



**Kosciusko School District
Student Handbook
2026-2027**

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Compliance Statement – Educational Amendments

It is the policy of the Kosciusko School District to comply with all applicable provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Kosciusko School District Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion in any program, activity, or employment opportunity offered by the district. This policy applies to all students, employees, and applicants for employment. Individuals with questions or concerns regarding compliance may contact Dr. Josh Dodd, Title IX Coordinator. Email: josh.dodd@kosciuskoschools.com

Board of Trustees

Allison Schuler	President
Dr. Kenneth Quick	Vice-President
Farrah Wilder	Secretary
Sonny Sparks	Member
Veronica Brooks	Member

The Kosciusko School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to revise, modify, discontinue, or adopt district policies and procedures as required by applicable law, Mississippi Department of Education directives, or emergency circumstances.

Foreword

The purpose of this handbook is to provide students, parents, and staff with important information regarding the organization and administration of the Kosciusko School District. The handbook outlines graduation requirements, student organizations, school rules and regulations, attendance expectations, and other information necessary for the successful operation of the school. Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to read this handbook carefully. While every effort has been made to provide accurate and complete information, the handbook cannot address every situation. The contents of this handbook have been approved by the Kosciusko School District Superintendent and the Board of Trustees and are intended to support understanding of the district's educational program.

Superintendent's Message

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year. Whether you are returning to Kosciusko School District or joining us for the first time, we are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and opportunity together. A new school year always brings a fresh start—and with it, the chance to strengthen relationships, pursue new goals, and continue building a culture that supports every child.

At Kosciusko School District, we believe every student has value, purpose, and potential. Our responsibility is not only to provide a strong education, but also to create an environment where students feel safe, encouraged, challenged, and supported. We want every child to know they are seen, heard, and capable of success.

Education is most effective when schools and families work together. The partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping students grow academically, socially, and personally. We encourage open communication, active involvement, and a shared commitment to high expectations for all students.

As a district, we remain focused on preparing students for life beyond graduation—whether that path leads to college, career, military service, or other opportunities. We are committed to helping students discover their strengths, develop character, and pursue their goals with confidence and purpose.

This year, let us continue to lead with kindness, serve with integrity, and treat one another with respect. Small acts of encouragement, patience, and compassion can make a lasting difference in the life of a child.

Thank you for the trust you place in Kosciusko School District. It is a privilege to serve this community, and we look forward to a great year together.

With appreciation,

Dr. Danya Turner
Superintendent
Kosciusko School District

District Administration

Superintendent	Dr. Danya Turner
Assistant Superintendent	Dr. Josh Dodd
Business Manager	Sandy McBride
Director of Exceptional Services	Kayla Briscoe
Director of Child Nutrition	Laura Carraway
Director of Technology	Jeffrey Mitchell
Director of Transportation	Evan Horn
Director of Maintenance	Stacy Davis
Director of Athletics	Hogan Briscoe
Instructional Specialist	Paula Terry
Parent/Family Liaison	Amy Terrell
Chief SRO	Mark Gilmore
Human Resources/Payroll	Patricia Parker
Accounts Payable/MSIS/SAMS	Amanda Dismuke
Federal Programs Assistant	Nicole Witzel
Computer IT	Jennifer Blount
Receptionist	Wanda Turnbo

School Administration

Lower Elementary	Monica Harris
Middle Elementary	Logan Cheek
Upper Elementary	Will Anderson
Junior High	Eli Dew
High School	Macy Wilbanks
Alternative School	Semone Olive

The following acronyms may be used in this handbook:

KSD	Kosciusko School District
KLE	Kosciusko Lower Elementary
KME	Kosciusko Middle Elementary
KUE	Kosciusko Upper Elementary
KJHS	Kosciusko Junior High School
KHS	Kosciusko Senior High School

District Directory

Lower Elementary 109 Veterans Memorial Dr. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.3364	Middle Elementary 233 South Wells St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.4653	Upper Elementary 120 Fourth Ave. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.2264	Junior High 317 East Jefferson St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.3737
High School 415 Veterans Memorial Dr. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.2424	Alternative School 822 South Huntington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.1188	District Office 229 West Washington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.4771	Exceptional Services 206 South Huntington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.7193

Kosciusko School District Academic Calendar 2026-2027

July 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
S=0 T=3						

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=21 T=21						

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
S=21 T=21						

October 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
S=16 T=17						

November 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
S=16 T=16						

December 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
S=14 T=14						

January 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=18 T=19						

February 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=19 T=19						

March 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
S=15 T=16						

April 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
S=22 T=22						

May 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=18 T=19						

June 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
S=0 T=0						

Semester 1 = 88 Total Student Days = 180
Semester 2 = 92 Total Staff Days = 187
Total Year = 180

Board Approved January 12, 2026

	New Teacher Orientation
	First Day of 9 Weeks
	Professional Development Days
	Progress Reports/Report Cards
	Holidays (Schools/Offices Closed)
	60% School Day
	Graduation

July 29, 30, 31	Professional Development Days
August 3	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day
September 9	1st Nine Weeks Progress Reports
October 5-9	Fall Break Holiday
October 12	Professional Development Day
October 13	2nd Nine Weeks Begins
October 14	1st Nine Weeks Report Cards
November 11	2nd Nine Weeks Progress Reports
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18	60% School Day
December 21 - January 1	Christmas Holiday
January 4	Professional Development Day
January 5	3rd Nine Weeks Begins
January 6	2nd Nine Weeks Report Cards
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 10	3rd Nine Weeks Progress Reports
February 15	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 8-12	Spring Break Holiday
March 15	Professional Development Day
March 16	4th Nine Weeks Begins
March 17	3rd Nine Weeks Report Cards
March 26	Good Friday
March 29	Easter Monday/Incl. Weather Day
April 14	4th Nine Weeks Progress Reports
May 21	KHS Graduation
May 26	60% School Day
May 27	Professional Development Day
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday



Grading Periods

1 st Term	August 3 - October 2
2 nd Term	October 13 - December 18
3 rd Term	January 5 - March 5
4 th Term	March 16 - May 26

Progress Reports

1 st Term	September 9, 2026
2 nd Term	November 11, 2026
3 rd Term	February 10, 2027
4 th Term	April 14, 2027

Report Cards

1 st Term	October 14, 2026
2 nd Term	January 6, 2027
3 rd Term	March 17, 2027
4 th Term	May 26, 2027

Professional Development

July 29, 2026
July 30, 2026
July 31, 2026
October 12, 2026
January 4, 2027
March 15, 2027
May 27, 2027

Holidays

Labor Day	September 7
Fall Break	October 5-9
Thanksgiving Break	November 23-27
60% Day	December 18
Christmas Break	December 21 - January 1
MLK Day	January 18
President's Day	February 15
Spring Break	March 8-12
Easter Break	March 26-29
60% Day	May 26

ENROLLMENT

General Eligibility

The Kosciusko School District admits all eligible resident students and legally transferred students who are five (5) through twenty (20) years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. As a condition of enrollment, parents or legal guardians must provide documentation verifying residency in accordance with Mississippi State Board of Education Policy Rule 68.1 and Kosciusko School District procedures. Students must physically reside full-time at a primary residence located within the attendance boundaries of the Kosciusko School District.

Definition of Residency

For school attendance purposes, residency means the student and the parent or legal guardian physically reside full-time at a dwelling located within the boundaries of the Kosciusko School District. Full-time residency includes weekdays, weeknights, weekends, and holidays. Residency requirements are strictly enforced. The District reserves the right to request additional documentation or conduct further verification whenever necessary to establish legal residency. School administrators are authorized by the Board of Education to investigate any case in which a student's residency is in question.

Residence Verification Procedure

Residency documentation is required for all new student enrollments and whenever a student changes residence. Students are not considered legally enrolled until all required residency documentation has been submitted and verified by the Kosciusko School District. The District reserves the right to request additional documentation or conduct residency verification at any time if questions arise regarding a student's legal residence.

Enrollment Requirements

A parent or legal guardian must accompany each student seeking enrollment in the Kosciusko School District. A student is not considered officially enrolled until all required enrollment documentation has been submitted and approved.

The following documents are required for enrollment:

1. Proof of parent or legal guardian identification;
2. Two (2) acceptable proofs of residency within the Kosciusko School District;
3. Township and range documentation;
4. Certified birth certificate or certified court order establishing legal guardianship, if applicable;
5. Mississippi Certificate of Compliance (Form 121) or other documentation meeting state immunization requirements;
6. Official withdrawal records or academic records from the student's previous school, when applicable.

Student Registration

The parent or legal guardian of a student seeking to enroll in the Kosciusko School District must provide two (2) current proofs of residency verifying the physical address where the parent/legal guardian and student reside. The two documents may be any combination of the acceptable documents listed below.

Acceptable Proofs of Residency

Mortgage Statement	Electric Bill
Property Deed	Water Bill
Filed Homestead Exemption	Gas Bill
Home/Apartment Lease	Garbage Bill
Vehicle Registration (Car Tag)	Internet Bill
MS Driver's License	State-Issued ID

Important Reminders

1. Both documents must be in the custodial parent or legal guardian's name.
2. All documents must show the physical/service address where the student resides.
3. Utility bills must be dated within 30 days of enrollment unless otherwise noted.
4. Driver's licenses, state-issued identification cards, and vehicle registrations must be current and valid.
5. Handwritten leases and month-to-month leases will not be accepted.
6. Kosciusko School District reserves the right to request additional documentation, when necessary.

