-school for one day.

This information, the **Approved Yazoo County School District Dress Code**, is communicated to all of the stakeholders in the district, and shall include one or more of the following mechanisms:

- a. District/School Website;
- b. Social Media Channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram; etc.
- c. School and/or District Newsletters;
- d. Parent Meetings;
- e. Rapid Notification System and/or Mass Communication Message;
- f. PTA Meetings and/or School Newsletters;
- g. Parent Advisory Meetings;
- h. Television, Radio, and/or Newspaper Announcements; and/or the
- i. District Communication App. *(please be sure to download)*

GENERAL INFORMATION – I think this needs to go somewhere else

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) prohibits the use of funds authorized under this Act to be used to:

- 1) Develop or distribute material, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual,
- 2) Provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age-appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, and
- 3) Operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.

(Source: Legal Ref: MS Code 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175)

FEE POLICY:

This school board hereby authorizes the superintendent to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following:

- Fees designated by the superintendent as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; *e x t r a c u r r i c u l a r* activities, and any other educational activities, of the school district, which are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events; and

- All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those fees authorized under subsection (1) (c) of this policy, shall be charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following below.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER POLICY:

All fees authorized to be charged under subsections (a) and (b) of the Fee Policy above shall be charged only upon the following conditions:

- a) Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public;
- b) Pupils eligible, to have any such fee waived, as a result of an inability to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any other identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means;
- c) In no case shall any of this school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type of stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel; and
- d) The confidentiality provisions, of this policy, shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized under section C of the Fee Policy above.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of the Fee Policy above result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript, or the right to participate in any activity related to his/her educational advancement and success.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS:

Student publications, such as an annual or yearbook, are subject to and will be expected to meet standards associated with responsible journalism. The principal and student publication sponsor are responsible for the content of such publications.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Responsibilities Are:

- 1) To abide by the laws, policies, procedures, and processes of the local board of education, as well as, respect for individual school rules and policies regarding student publications;
- 2) To communicate in a respectable manner consistent with good education practices;
- 3) To seek accurate and complete information on the topics approved for publication; and
- 4) To observe the accepted rules for responsible journalism, via digital and print, under the guidance of faculty members.

Student Rights Are:

- 1) To be informed of the laws, policies, procedures, and processes of the local board of education, as well as, respect for individual school rules and policies regarding student publications; and
- 2) To participate, as part of the educational process, in the development and/or distribution of student or school publications consistent with the educational process.

INTERNET AND WEB SAFETY

ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET POLICY:

Approved by the Yazoo County Board of Education

The Yazoo County School District's electronic network is available to students and employees, and the goal is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovations, and communications. As the technological environment is large and varied, the use of technology by students and employees must be legal and ethical; and it should be consistent with the educational vision, mission, and goals of the Board of Education.

The use of the Yazoo County School District's network and devices is a privilege, not a right, and each user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette and the provisions in this document. Violations of these provisions, or of applicable laws and regulations, may result in the loss of computer services, disciplinary action, to include termination of employment and/or appropriate legal action, and/or assessment of the cost of damages to hardware/software.

The following uses of **District-provided Internet** access are **NOT** permitted:

- 1) Accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material;
- 2) Transmitting obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language;
- 3) Violating any local, state, or federal statute;
- 4) Accessing another individual's materials, information, or files without the permission of that person;
- 5) Violating copyright or otherwise using the intellectual property of another individual or organization without permission;
- 6) Using passwords other than one's own without written permission from that person;
- 7) Vandalizing, defined as any unauthorized access and/or malicious attempt to damage computer hardware/software or networks or destroying the data of another user, including creating, uploading, or intentionally introducing viruses;
- 8) Using the network for commercial purposes;
- 9) Harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
- 10) Giving out personal information on-line such as full name, home address, phone number, etc.;
- 11) Gaining unauthorized access ("hacking") to resources or entities;
- 12) Invading the privacy of individuals;
- 13) Altering the set-up of computers as set by the system administrator;
- 14) Using software which has not been assigned or approved by staff;
- 15) Failing to follow a district policy while using computers or failing to follow any other

- policies or guidelines established by district administration, teachers, or other appropriate district staff;
- 16) Seeking to gain or gaining unauthorized access to information resources or other computing devices; and
 - 17) Accessing chat rooms, and sites selling term papers, book reports, and other forms of student coursework.

The school district maintains the right to limit the content of material that students read due to legitimate pedagogical concerns.