Important Reminders

- Misrepresentation of residency is unlawful and may constitute a misdemeanor under Mississippi law.
- Any questionable residency documentation will be referred to the Superintendent's Office for investigation.
- The Kosciusko School District reserves the right to verify residency through appropriate investigative measures, including home visits when warranted.
- Students enrolled using false or misleading information may be immediately withdrawn from the Kosciusko School District.

Home Visits

Random, unannounced home visits may be conducted to verify the accuracy of the presented documents.

Equal Education Opportunities

Every student in the Kosciusko School District shall have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion, or marital status. No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, or extracurricular activities. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The Kosciusko School District prohibits harassment or discrimination of any kind by employees or students. This includes verbal or physical conduct that disrupts or interferes with another individual's educational or work performance or creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment. Sexual harassment by or toward any student is strictly prohibited during or in connection with school or school-sponsored activities. Students found to have engaged in harassment may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Homeless Children and Youth

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Kosciusko School District shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC Section 11432(e)-(3) and the Kosciusko School District Policy and Procedures for serving Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth. Homeless Children and Youth include:

- Children and youth who are:
 - Temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason as defined in McKinney-Vento Act (*sometimes referred to as doubled-up*).
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
 - Abandoned in hospitals; or
 - Awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth include young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians.

Foster Care

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) emphasizes the importance of limiting educational disruptions for children placed in foster care who move due to entering care or changing placements. ESSA mandates that the child remain in their schools of origin unless it is determined by the Local Education Agency and the state child welfare agency that relocating the child to another school is in the best interest of the child. If it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child will be immediately enrolled in a new school, even without normal required records. The enrolling school must contact the previous school to obtain academic and other records.

Migrant

A migratory child is defined as one who, along with their parent, spouse, or guardian, is engaged in migratory agricultural or fishing work. This includes children who have moved from one school district to another in the last 36 months to join

their parent, spouse, or guardian. The move is driven by the need for temporary or seasonal employment in agriculture or fishing, which serves as the primary source of income..

English Learners

According to the ESEA, an English Learner (EL) is an individual who is between the ages of 3 and 21, is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary or secondary school, and either was not born in the United States or has a native language other than English. This individual may experience difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language that may deny them the ability to meet the state's proficient level of achievement on academic assessments, limit their success in classrooms where English is the language of instruction, or hinder their opportunity to fully participate in society.

Students of Military Personnel

Recognizing House Bill 1341 effective July 1, 2024, parents or legal guardians who are active-duty military or civilian military personnel stationed or assigned to the state of Mississippi may apply for enrollment of their children in the school of their choice by completing the application process and providing documentation of active-duty military status. Applications must be received by June 1 of each year to be considered for the upcoming year. Students transferring from an Alternative School setting in another district will enroll in the Alternative School under the existing district policy related to transfers from the Alternative School settings.

Admission from Non-Accredited Schools

Students from non-accredited institutions must undergo evaluation to determine appropriate grade placement.

Transfer Students

Students who have been expelled from another school district are ineligible to enroll in the Kosciusko School District for the duration of the expulsion term. If a student enrolls in the Kosciusko School District after full completion of the expulsion term from another school district, the student will enter the KSD's Alternative School for 180 qualifying school days from when the student enrolls. Administrators or counselors with the Kosciusko School District may request a letter of good standing from a previous school or school district. Prior to enrollment, discipline records from previous schools will be analyzed for appropriate placement. Students who have been placed or are pending placement in alternative school settings, correctional institutions, or training facilities in another school district are subject to placement in the Alternative School upon enrollment in Kosciusko School District. Any student returning from an expulsion or re-entering from an expulsion from within the Kosciusko School District, shall re-enter the Kosciusko School District for 180 qualifying school days before returning to his/her home school.

Withdrawal Of Students

Parents must complete withdrawal procedures as determined by the school AND sign the withdrawal document from the school. If a student is to be withdrawn from school, please notify the school office as soon as possible. Any student who withdraws pending a disciplinary hearing may not participate in or attend any school-related activities, functions, or events either on or off campus. Such students are prohibited from entering any school property other than for attendance at the Alternative School. If a student withdraws during the pendency of any disciplinary recommendation, the withdrawal shall be deemed a waiver of any right to a hearing or appeal. The disciplinary recommendation of the principal or of the hearing committee at the time of the withdrawal shall be deemed the final disciplinary action.

ACADEMIC AND ASSESSMENT

Academic Conduct

The Kosciusko School District expects all students to engage in their studies with diligence and honesty. Students are expected to complete all assignments and tasks as directed by their teacher. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in parent notification and may lead to disciplinary action.

Grading Policy and Scales

Honor Roll recognizes students who achieve A and B grades each nine-week grading period. End-of-Year Awards are based on the final average reported on the report card. Progress reports will be issued during the fifth week of each nine-week period. Report cards will be distributed on the Wednesday following the end of each nine-week period. Homework

assignments will not be graded or calculated as part of a student's academic average. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Active Parent on the district website: <http://www.kosciuskoschools.com>.

PK-Kindergarten - Grades are determined based on mastery of the standards established by the State of Mississippi.

Grades 1-5

A	B	C	D	F
100-94	93-86	85-78	77-70	Below 70

Minimum Grades Per 9-Week Period for Grades 1-5

Weight	Number of Grades	Description
60%	3	Major Grades
40%	5	Minor Grades

Grades 6-12

A	B	C	D	F
100-90	89-80	79-70	69-65	Below 65

Minimum Grades Per 9-Week Period for Grades 6-12

Weight	Number of Grades	Description
60%	3-5 grades	Major Grades
30%	At least 5 grades	Quizzes
10%	At least 8 grades	Daily Grades

Semester Average

To calculate the Semester Average, the first nine weeks average and the second nine weeks average will be averaged to count as 75% of the semester average. A semester exam will be given and count as 25% of the semester average. The same process will apply for the second semester average, using the third nine weeks and the fourth nine weeks average. If a student is exempt from a semester exam, then the average of the two nine weeks will count as the semester average.

Final Average

For a semester course (0.5 credit course) the semester average will count as the final average for the semester course or 0.5 credit course. For a full year course (1 credit course) the first semester average and the second semester average will be averaged for the final average for the course. Numeric rounding is completed on the final average.

Exemptions - Checkouts during a class may result in an absence for that class.

Numeric Average	1st Semester Days Absent (Excused or Unexcused)	2nd Semester Days Absent (Excused or Unexcused)	All Year Absent (Excused or Unexcused)
90-100	4	4	8
80-89	2	2	4
70-79	0	0	0

Promotion and Retention

Kindergarten	Retention may be recommended for students who does not meet minimum requirements on the KRA
Grade 1	Students must pass Reading and Math.
Grade 2	Students must pass Reading and Math.
Grade 3	Students must pass Reading and Math along with the 3 rd Grade Reading Assessment (LBPA)
Grades 4-5	Students must pass all subjects.
Grades 6-8	Students must pass 3 of the 4 major courses. The major courses are Math, English Language Arts, Science, and History. Students cannot fail the same subject two years in a row.

Promotion/Retention

- Any student who is significantly older **OR** fails Reading or Math after having been retained in a grade for a year will be reviewed by a committee prior to the second retention decision in the same grade.
- Any student who has been retained in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade will be reviewed by a committee composed of the principal, counselor, and MTSS school chairman. This committee will meet with the parent to set a plan of action in place for the upcoming year.
- A student who is deemed not on track to graduate by the committee will be reviewed by the said committee and considered for alternative placement.

Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA)

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act, as part of Senate Bill 2347, calls for students scoring at the lowest two achievement levels in reading on the established state assessment for third grade to not be promoted to fourth grade, beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The third-grade state reading assessment is the required End-of-Year statewide assessment, MAAP. Results from the April assessment will be used to address specific reading deficiencies of students who do not achieve a passing score. Two retest opportunities in mid-May and late June/early July will be provided to students in an effort to support them in earning promotion to fourth grade.

Good Cause Exemption Act

The Good Cause Exemption Act allows certain students to be promoted to the next grade despite not meeting the literacy benchmarks established by the Literacy-Based Promotion Act under specific conditions.

The table below outlines the available Good Cause Exemptions for students who qualify according to MDE guidelines.

A	Limited English Proficient Students	Students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English Learner program.
B	Students with Disabilities (Alternate Assessment)	Students whose IEP indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment is not appropriate.
C	Students with Disabilities (IEP or 504 with Intervention Data)	Students who have participated in the statewide assessment, have an IEP or 504 plan, have received intensive reading intervention for more than two (2) years, still demonstrate a reading deficiency, and were previously retained in Kindergarten through Grade 3.
D	Alternative Standardized Assessment (Retest)	Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on a State Board–approved alternative standardized assessment.
E	Intensive Reading Intervention and Prior Retention	Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two (2) or more years, still demonstrate a reading deficiency, and were previously retained in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 (NCLB), and now as amended by ESSA in 2015 has been a long-standing national education law committed to

providing all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps for all children. ESSA was signed into law on December 10, 2015, by President Barack Obama with a focus on the clear goal of preparing all students for success in college and careers.

ESSA Parents Right to Know

At the beginning of each school year, a Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives Title I funds must notify the parents of each student attending a Title I school that they may request, and the agency will provide in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. This information shall include, at a minimum:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications have been waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of certification; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- Timely notice if their child has been assigned to or taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet state certification or licensure requirements for the assigned grade level & subject area.

Assessment Transparency and Notification

At the beginning of each school year, a Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives Title I funds shall notify parents of each student attending any schools receiving funds that the parent may request and the agency will provide the parents upon request (and in a timely manner) information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable. Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives funds under this part must make assessment information widely available to the public for each grade level served. This includes all state-required assessments and any districtwide assessments required by the LEA.

For each assessment, the following information must be provided:

- The subject area assessed;
- The purpose of the assessment and how the results are used;
- The source or legal requirement for the assessment, where available;
- The amount of time students are expected to spend taking the assessment and the testing schedule; and
- The timeline and format for sharing assessment results with parents.

All required notices and information provided to parents under this section must be presented in an understandable and uniform format. To the extent practicable, the information must also be provided in a language that parents can understand.

ATTENDANCE

Compulsory School Age Child

A compulsory-school-age child is any child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year in which the child enrolls in first grade. Kindergarten attendance is not compulsory; however, in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-13-91, children who attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 may enroll in kindergarten in the Kosciusko School District. 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, the principal or designee shall report the child to the appropriate School Attendance Officer for investigation in accordance with Mississippi law.

Attendance

Students' regular and punctual attendance to all classes is necessary for successful schoolwork and award of course credit. Even one instance of tardiness or one absence in a class may be detrimental to good schoolwork. Certainly, repeated tardiness and frequent absences cause students to become discouraged and often cause failure. It is, therefore, important

that parents have their children in school on time every day that school is in session and only in unavoidable cases should a student be taken out of school before the close of the school day. Regular attendance will pay good dividends in the course of a school year. The Kosciusko School District truancy officer will have access to all student attendance records.

Attendance Laws, Policies, and Procedures

In accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-13-91, Mississippi State Board of Education Rule 30.2, and applicable accreditation standards, the Kosciusko School District shall maintain accurate attendance records and enforce compulsory attendance requirements. Students are considered present for a full school day when they attend at least sixty-six percent (66%) of the instructional day, as established by the Kosciusko School District Board of Education and defined by the student's daily schedule. A compulsory-school-age child who misses thirty-three percent (33%) or more of the instructional day without a valid excuse shall be considered unlawfully absent. The Superintendent or designee shall report unlawful absences to the School Attendance Officer by the close of the next business day, as required by state law. Students who are absent due to suspension or expulsion shall be coded as unexcused absences but shall not be reported as truant.

Absence Reporting

Students are expected to attend school each day school is in session. A compulsory-school-age child must be enrolled within fifteen (15) calendar days after the beginning of the school year. An unlawful absence is an absence in which a compulsory-school-age student misses thirty-three percent (33%) or more of the instructional day without a valid excuse as defined by Mississippi law. The Kosciusko School District shall maintain accurate attendance records and report unlawful absences to the School Attendance Officer in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-13-91 and Mississippi State Board of Education Rule 30.2. Students who are absent due to suspension or expulsion shall be coded as unexcused absences. These absences shall not be considered excused and shall not be reported as truancy in accordance with state law.

Unexcused Absences

An absence will be unexcused if a parent or guardian does not contact the school in writing by the conclusion of the third day after the student returns. Five unexcused absences will trigger parental notification and a report to the truancy officer. Absences resulting from suspension, expulsion, or any disciplinary actions will not be considered excused.

Documentation Requirements for Absences

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for providing written documentation explaining the reason for a student's absence. Written documentation must be submitted to the school within three (3) school days following the student's return.

A valid excuse for a temporary absence includes, but is not limited to:

- Personal illness or injury that prevents the student from attending school;
- Isolation ordered by the county health officer, the Mississippi State Department of Health, or an appropriate school official;
- Death or serious illness of an immediate family member;
- Medical or dental appointments supported by documentation from the medical provider;
- Court appearances or administrative proceedings in which the student is a party or has been subpoenaed as a witness;
- Religious observances approved by the Superintendent or designee;
- Pre-approved educational opportunities, including educational travel, approved by the Superintendent or designee before the absence occurs; or
- Other circumstances approved by the Superintendent or designee as permitted by Mississippi law.

Any absence due to illness extending beyond three (3) consecutive school days must be supported by written documentation from a licensed medical provider. Except as otherwise provided by state law, no student shall be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester without approval from the Superintendent or designee based upon documented extenuating circumstances. Students participating in school-sponsored or school-approved activities are considered present for attendance purposes.

Make-Up Work (K-5)

Students are responsible for requesting makeup work following an excused absence. Teachers may allow students to complete assignments before a planned absence if approved by the principal. Students will have the number of days absent, plus one additional day, to complete their makeup work. For excused absences, work completed within the required period can earn full credit.

Make-Up Work (6-12)

Work missed due to an unexcused absence, even with parental knowledge and consent, cannot receive full credit. Students will have the number of days absent, plus one additional day, to complete their makeup work. Makeup work for unexcused absences submitted within the allowed time may earn a maximum grade of 65 of the assignment's original value. Any work not completed within the required time will receive a grade of zero.

Perfect Attendance

Perfect attendance recognition shall be presented to students who are present 100% of every school day. Students may not have any check-ins or check-outs to receive this honor.

Arrival Time

For your child's safety, no student should be dropped off at school earlier than the teachers' time of arrival. There is no staff member on duty to supervise students before the time that teachers are expected to be in their classrooms. Please check with your child's school to find out the time your child may be dropped off at school.

Late Arrivals and Early Dismissals

Students who arrive late or need to leave early must follow school policies. A parent, legal guardian, or authorized person must sign the student out at the school office before they can leave. After being checked out, students are not allowed back on school premises without first reporting to the school office.

Check-Out Procedures

- A parent, legal guardian, or authorized individual must sign the student out in person.
- Individuals checking out a student must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and listed as an approved emergency contact.
- Written documentation explaining the reason for the absence must be submitted to the attendance clerk within three (3) school days of the student's return.
- A written excuse from a licensed medical provider is required after the student's third (3rd) absence due to personal illness.
- Except as otherwise provided by Mississippi law, no student shall be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester without approval from the Superintendent or designee based upon documented extenuating circumstances.
- The school reserves the right to verify all documentation submitted.
- The identity of individuals checking out students will be verified before a student is released.
- All checkouts and early dismissals must be processed through the school office.
- Students may not check out for lunch and return to school.
- Students must be present for at least **sixty-six percent (66%)** of the instructional day to be counted present for attendance purposes.
- Lunch and scheduled breaks are not considered instructional time for attendance purposes.

Work Release/Early Release (High School Only)

- Seniors
 - Must be after the 2nd block and be in good academic standing.
 - Must meet either:
 - ACT subscore benchmarks: 17 in English or 19 in Math.
 - Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys assessments.
 - Must be on track to complete required Carnegie units for 12th grade or graduation.
 - Parents can sign seniors out for the semester if they have quality work release during the 3rd and 4th blocks.
- Juniors
 - Must be after the 3rd block and be in good academic standing.
 - Must meet either:

- ACT subscore benchmarks: 17 in English or 19 in Math.
- Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys assessments.
- Must be on track to complete required Carnegie units for 12th grade or graduation.
- Parents can sign juniors out for the semester if they have quality work release during the 4th block.
- Early Release Form
 - Must be completed and signed by the parent, student, principal, counselors.
 - Must be notarized by Kosciusko school district personnel.
 - The principal and counselors will approve or deny early release based on the student's track and credits towards graduation.
- General Rules
 - Students must have a way to leave the school campus after release.
 - Early Release Students may not return to any school campus unless they are involved in athletics/activities that are occurring on that campus.
 - All other athletes must report to their assigned locations during the 4th block.
 - Students must follow all guidelines of the Early Release Policy, or permission will be revoked.
- This policy may change according to the Mississippi Department of Education's graduation requirements.

Tardy Policy

Tardies are defined as not being physically present and prepared for class when the tardy bell rings or when the teacher is ready to begin class if extended time is given by the teacher. Tardies are counted on a 9-week basis.

Tardy #	Consequence
1-3	Teacher Gradebook
4	Parent Contact
5	ISR (1) Day and Parent Contact
6	ISR (2) Days and Parent Contact
7	OSS (1) Day and Parent Contact
8	Consequences may range from OSS (2) Days to Alternative School

Schedule Changes

Students and parents are encouraged to take course selections in the spring very seriously. Teaching assignments and school schedules are developed based on the subjects selected during the spring. Schedules will be given out at designated times during the summer. Errors should be brought to the attention of the students' counselor prior to the start of school.

Errors that require corrections may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In a class that requires a prerequisite that you do not have,
- In the wrong level of a class,
- Needing to add a senior requirement,
- In the same class twice,
- In a class for which you have already received credit.
- Note: The principal must approve any other changes.

DISCIPLINE

Due Process/Appeal Process

The Kosciusko School District is dedicated to ensuring that all students are treated fairly and are fully aware of their rights during disciplinary proceedings. Students facing disciplinary action are entitled to due process as required by law, which includes being informed of their rights and the specific reasons for any disciplinary actions taken.

Short-term Suspension (9 days or less)

Parents/guardians may request an informal meeting with the administrator who issued the suspension. This meeting can be arranged through the school office.

Long-term Suspension (10 days or more)

Suspensions that are 10 days or more are subject to appeal. To initiate an appeal, the parent/guardian must notify the District's Disciplinary Coordinator in writing within 24 hours of the suspension decision. Pending the appeal, the student may be placed in the Kosciusko Alternative School.