Because the Internet contains an unregulated collection of resources, the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of any material that a student/employee may encounter. Therefore, before using the district's online resources, each student/employee (and the parents/guardians of the student) shall sign and return an acceptable use agreement to the home school.

Acceptable Use Agreement

Students/Employees and parents/guardians shall agree to not hold the district responsible for materials acquired on the system, for violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence or any costs incurred by users.

Additionally, there have been cases of the Internet being used as a tool in credit card fraud, electronic forgeries, and other forms of illegal behavior. Students and employees should be aware that these activities exist and should exercise extreme caution to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of such scams.

Although the staff continually supervises student use of the Internet while at school, parents are encouraged to have a discussion with their children about values and how those beliefs should guide student activities while using the Internet.

INTERNET SAFETY:

Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users:

All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents, of minors, are the best guide of materials to steer away from at all costs. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the person designated by the school.

Personal Safety:

Always exercise caution and be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name

or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face--to--face meeting with someone you --meet on the computer network or Internet without your parent's permission (if you are under 18). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

Hacking and Other Illegal Activities:

It is a violation of Board-Approved Policy to use the school's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use, that violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other violation of any applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.

The Yazoo County School District provides access to electronic mail for all employees and for specific and selected student use. Such access is for his/her use in any educational and instructional business that he/she may conduct. Limited personal use of electronic mail is permitted as long as it does not violate Yazoo County School District policy and/or adversely affect others. Electronic mail shall not be used to promote political, religious, and/or personal gains. The Board cannot guarantee the privacy, security, or confidentiality of any information sent or received via electronic mail. Network administrators can review e-mail, file folders, and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS (LMS):

The Yazoo County School District utilizes video and audio teleconference as part of its school operations including, but not limited to: (1) instructional videos; (2) security footage; (3) and video teleconferences to name a few. At times, instruction is filmed in a live classroom. Any recordings are always available to students to view for their instructional purposes. Recordings and digital learning are intended to supplement the classroom experience and/or to continue the classroom experience in this emergence of the digital age. Additionally, students access all instruction, that supplements teacher face-to-face instruction, via the district's chosen Learning Management System (LMS) – Canvas.

DISTANCE LEARNING:

In the event of a long-term school closure for some unknown unpreventable reason, the Yazoo County School District may make distance-learning opportunities available to students. This may include additional learning endeavors, aligned to content standards, uploaded to Canvas, and applicable to students' online learning opportunities and endeavors. Again, parents must agree to pay for any lost or damaged electronic devices. Additional guidance regarding student devices can be found in the YCSD 1:1 Guidance and Procedure Handbook.

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

All copyright laws and regulations, in all formats, including electronic- based works or processes will be enforced. Material that may be copyrighted includes: "Any tangible medium of expression now known or later developed, which can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated either

directly or with the aid of a machine, i.e., books, videos, pictures, etc." (Public Law 94-553 [U.S. Code 17] January 1, 1978.

Public or private educational institutions must comply with copyright laws. A 1980 amendment to the 1976 Copyright Act gives computer programs the same basic protection as other original works of authorship. All material, including graphics, available on the Internet is copyright protected unless otherwise stated. It is illegal to make or distribute copies of copyrighted material without proper authorization.

SECURITY:

Security, on any computer system, is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Yazoo County School District network, please contact IT Department. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to login to any system, program, or network as an administrator may result in cancellation of user privileges.

Occasionally, individuals are issued passwords in order to access programs as part of the tasks they perform. It is each individual's responsibility to protect the integrity of those passwords, and password sharing is strictly prohibited. Any individual identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION:

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is an important tool utilized by teachers and students. GAFE includes Google applications for creating, sharing, and storing documents, assignments, videos, and may include the use of a district student email account. The use of GAFE is at the discretion of the classroom teacher and will only be used when appropriate for the student's learning objectives.

The use of GAFE is governed by the District's Technology Acceptable Use Policy. YCSD encourages all parents to share in the GAFE experience by logging in with your child. The school staff will monitor the use of technology while at school. Parents are responsible for monitoring their child's use of technology from home. Students and faculty are responsible for their behavior and web etiquette at all times.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS:

Consequences of violations, include, but are not limited to the following:

- Suspension of information network access;
- Revocation of information network access;
- Suspension of network privileges;
- Revocation of network privileges;
- Suspension of computer access
- Revocation of computer access;
- In-School Detention;
- Out-of-School Suspension;
- School Expulsion to the Alternative Program;
- Fines Issued Related to Equipment Damages; and/or

- Legal Action and Prosecution by the authorities if appropriate and necessary.