Alternative School Placements

All placements in the Kosciusko Alternative School must first be recommended by the building principal and reviewed by the Discipline Committee. The committee shall either uphold or deny the recommendation for placement based on the circumstances of the offense, supporting documentation, disciplinary history, and applicable district policies and procedures. Following the decision of the Discipline Committee, parents/guardians have the right to appeal if needed. To initiate an appeal, the parent/guardian must notify the District's Discipline Chair in writing within 24 hours of notification of the decision. Pending the appeal, the student may be placed in the Kosciusko Alternative School. The Discipline Chair for Kosciusko School District is Dr. Josh Dodd.

Disciplinary Actions Chart

Disciplinary Action	Description
Parent Conference	A meeting between school staff and the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's behavior and determine next steps for improvement.
Corporal Punishment	The student receives a paddling. All paddlings are administered by principals. Parents will be notified prior to being paddled.
In School Reassignment (ISR)	In-school reassignment is the removal of a student from the regular classroom and placement in a supervised setting within the school for a designated period of time. The student remains counted present and is expected to complete all assignments. Any discipline referral received while in ISR is subject to Discipline Ladder Steps 4–8.
Out of School Suspension (OSS)	Out-of-school suspension is the temporary loss of a student's right to attend school. During this time, the student is not allowed on any school campus or at any school-related activity. A suspension is considered an unexcused absence, and the student is responsible for completing all missed work. Students may not attend school events, day or night, until they have returned to school for at least one full day. If a parent or guardian is unable to pick up a student when requested, the student may be assigned a one-day OSS the following day.
Alternative School	Alternative school is a placement in a separate setting due to behavioral or disciplinary concerns. This placement provides academic instruction in a more structured environment. Students assigned to the Alternative School are not allowed to participate in any school programs or extracurricular activities. Any student who attempts to attend will be removed without a refund and may receive additional days in the program. Students are required to attend all assigned times. The

	Alternative School may also serve students facing felony charges until legal resolutions are determined. Felony charges may result in expulsion at the discretion of the district. A student may be suspended pending the discipline committee's decision. During this time, the student is not allowed to attend school or any school-related activities.
Expulsion	Expulsion is the removal of a student from school for the remainder of a semester, school year, or calendar year, as determined by the school board or district policy. A student may be suspended or placed in an alternative setting pending the school board's decision. During this time, the student is not allowed to attend school or any school-related activities.

General Discipline Procedures

- Parent or guardian notification will occur after the investigation has been completed and disciplinary action determined.
- Incidents resulting in placement at Steps 4–8 may be referred to law enforcement when appropriate.
- In accordance with the Mississippi Safety Act of 2000, a Behavior Support Plan may be developed by the principal, reporting teacher, and parent when appropriate.
- Students returning from alternative placements or outside agencies may be required to transition through alternative or behavior support settings.
- Suspended students are not permitted on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities during the suspension period.

Discipline of Special Education Students

Special education students are responsible for adhering to the same rules of conduct as nondisabled students. State and federal regulations related to students with disabilities will be followed by the IEP committee when implementing discipline procedures. No corporal punishment will be administered to students under IDEA or ADA.

Required Actions Override

Certain violations required by state law, board policy, or safety concerns may result in disciplinary consequences outside the Discipline Ladder, including but not limited to weapons, drugs, violent conduct, felony-level behavior, or threats of serious harm.

Discipline Ladder

The Discipline Ladder provides a structured framework for addressing student misconduct while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. The ladder is intended to promote consistency while allowing administrators to exercise professional judgment based on the severity of the offense, the student's discipline history, and the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Discipline Ladder is not a required step-by-step progression. Students may be placed at any step based on the seriousness of the behavior. Serious infractions may result in immediate placement at higher steps regardless of prior discipline history. The Discipline Ladder serves as a guide. Administrators may assign one or more consequences within each step as appropriate. Pre-entry interventions such as conferences, parent contact, or written warnings may be used but are not required.

Step 1	Student Conference and/or Parent Conference
Step 2	One (1) day ISR or Two (2) days ISR
Step 3	Two (2) days ISR or Three (3) days ISR
Step 4	One (1) day OSS or Combination of ISR and OSS not to exceed four (4) days
Step 5	Two (2) days OSS, Three (3) days OSS, or Combination of ISR and OSS not to exceed five (5) days
Step 6	Five (5) days OSS, Alternative Placement, or Combination of ISR and OSS not to exceed nine (9) days
Step 7	Alternative School Placement
Step 8	Expulsion

Unacceptable Behaviors and Suggested Placement

The following list provides general guidance for placement on the Discipline Ladder. The list is not all-inclusive. Administrators retain discretion based on severity and circumstances.

Behavior	Step Range	Behavior	Step Range
Dress code violations	1–3	Bullying/threats/harassment (physical, verbal, or electronic)	1–8
Inappropriate PDA	1–4	Hazing	3–8
Profanity/vulgarity	2–4	Sexual Misconduct	3–7
Profanity directed to school employee	6	Sexual harassment on student	3–8
Skippping class	3–5	Sexual harassment on employee	7–8
Leaving campus without permission	4–6	*Fighting (K-5)	4–8
Defiance/disrespect	1–8	*Fighting (6-12)	6–8
Disruptive behavior	1–8	Assault on another student	7–8
Improper technology use	1–6	Assault on an employee	8
Social media disruptions	3–6	Possession of weapon/imitation weapon	6–8
Pornography or obscene materials	5–8	Terroristic threats	7–8
Forged/altered documents	4–7	Gang related activity	5–8
Vandalism/destruction of property	3–6	Tobacco/Vaping/E-cigarettes	5–7
Theft	3–7	Alcohol possession/use/distribution	6–8
Gambling	2–4	Drug possession/use/distribution	6–8

→ Fights will accumulate across school years. For example, if a student is involved in a fight in 6th grade and then another in 7th grade, the second incident will be treated as a second offense, and consequences will be applied accordingly.

→ Fights reset from building to building.

Cell Phones – Electronic Devices – Smart Watches

KSD recognizes the importance of integrating emerging technologies with the academic learning process. Our cell phone policy has been crafted to utilize such technology while providing a safe and orderly instructional environment. Students may possess cell phones on campus, but they must be used in accordance with school procedures. Cell phones and other electronic devices (excluding Chromebooks) may not be used during instructional time. Use of cell phones and/or electronic devices/smart watches in the classroom will result in the student's placement on the discipline ladder as in any other classroom disruption. Electronic devices may include, but are not limited to phones, tablets, smart watches, smart glasses, and/or other personal electronic devices.

Device Confiscation Ladder

1 st Offense	Electronic devices will be returned after three days and a conference between the administrator, parent, and student may be held. Note: Three days begins with the school day following the confiscation of the device.
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2 nd Offense	Electronic devices will be returned after ten days and a conference between the administrator, parent, and student may be held. Note: Ten days begins with the school day following the confiscation of the device.
3 rd Offense	Electronic devices will be returned on the last day of the semester and will result in loss of further electronic device privileges. A second phone/electronic device is not permitted, and should the student be found to be in possession of an item, it will be addressed as administrator defiance on the discipline ladder.

Students who refuse to surrender an electronic device upon request by a teacher and/or administrator will be considered open defiant and will result in disciplinary consequences as deemed appropriate by administrators to include, but not limited to, loss of further phone/electronic device privilege, and other discipline in alignment with the discipline ladder.

DISCLAIMER: Students who bring their own devices/cell phones/smart watches to school do so at their own risk. As with other personally owned items, KSD is not liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of personally owned devices brought to school. Electronic devices used to violate school rules, district policy, state regulation, and federal regulations in such ways as bullying, sending or receiving inappropriate photographs, dishonest academic practices, or any other illegal uses are subject to confiscation. Failure to comply will result in the student's placement on the discipline ladder in addition to confiscating the device. There shall be no exceptions. Recording and/or posting content that can lead to the disruption of the school environment will result in disciplinary action. Students shall not take photos or videos of other students or other individuals (including staff) without their consent and knowledge. If a student records a fight and/or other disruptive behavior, the student will have their phone/electronic device confiscated and will receive five (5) days of OSS.

Bullying – Hazing – Harassing

The Kosciusko School District is committed to a safe environment free from bullying and harassment for all students and employees. Bullying, hazing, or harassing behaviors include, but is not limited to, patterns of gestures, communications (written, electronic, or verbal), physical acts, or threats motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic that causes fear of harm or property damage and/or creates a hostile environment by interfering with educational performance or benefits. Bullying and harassing behavior are prohibited on school property, during school-sponsored events, and on school buses, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-67.

Reporting Harassment, Intimidation, Threats, Hazing, or Bullying

Students who believe they have experienced or witnessed bullying, harassment, threats, or intimidation are encouraged to report the behavior immediately to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other school official. Parents or guardians are also encouraged to report concerns to school administration. Reports may be made in person, by telephone, or in writing. All reported allegations of misconduct will be promptly investigated in accordance with district policy and state law.

Court Referrals

Criminal behavior may result in referral to Youth Court or law enforcement in accordance with Mississippi law, including but not limited to weapons possession, threats, assault, vandalism, drug offenses, or other violations of state code.

Transportation and Bus Conduct

The bus is school property; therefore, any actions deemed major infractions will be disciplined according to the handbook's student conduct discipline consequences. Your privilege to ride the bus depends on this. School bus rules and regulations are listed below:

- Obey the bus driver.
- Do not use profane language.
- No eating, drinking, or possessing any tobacco products on the bus.
- No drinks, plastic, or glass containers allowed on the bus.
- Do not damage or tamper with the bus or equipment.
- Stay seated and keep your head, hands, feet, and objects inside the bus.
- Do not fight, push, or shove.
- Always cross in front of the bus.
- Never get on or off the bus while it is in motion.
- Do not run alongside the bus while it is in motion.

Bus Discipline

First Offense	Suspended from the bus for 1-3 days.
Second Offense	Suspended from the bus for 5 days.
Third Offense	Suspended from the bus for 10 days.
Fourth Offense	Suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Unacceptable Network Use

Transmission or intentional receipt of any inappropriate material or material in violation of law or district policy is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to copyrighted material; threatening or obscene material; the design or detailed information pertaining to explosive devices, criminal activities or terrorist acts; hate speech, limit social network, sexting, sexism or sexual harassment; pornography; gambling; illegal solicitation; racism; and inappropriate language. Illegal or inappropriate activities, including games, use of the network in any way that would disrupt network use by others, or activities of any kind that do not conform to the rules, regulations and policies of the Kosciusko School District, are forbidden.

Consequences of Inappropriate Technology Behavior

Students who do not comply with the district's technology guidelines may lose the privilege of bringing or using personal devices for a period of time determined by the principal or designated administrator. Repeated or serious violations may result in additional disciplinary action in accordance with the district's Code of Conduct. Violations of federal or state law, including but not limited to sending threatening communications or accessing or distributing obscene material, will be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities and handled in accordance with district procedures.

Drugs And Alcohol

Students must not possess or be under the influence of any illegal or controlled substance that can be ingested, injected, or inhaled, either at school or during any school-related activities.

Drug And Alcohol Discipline

KSD administration and Board of Education reserve the right to exercise discretion in cases involving over the counter, non-illegal/non-controlled substances (like aspirin, Tylenol), unless abused. A student is considered to have and be responsible for any items found in their locker, backpack, purse, car (this includes any car they drive to school, whether they own it or not), or jacket, or any place likely to be under their control.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The Kosciusko School District may mandate drug and/or alcohol testing for students under certain conditions. The test will be at the expense of the parent/guardian. Kosciusko School District has the right to require testing based on reasonable suspicion without it being a precondition for disciplinary action.

Procedure Following Reasonable Suspicion (if established)

- Notify the parent/guardian.
- Remove the student immediately from school.
- Conduct a drug/alcohol test within a two-hour period of reasonable suspension at an approved medical facility
- If the drug/alcohol test is not taken within the 2-hour window of reasonable suspicion, the school may deem this a failed drug/alcohol test.

Possession of Weapons/Violent Conduct

Any student possessing, displaying, or discharging a gun, a knife, 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 of the Mississippi Code* during regular school hours, at school functions, or on school property, or at any school event after school hours or on a school bus shall be expelled for a calendar year, unless the time is modified as allowed by State Law.

Toy Definition

A toy is designed for play and entertainment, typically harmless and intended for enjoyment, while a weapon is created for the purpose of creating fear, causing harm, or defending oneself, often designed with the capability to inflict damage or injury. If a student is in possession of something labeled as a toy but can be characterized by any of the previously mentioned, discipline will be administered as a weapon.

Additional Language

Weapon accessories, including but not limited to ammunition, bullets, shells, magazines, clips, or any component designed to be used with a weapon, are strictly prohibited on school property, at school functions, or on school transportation. Possession of such items may be treated as possession of a weapon and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and state law.

Dress Code And Appearance

The Kosciusko School District believes that personal appearance reflects pride and sets the tone for a respectful, focused, and safe learning environment. Our dress code supports these values by promoting a positive and professional atmosphere for all students. The school administration reserves the right to address any dress or appearance that is considered inappropriate, disruptive, or poses a safety risk on an individual basis. Administrators may allow modifications to the dress code for specific school events as needed.

Clothing Guidelines

1. Headgear, including but not limited to hats, bandanas, “do rags,” hair picks, rollers, etc., is not permitted.
2. Hoods cannot be worn inside the building.
3. Headbands not exceeding 2 inches in width are permissible.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times.
5. Slides are permitted but must be worn with socks.
6. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be finger-tip length or longer.
7. Clothing with printed messages, words, or phrases must not contain profanity or advertise anything inappropriate.
8. Sunglasses are not allowed.
9. Wallet chains are not allowed.
10. Trench coats or duster-style coats are not allowed.
11. Pants must be free of holes or tears that show skin above the knee and must be worn at the waist.
12. No rubber bands are allowed around the pant legs.
13. Pajama pants, sleepwear, or loungewear are not permitted.
14. Wind pants and sweatpants with a waistband and pockets are permissible.
15. For students in grades 6-12, shorts must fasten, snap, or have a zipper.
16. No spaghetti straps, tank tops, racerback, backless, or off-the-shoulder shirts are permitted.
17. Midriff shirts that expose skin on the torso are not allowed.
18. Clothing must cover the chest at all times with appropriate undergarments.
19. Sheer or “see-through” garments must have undergarments worn underneath that meet the dress code.
20. Physically revealing or provocative clothing is not permitted.
21. Clothing that is unfastened or not worn in the proper position is not permitted.
22. Clothing that identifies a student with a gang or any illegal activity is not permissible.
23. Clothing that exposes undergarments or is oversized and exposes undergarments or skin is not permissible.
24. Face paint is not allowed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Student Health

The parent/guardian of each student will be required to complete student health information as a part of registration. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school district of any health conditions that may affect a student during school hours or at school related functions. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide current information from the student’s physician regarding precautions to be taken, symptoms to monitor, and/or necessary treatments. Student health information is to be updated by the parent/guardian as needed throughout the school year.

Student Hygiene

Students are expected to maintain personal hygiene standards to ensure a conducive and respectful learning environment including regular showering, wearing clean and appropriate clothing, and practicing good oral hygiene.

Blood Sugar Management

For diabetic students, parents will be contacted to take their child home if their blood glucose level exceeds 400+.

Food Allergy Management

The Kosciusko School District is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all students and employees. Parents or guardians of students with food allergies must provide an action plan from the student's physician. This action plan should include a detailed list of the student's food allergies along with expected reactions, specify whether the student should avoid inhalation, touch, and/or ingestion of the allergen, outline necessary precautions to prevent a reaction at school, and include a clear plan of action if accidental exposure occurs, including specific medications to be administered.

Medication Policy and Guidelines

Medication should ideally be administered outside school hours. If school-time medication is necessary, a Physician/Parent Medication Authorization/Indemnity Form is required, signed by both the physician and parent/guardian. Possession of medication without proper authorization may lead to disciplinary action. The school is not liable for injuries sustained from self-administering medications. All medication must be kept in the school office. Students are not allowed to have any medication in their possession.

Medication Administration at School

Medications must be delivered to the school office by a parent/guardian for counting and registration. Medications must remain in original packaging with clear labeling including the student's name, medication details, and dosage instructions. A district nurse or trained designee, not students, must administer medication unless specific conditions for self-administration are met. Changes in medication details require new authorization forms and notification to the school office.

Types of Medication

Prescription Medications must be in the pharmacy-labeled container, detailing comprehensive information including the student's name, medication name, dosage, and expiration. Over-the-Counter Medications must retain original packaging with the student's name written on it. Over-the-Counter Medications require the same authorization form as prescription medications.

Self-Administration of Emergency Medications

Students may self-administer emergency medications (e.g., Inhalers, Epi-pens, Glucagon) under certain conditions: Medication requirements and authorizations must be fully met. Medications may be carried by students if deemed appropriate by the physician. The school nurse should be notified immediately after the use of any emergency medication. The school assumes no liability for injuries resulting from self-administration.

Unused Medication

Parents/guardians are responsible for retrieving unused medication by the end of the term or upon discontinuation. Unclaimed medications will be disposed of according to school policy.

Chronic Illnesses

Students with chronic illnesses must have an action plan or plan of care from their physician on file in the school office at the beginning of each school year or at any time when a student receives a diagnosis. This plan includes precautions, symptoms to monitor, and treatments, including medications. This plan will allow school staff including district nurses to provide the best care for each student during school hours. Plans should be updated throughout the year as changes are made by the student's physician. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the school receives updated plans as applicable.

Communicable Diseases

The district has the authority to exclude students with infectious or contagious diseases, with re-entry allowed upon

presentation of a certificate from a health official indicating the student is free from disease. KSD policy is that any student who tests positive for COVID/FLU shall quarantine for at least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing agents. The student should also have an improvement in overall symptoms. If a student is sent home with fever or vomiting, we ask that they remain home for 24 hours or until they are fever free without the use of fever reducing agents. If a student returns to school from quarantine and runs a fever, they will be sent home. They must then be fever free for an additional 24 hours and have an improvement in symptoms prior to returning to school again. Students will be sent home if they are experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea. Students must be free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for a full 24 hours before returning to school. For school purposes, fever is a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. A doctor's excuse is highly recommended due to maintaining our school attendance records. Doctor's excuses may be sent with the student upon their return or faxed to the school nurse at 662-290-6056. Our guidelines are reflective of the CDC current recommendations.

Infectious Diseases

Policies for handling infectious diseases align with CDC and Mississippi Department of Health guidelines. Parents will be notified of communicable illnesses identified in the classroom and are advised on hygiene practices to prevent the spread. Parents will be asked to pick up their child from school immediately under the following circumstances: The child does not feel well enough to return to the classroom. The child is bleeding and/or shows any sign of infection that needs to be evaluated by a physician. The child has a documented fever.