BOARD POLICIES:

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org>

CIPA POLICY LINK:

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=104491>

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT LINK:

[Acceptable Use Agreement](#)

FERPA Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200991>

PPRA Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?d>

CHILD NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

- (1) Federally funded programs cannot accrue debt; therefore, students and adults are not allowed to charge meals;
- (2) Taking food off school premises is prohibited. In order to protect the reputation of the child nutrition personnel, MDE recommends the implementation of the following preventive policies:
 - a. School employees shall not purchase food or other items from vendors who deliver to the food service program;
 - b. Food, leftovers, and scraps shall not be taken from the school premises by school employees except in a school owned vehicle for the purpose of disposal (or taken off the school premises without permission);
 - c. Child nutrition employees are discouraged from using large purses and from carrying large bags and packages from the premises; and
 - d. School employees are prohibited from taking cooked or uncooked food from the cafeteria.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH:

Breakfast and lunch are served each day in the cafeteria. Students who bring their lunch may only purchase milk to drink with their lunch. Extra food sales are available daily. Cash only is acceptable.

Students are not allowed to leave campus to purchase food for lunch. Outside fast food is not allowed to be delivered to students unless prior administrative approval is given due to special occasions.

CHILD NUTRITION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

USDA regulations 7 CFR 15b require substitutions or modifications in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diets. A child with a disability is only provided substitutions in foods when that need is supported and documented, by a statement, signed by a licensed physician (**Special Diet Prescription Form**). The Yazoo County School District Child Nutrition Program will work with our students to provide the best accommodations possible.

When in the licensed physician's assessment, food allergies may result in severe, life-threatening (anaphylactic) reactions, the student's condition would meet the definition of a disability, and the substitutions prescribed by the physician must be made.

Each special dietary request must be supported by a **Special Diet Form**. This form explains the food substitution that is requested. It must be documented and signed by a licensed and recognized medical authority. Special Diet Prescription Forms for Yazoo County School District can be obtained at each school, from the Child Nutrition central office, or online at www.yazook12.org.

The special diet prescription form should include the following:

- (A) An identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet;
- (B) The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet; and
- (C) The food or choice of foods to be substituted in the – Special Diet Prescription should be as specific as possible.

For **Example**: If a child cannot have fluid milk, it should be noted if the child can have cheese or food products made with milk. If milk is marked to be avoided and no other notations are made, all foods made with milk will not be given to the child. Specific foods that the child can or cannot have should be noted. If a child is prescribed a –rotation diet, specific guidelines must be given with the diet prescription. Under no circumstances is school food service staff to revise or change a diet prescription. If any changes need to be made, the parent is responsible for obtaining a new diet prescription from the medical doctor.

School food service staff offers special meals, at no additional cost, to children whose disability restricts their diet as defined in USDA's nondiscrimination regulations, 7 CFR Part 15b. It is advised by the State Department of Education and USDA that all children with diet prescriptions on file obtain new diet prescriptions for each school year. Because food allergies and special dietary needs can change as children get older, it is necessary to obtain updated information from a medical doctor regarding the child's condition and dietary needs. The food service staff cannot alter a child's diet prescription without written consent from a medical doctor. Food service staff will work with the child/parent to provide the best meal possible. The Child Nutrition Staff can only accommodate special dietary requests for students. Adults with special dietary needs should review the menu and supplement food from home.

STUDENT WELLNESS:

In furtherance of its commitment to fostering healthy nutritional and physical activities that support student achievement and that promote the development of lifelong wellness practices, the Yazoo County School District Board of Education endorses nutrition education, physical education, active student well-being and generous amounts of activity.

For more information regarding **Yazoo County School District's** implementation of the wellness policy on nutrition and physical activity, please contact the **Child Nutrition Director, Sade McGee @ 662-746-4672 ext. 1021.**

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1 - Asbestos Surveillance of All School Buildings

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Terri Rhea,
Superintendent
94 Panther Drive
Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

To: Parents, Teachers, and School Employees
From: Terri Rhea, Ph.D., Superintendent
Subject: Asbestos Surveillance of All School Buildings

As part of an annual notification, we are informing all persons of their option of reviewing the asbestos management plan, which would include documentation of any changes of asbestos containing material in these schools.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an engineering firm from Jackson, Mississippi. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

A copy of the surveillance report, along with a copy of the management plan, is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, a copy of all management plans for the district is maintained in the LEA Asbestos Designee's office located at 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, Mississippi, 39194. Any interested party should feel free to go to any of these locations to review these reports.