Meningococcal Disease

Information about meningococcal disease, including its symptoms, prevention methods, and the availability of vaccinations, is provided to ensure awareness and promote health and safety. For additional information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov.

Educating Students with Chronic Infectious Diseases Policy

Determination is made by the district's medical advisor, district nurses, and the student's physician regarding the risk of transmission to others. The rights to privacy of students with chronic infectious diseases will be respected, maintaining strict confidentiality unless a breach is necessary for the health and safety of others. The superintendent must be notified of any student diagnosed with a chronic infectious disease. School principals, teachers, district nurses, and staff involved in the student's care or education must be informed about the student's condition. An evaluation team, including the student's doctor, parents/guardians, school medical advisor, district nurses, local health official, and an appointed school administrator, will regularly review the student's condition. This team will assess any changes in the student's health at least monthly to consider the risks and benefits to the student and the school community. Recommendations on whether the student can attend school in an unrestricted setting, a restricted setting, or if an alternative education program is necessary, will be made to the superintendent. Any significant changes in the student's condition, such as open lesions, must be promptly reported for immediate re-evaluation. The local health department is encouraged to provide a contact person knowledgeable about the disease to answer any arising questions.

First Aid

Children who get minor injuries at school requiring basic first aid will be treated for these injuries by school staff and/or district nurses. If a student is seriously ill or injured, all efforts will be made to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the principal with the consultation of the district nurses will determine if additional medical help or advice is needed.

Health Screenings

Hearing/Vision screenings are conducted per state law.

Head Lice Policy

If a student is found with head lice, parents will be notified to pick up their child from school immediately. Students must submit proof of medically approved lice treatment. A reexamination showing no live lice may be required before a student's return. After three instances of head lice in one school year, the school may involve the county health department. The administrator in consultation with a district nurse will handle the situation at his/her discretion.

Asbestos Management

In accordance with AHERA regulations, school districts are required to perform several activities concerning asbestos in schools. These activities include an initial asbestos inspection and development of a Management Plan which addresses

how identified asbestos containing materials (ACM) will be handled (abated or managed in place). As part of the Management Plan, schools are also required to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an environmental consulting firm. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in an inspection report as part of the Management Plan. As required, a three-year re-inspection of all our buildings is conducted. A copy of the Re-inspection Report is on file with the Mississippi Department of Education and in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. A copy of all management plans for the district schools is filed in the LEA's office located at 229 West Washington Street. These documents are available for review by representatives of EPA, the State, and the public, including parents. Questions or comments concerning the Asbestos Management Plan should be directed to the Superintendent of Education office (662-289-4771).

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents or eligible students have the right to request that the records which they believe to be inaccurate, or misleading be corrected. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions: School officials with legitimate educational interest. Other schools to which a student is transferring. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school. Accrediting organizations. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. Schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them.

Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

Records Accessible

All "public records" maintained by the Kosciusko School 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 laws. Mississippi Public Records Act as amended. Miss. Code Ann § 25-61-5 et seq.

Fees Charged

As allowed by statute, the Kosciusko School District may charge and collect fees for the actual costs of searching, reviewing, duplicating and mailing copies of public records.

Non-Discrimination

The Kosciusko School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and to the provision of equity in its educational programs, services, and activities for all students and employees. KSD shall not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or military status regarding any policy, procedure, or program operation.

Visitors

The Kosciusko School District is dedicated to maintaining the health and safety of both staff and students, as well as creating a safe and secure learning environment. Parents and visitors are requested to wear appropriate attire that meets dress code standards. All visitors must report directly to the school office and sign in. Anyone wishing to see a student for a specific reason may seek permission to do so from the principal's office.

Reminders:

- Please silence all electronic devices, including cellular phones and smart devices, in school buildings.
- Students are not allowed to have visitors accompany them as visiting guests in the schools.
- Classroom visits during instructional hours are not permitted unless approved by school administration.
- The principal has the right to deny visitation to any individual if, in the judgment of the principal, the visit might negatively affect school climate.
- The principal also has the right to contact the proper authorities if a problem with a visitor should arise.
- Unauthorized personnel shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds.
- Principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings or from loitering on school grounds. Such persons may be prosecuted.

Kindergarten parents/guardians wishing to walk their child to class may do so for the first two days of school. After that, walking children to class is highly discouraged and may only be done on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the principal. In all cases, a visitor's pass must be obtained. Student visitors are not allowed. Visitors must remain in the designated area assigned by the principal. Visitors who fail to do so may be referred to the police officials.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

KSD encourages parents to visit campuses for special activities, events, and Parent-Teacher conferences. Conferences should be arranged prior by appointment, before or after the instructional day or during the teacher's planning time. Parents should contact the school office or teacher for an appropriate time for both parties. Note: Communication outside of school hours may not be responded to until the following school day during the hours of 7:55-3:30. For the safety of all students, parents are required to check in at the office upon arriving at school. Please do not go directly to a teacher's room.

Student Workbooks

The Kosciusko School District provides instructional workbooks free of charge to students. It is the duty of each student to care for the instructional workbooks to the best of his/her ability. Students who lose/damage instructional workbooks will be charged a \$25.00 replacement fee.

Financial Hardship Waiver

The Kosciusko School District provides a Financial Hardship Waiver for students who may be unable to pay required fees associated with valid instructional activities. This waiver is intended to ensure that all students have access to instructional opportunities regardless of financial circumstances. The waiver applies only to fees directly connected to instructional activities and does not apply to extracurricular activities, optional programs, or supply fees. Financial Hardship Waiver forms are available upon request and should be submitted to the school office for review and approval in accordance with district procedures..

Tobacco Use Policy

As per Mississippi law, no person shall use any tobacco product on any school property. Tobacco products are defined as any substance that contains tobacco, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, vaping products or electronic cigarettes. School property means any public-school building or bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local school board, school, or directors for administration of any public educational institution or during a school related activity. Sixteenth section land or lieu land without school facilities or school related activities are exempt from this Act. Anyone convicted under this Act shall be recorded as being fined for a civil violation and not for a criminal violation. Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act 2000 HOUSE BILL 641.

Address/Phone Changes

It is important for the school to have emergency contact information on file for each student. When this information changes, it is the parent's responsibility to notify and update their child's school emergency contact records. The

notification forms are available at the school. Failure to do so may result in a delay of emergency contact or important information being disseminated.

Office Phone

The office phone may only be used in case of an emergency. Permission from the person in charge of the office must be granted to use the phone. Students are not permitted to accept phone calls at school. Any message received for students in the office before 2:30 will be conveyed to the students.

Schoolwide Title I Program

Kosciusko School District in its entirety operates under Title I, together with other federal, state and local funds, to upgrade the entire educational program in schools in which not less than 40% of the children enrolled are from low-income families. Parents are encouraged to be involved in school activities and your child's education. Parents will receive notices and information throughout the school year to keep you informed about the progress of your child and the status of the school in making progress toward helping all children meet high academic standards. Parents will be invited to attend school meetings when school staff will discuss the development, revision and implementation of the Schoolwide Program Plan.

Compliance with Federal Regulations

Director of Title I, II, IV, V, IX	Dr. Josh Dodd
Director of School Improvement	Dr. Josh Dodd
Director of Special Populations (English Learners - Foster Care - Migrant - Homeless)	Dr. Josh Dodd

Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints

The school district shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Religious Expression in Class Assignments

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the students' submission. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of religious content. If a teacher's assignment involves writing a poem, the work of the student who submits a poem in the form of a prayer (for example, a psalm) should be judged based on academic standards, including literary quality, and not penalized or rewarded on account of its religious content.

Freedom To Organize Religious Groups and Activities

Students are allowed to form religious clubs and hold gatherings like prayer groups and "see you at the pole" events, with the same rights as other non-curricular activities. Religious groups must have equal access to school facilities as other non-curricular groups, without bias against their religious expression. If nonreligious student groups can advertise their meetings (e.g., through student newspapers, posters, announcements, or leaflets), religious groups must be allowed the same opportunity without discrimination. School authorities can state they do not sponsor non-curricular groups and events, but this must be done impartially, not favoring or disfavoring religious groups.

Secret Societies

It is unlawful for any pupil attending the public schools of this state to become a member of or belong to or participate in the activities of any high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.

Personal Property

Students are responsible for their wallets or purses or other personal belongings such as any electronic devices. The district and/or school ARE NOT responsible for replacing any personal property lost/stolen or damaged on school property or during school-sponsored trips/events.

Responsibilities of Parents, Guardians, and Custodians for School-Age Children

Parents or guardians are financially responsible for any damage their child causes to school property, individuals, or themselves. They might be called for mandatory meetings called by school officials to discuss their child's misbehavior. Failure to attend these meetings, when summoned, can lead to legal action enforced by the superintendent. Parents are liable for any legal fines due to their child's unlawful actions on school grounds. Parents failing to attend discipline

conferences or neglecting their responsibilities risk a misdemeanor charge, with fines up to \$250. The school district can claim damages up to \$20,000 from parents for a child's intentional property damage, excluding cases where parental rights have been legally removed. Schools have the right to pursue further legal action for any damages caused by the child or the parent. These guidelines are based on Mississippi Code Section 37-11-53, emphasizing the legal and financial responsibilities of parents for their school-age children's actions.

Technology

The Kosciusko School District is pleased to offer student access to computer usage to enhance academic development and skills in using media that are commonly found in all aspects of our daily lives. The district policy shall be that all computers with Internet access will be filtered to restrict the access of minors to harmful materials. The Kosciusko School District uses the filtering solution approved by the Mississippi Department of Education with an additional solution managed by the Kosciusko School District Technology Department. A Technology Fee (\$25.00 per student) will be charged at the beginning of the school year. The monies from this fee will be used for damage or repairs of technology devices and for software updates. The money not used for these purposes will be used to purchase additional technology devices. Unpaid fees for students will result in exams and/or report cards being held until the fee is paid. Disclaimer: Kosciusko School District is not responsible for any damages suffered including loss of data resulting from delay, non-deliveries, service interruptions, or inaccurate information. The person operating the device accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained via the Internet or other electronic sources.

Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is operated on a non-profit plan in cooperation with the State and Federal Food Service Program. The meal served each day will be nutritious and well balanced. Each pupil will receive a plate lunch and one (1) carton of milk. It is not the intent of the school district to prohibit school functions or programs; whereby individual teachers may allow pizzas or other fast foods to be brought on school premises in conjunction with school functions or programs with the approval of the building principals. State policy states that no food is to be sold on campus for one (1) hour before breakfast or one (1) hour before lunch and until the end of either serving period. Applications for free and reduced meals will be completed online through the district website www.kosciuskoschools.com. A form can be sent home at the parent's request. These forms are to be completed, signed by the parent and sent back to school ASAP. Any child who does not have an application on file from the previous year will have to pay until they have an approved application on file. Parents of the Kosciusko School District have available a secure online prepayment service to deposit money into their child's school meal account. This system is called MySchoolBucks. The service will provide parents the ability to view their child's account balance along with an eating history report. Directions for signing up for this meal banking system can be obtained on the district web site www.kosciuskoschools.com or in the school office.

Library Books

Students are expected to take proper care of library books. If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost of the book, not to exceed \$20.00 per book. Report cards will not be issued until the fine is paid or the book is returned.

Field Trips

Field trips are intended to provide students with experiences and insights that cannot be fully gained through regular classroom instruction. All field trip requests must first be approved by the school principal, then forwarded to the superintendent or designee for final approval. Teachers must include the following information in their request: the funding source, method of transportation, start and end times/dates, number of school personnel and chaperones, curriculum connections, and any other relevant details. The safety and welfare of students are primary considerations. A letter detailing the trip must be sent home to parents, requesting written permission for their child's participation. No student will be permitted to attend without signed parental consent, which must be kept on file at the school for one calendar year. Field trips are not permitted during state testing, the month prior to statewide assessments, or the week before and during school exams. Students who do not attend a scheduled field trip must report to school or be marked absent for the day. Students with multiple discipline infractions (unless reviewed and provided with additional supervision) will not be permitted to attend field trips. Violations of school policies during trips will result in disciplinary actions consistent with the student handbook and Kosciusko School District Board Policy.

Insurance

Students participating in athletics, cheerleading, shop classes, or laboratory courses must have school insurance or provide written verification from a parent or guardian that the student has adequate insurance coverage.

Safety

The objective of the Kosciusko School District is to conduct all operations in a safe and efficient manner. The district is committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment that is free from recognized hazards that could endanger the health or safety of students. Students are expected to exercise good judgment and follow all safety rules and procedures while on school property and at school-related activities.

Drills and Natural Disasters

All emergency drills and responses related to natural disasters shall be conducted in accordance with the Kosciusko School District Crisis Management Plan. The district utilizes "Plain Talk" procedures during emergency situations. A bell system may also be used, when necessary, following the Plain Talk announcement. The Kosciusko School District will conduct all required safety drills during the school year.

Video Surveillance

The Kosciusko School District uses video and audio surveillance systems on school campuses and school buses to promote the safety and security of students and staff. Surveillance recordings are the property of the school district and will not be released to individuals unless required by subpoena, court order, or as permitted by law. Law enforcement and other authorized agencies may be granted access to recordings in accordance with FERPA guidelines for the purpose of conducting an investigation. Students, parents, or other individuals may not use cameras, audio recorders, video recorders, or other recording devices on school property without prior approval from the school district.

Balloons, Flowers, Gifts and Food Deliveries

Balloons, flowers, gifts, and food deliveries for students are not permitted on campus. The school office will not accept these items for delivery to students.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Sports

KSD offers competitive teams at Kosciusko High School and Kosciusko Junior High in the following sports: Cross Country, Volleyball, Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, Basketball, Powerlifting, Baseball, Fastpitch Softball, Archery, Golf, Tennis, and Track.

School Attendance Requirements on Gameday

To be eligible to participate in a competition on a school day, an athlete must attend school at least sixty percent (60%) on the day of the competition. A school-related absence will not affect this rule. Any other absence or partial absence must be approved by the principal to participate in any competition on the day in question.

Random Drug Testing

To support a wholesome school environment, in which there is abstinence from the use of illegal drugs. The purpose of the program is to provide for the health and safety of all students, to undermine the efforts of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs, and to encourage students who use drugs to participate in treatment programs.

Student Athletes/Activity Participants

Kosciusko School District will conduct a drug-testing program for all students participating in interscholastic activities. Students who participate in these activities will be randomly selected for drug testing throughout the school year and their sports career. Each student wishing to participate in any interscholastic activities and his/her custodial parent or guardian shall consent to the district's drug testing program. The forms and a complete copy of the Random Drug Testing policy are available upon request. Students shall not participate in these activities without participation in the Random Drug Testing policy. The school district shall pay for the test. When the initial test indicates the presence of illegal drugs, the same sample will be re-tested to verify the results. If the second test is negative, no further action will be taken. If the second test is positive, disciplinary action will be taken. Any student who checks out, leaves campus, refuses to participate, or attempts to avoid the testing process after being selected for testing shall be considered a refusal and will not be allowed to participate in the activity or sport. A refusal to participate or attempt to tamper with test results will be treated as a positive test.

1st Positive: The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **10 days**.

2nd Positive: The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **60 days**.

3rd Positive: The students will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities for **180 days**.

Eligibility

The Kosciusko School District will comply with all rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. All participants must meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi High School Activities Association to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity.

KJHS SPECIFICS

Course Requirements

Compacted Math 7th Grade

All incoming 7th grade students who have a 90 or above final average in Math Grade 6, have parent consent, and who meet one of the two (2) requirements listed below will be eligible for Compacted Math Grade 7: Score PL4 or higher on the 6th grade state assessment or Score PL5 for the end of year Benchmark assessment

Compacted Math (with Algebra I) 8th Grade

All incoming 8th grade students will be eligible for Compacted Math (with Algebra 1) Grade 8 with parent consent and who meet the requirements listed below: Any student who completes and passes Compacted Math Grade 7 with a grade of 85 or higher and transfer student who completed 7th grade math with a 95 or higher and a score of PL5 on the end of the year assessment.

Carnegie Unit Courses Offered

Compacted Math (7th); Algebra I (8th); MS Studies/World Geography (8th); Cyber Foundations (7th); and Computer Science & Engineering (8th)

9th Grade Algebra I Requirements

Students who have a 90 or above end of the year average in 8th grade math and/or a PL4 or higher on the 8th grade math state assessment will be eligible for Algebra I in their first semester as a 9th grader. KHS reserves the right to adjust academic schedules upon receiving state test score results.

9th Grade Biology Requirements

Students who have a 90 or above end of year average in 8th grade science and/or a PL4 or higher on the 8th grade science state assessment will be eligible for Biology I. KHS reserves the right to adjust academic schedules upon receiving state test score results.

9th ELA Honors Requirements

Students who have a 90 or above end of year average in 8th grade ELA and/or a PL4 or higher on the 8th grade ELA state assessment will be eligible for 9th grade ELA Honors. KHS reserves the right to adjust academic schedules upon receiving state test score results.

6th Grade Who's Who Representatives (1 male, 1 female)

- Promoted to 6th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko School District for all of 5th grade
- Zero suspensions the previous year to elections

7th Grade Who's Who Representatives (1 male, 1 female)

- Promoted to 7th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko School District for all of 6th grade
- Zero suspensions the previous year to elections

8th Grade Who's Who Representatives (1 male, 1 female)

- Promoted to 8th grade
- Enrolled in Kosciusko Junior High School for all of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades
- Zero suspensions during all their junior high years

KHS SPECIFICS

Graduation Requirements

The Kosciusko School District will comply with all graduation requirements established by the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi State Board of Education. Students must successfully complete all course credits, assessments, and any additional requirements set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education to be eligible to receive a high school diploma. All graduation requirements will be administered and verified in accordance with state guidelines.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian/Honor Graduate Requirements

To qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, graduating seniors must have attended school for four consecutive semesters. To be considered an honor graduate, all seniors need to have been at the school for two consecutive semesters, have a final grade point average of 85 or higher, and must have passed 3 units each in Honors Math, Honors English, and Honors Science. Students from Kosciusko School District who spend their junior year at the MS School for Math and Science or the MS School for the Arts and return for their senior year can still qualify for valedictorian, salutatorian, or honor graduate status. Grades will be reviewed at the end of the third 9-week period. The two students with the highest averages will be named valedictorian and salutatorian. Any course listed as Honors, Advanced Placement, and/or Dual Credit and will be given a weight of 1.05 in the cumulative average.

Dual Credit/Enrollment

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school juniors and seniors to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public college that may or may not also count as credit toward a high school diploma through Kosciusko School District Dual Credit program and Holmes Community College Campus Dual Enrollment. It is the responsibility of the student to meet admissions requirements of the college and pay all fees required by Holmes Community College. The student will register online and will attach a copy of the official student class schedule to the form, indicating days and time for the class. This must be turned in to the school counselor prior to the college classes beginning. It is the responsibility of the student to meet admissions requirements of the college and pay all fees required by Holmes Community College for credit. The student will be expected to follow the attendance policy at the college and will suffer all financial and academic penalties that accrue for tardiness, absence and/or withdrawal.

Textbook costs for the college course are the responsibility of the parent and/or student. If the student wants to drop out of a dual enrollment/dual credit course, the student must electronically submit the official college Withdrawal Request Form. The letter grade earned at the college will be the grade assigned the corresponding numeric value set by Kosciusko School Board. The numeric grade will be calculated as a part of the grade point average and affect class ranking. Course weight will be assigned based on school board policy for courses earning dual credit at the high school. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent and/or student. If a numerical grade cannot be provided by the college, the following conversion chart will be used. Dual Credit/High School Grade Translation for online courses or courses taught at a college.

Dual Credit to High School Translation Table

A	B	C	D	F	W
99	89	79	69	64	NC

Classification (Promotion Policy for entering 9th graders of 2019-2020 and beyond)

9th to 10th grade	8 credits
10th to 11th grade	14 credits
11th to 12th grade	20 credits

Individual Success Plan (ISP)

All students in Mississippi schools must have an ISP that is personalized to meet his/her educational plans & career goals.

Graduation Policy

Participation in Kosciusko School District Graduation is limited to those students who have completed all graduation requirements, as specified by the Board of Education and Mississippi State Board of Education. In addition, students participating in graduation shall comply with all rules and regulations regarding attendance at practice for graduation exercises, proper dress and/or attire, and any other regulation deemed appropriate. The Kosciusko School District reserves the right to hold diplomas and or impose disciplinary action for disruptive incidents or misconduct at the graduation ceremony.

Early Graduation Policy

The Kosciusko School District believes the entire senior year is an important period during which the student should be able to enjoy many experiences providing academic growth and enrichment, exploration of new areas, and social growth and maturity. Only in unusual or extenuating circumstances should a student forgo the opportunities available during the senior year. But for those who may have special needs or goals and who would benefit from early graduation, the following policy is established. Students considering early graduation or completion of graduation requirements at the end of first semester should review the following criteria and consult with their principal and/or Counselor.

Early Graduation Requirements

- Satisfied all the requirements of a four-year graduate.
- Taken and passed all state tests (Algebra I, Biology I, and English II) prior to entering their senior year.
- Completed all State and Local graduation requirements.
- Submitted the early graduation request to the principal and/or Counselor prior to December 1.
- All required courses must be taken in regular school sessions, through online courses through Mississippi Virtual Public School, or Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment classes.
- Any student who has met all the above requirements and been approved for early graduation by the KSD School Board will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies if they so choose. All those who choose to participate must meet all graduation requirements (fees paid, attire, attendance at practice, etc.) The student must assume the responsibility for contacting the school regarding graduation ceremony requirements.
- The last year of attendance is considered the senior year, and all senior requirements must be met.
- Students who choose to participate in this program will be ineligible for all traditional senior honors (with the exception of a student who is on track to graduate in December of their senior year).
- Selections will be based upon completing requirements listed above or other extenuating circumstances.
- If there is an emergency and a request is made after December 1st, a district committee will review the request to determine if submission to the school board is warranted.
- The student must have a plan in place for post-early graduation.
- To be eligible for early graduation, a student must meet the requirements for and earn at least an Academic Endorsement or a Career and Technical Endorsement.

Early Graduation Procedures

If the applicant meets the above requirements, the student will submit a written request for early graduation to the high school principal and/or counselor. The request must contain a statement of endorsement and the signatures of the parents or legal guardian and must clearly express the reasons for the request. After a complete evaluation of the request, the principal will forward recommendations to the Superintendent for approval. The ultimate decision would be by the School Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. If approval is given, the student will be scheduled to allow him/her to accumulate sufficient credits to fulfill graduation requirements to graduate early or at the end of the first semester. He/she will not receive a diploma until after commencement. The student may participate in the commencement ceremony but should advise the principal of the intent to participate or not to participate. Also, students fulfilling graduation requirements after the first semester are not eligible to compete in any sports, clubs, or extracurricular activities once they have completed them.

College Days

Seniors will be permitted two excused college days during their senior year. Juniors will be permitted one excused college day during their junior year. Additional college days may be approved by administration when deemed necessary. Students wishing to take a college visit must obtain approval from administration or a counselor prior to the scheduled

visit. For the absence to be excused, the student must submit a signed college visitation form upon returning to school. Visitation forms are generally available on college campuses.

Digital Credit Recovery

Digital Credit Recovery will be offered to students in grades 9 – 12 who did not successfully complete a course during the most recent school year. Digital Credit Recovery is not for students who are taking a class for the first time. Students will complete coursework through a digital platform, then report to class to take proctored tests and exams. Students will receive individualized instruction as needed. Students will be required to attend an established number of class meetings until they have successfully completed all requirements to recover credit. To participate in Digital Credit Recovery, the student must have earned a final grade of at least 60 in the course. Some courses may not be eligible for Digital Credit Recovery. A pre-test will be given on the first day of class to determine the objectives the student has not mastered. A maximum of one Carnegie unit may be obtained through Digital Credit Recovery per year. If a student is successful in Digital Credit Recovery, the final grade for the course will be no higher than the minimum passing grade of 65. A diploma will not be awarded until the student passes all SATP exams.

Sale of Merchandise at School

Students may not sell any products for any reason or school-sponsored activities without prior approval from the principal. Products are not to be brought on campus. Any student that violates this policy will face disciplinary action.

Automobiles and Student Parking

Parking is a privilege on the high school campus. Parking permits cost \$5.00 and can be revoked for disciplinary reasons. The schools are not responsible for any theft, damage, or vandalism to a vehicle while on school property. A student parks at his/her own risk and parents hereby agree that the use of the parking lot is at the student's and parent's own risk. Drivers must always exercise caution. Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks.

Parking Rules

No student may park on school grounds until proof of insurance, a valid driver's license, and the purchase of an authorized parking permit from the KHS office have been provided. Lost or stolen permits must be reported. Students may be charged a fee for a replacement permit and will not be allowed to park on campus until a replacement is purchased. Parking permits must be displayed at all times in the designated location on the vehicle. Parking along curbs, in posted handicapped spaces, or in areas other than marked parking spaces is prohibited. For safety and security purposes, the following will apply:

- A student cannot give or resell his/her parking permit to another student.
- No refunds will be given to students who lose their parking privilege for disciplinary reasons.
- A parking permit cannot be transferred from the vehicle which is registered to any other vehicle without administrative approval.
- Any student who is in possession of a stolen or counterfeit permit will lose all campus parking privileges.
- Students are not to congregate in the parking lot, sit in or on their vehicles, or play loud music while on school grounds.
- Reckless driving of any type by a student while on school grounds is not permitted and the consequence for this action could possibly lead to the student forfeiting their privilege to drive or park on campus.
- Unauthorized transport of other students off campus is prohibited.
- Leaving campus without permission and not signing out in the office is not permitted.

Parking Violations and Registration

Violation of one or more of the parking rules or failure to comply with the safety and security procedures listed here or in the school district handbook will result in disciplinary action and could result in temporary or permanent loss of the parking permit.

To register your vehicle, you must have the following:

- Valid Mississippi Driver's license
- Copy of Vehicle Registration
 - Temporary Tags are Not Acceptable
- Proof of automobile insurance
- Signed parking affidavit from parent/guardian stating that the student meets the above criteria.

Candidates for Mr. KHS and Miss KHS

- Must be enrolled and in attendance for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained a 90 or above overall average for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the elections.

- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as one (1) unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least two (2) extracurricular activities over the past two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the elections.
- No out of school suspensions or Alternative School placements while in high school.
- Must have attended KHS for a minimum of previous two (2) years including the senior year.
- Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, band, clubs, and student leadership organizations or offices.

Selection of Who's Who

- Be enrolled for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained an 85 or above overall average in each course for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as one (1) unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least one (1) extracurricular activity over the past two (2) semesters.
- All honors are for seniors except for class beauties/beaus and class favorites.
- No OSS or Alternative School placements for the current or prior semester.
- Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, band, clubs, and student leadership organizations or offices.

Selection of Homecoming Maids

- Be enrolled for two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- Must have maintained an 85 or above overall average in each course for the two (2) consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- May not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in the previous two (2) consecutive semesters. Any unexcused absence, no matter the length of time, will count as one (1) unexcused absence for the purposes of this honor.
- Must be involved or have been involved in at least one (1) extracurricular activity over the past two (2) semesters.
- Two (2) maids will be selected from each grade by popular vote.
- Grade 12 seniors will select five (5) girls by popular vote.
- The Homecoming Queen will be selected by all students in grades 9–12 from the five (5) senior maids.
- No OSS or Alternative School Placements for the current or prior semester.
- Campaigning for Homecoming Maid or Homecoming Queen will not be permitted on school grounds.
- Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, band, clubs, and student leadership organizations or offices.