STUDENT HANDBOOK

PIERCE STREET

2026-2027

Subject To Change!
This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District. While it contains policies current at the time of printing, we are constantly reviewing and updating policies. Therefore, the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Student Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the Tupelo Public School District.

A Message From The Principal

Welcome to Pierce Street Elementary School!

My name is Anthony Golding and I am excited to begin the 2026-2027 school year as your new principal. I feel honored to lead a school with such a rich history of academic and cocurricular excellence. Here at PSE, we believe that every student is capable of learning, growing, and excelling, and we help students excel by ensuring they have access to evidence-based instructional strategies across the entire curriculum. We work diligently to enhance the creative arts and emphasize creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and other skills required to be productive citizens in an ever-changing society. I personally believe that all students are entitled to a supportive, safe, and rewarding school environment. We intend to grow your student(s) academically and socially while celebrating our successes along the way.

Parental involvement is key to our success, however. Working with you, I plan to build productive relationships between Pierce Street Elementary and the Tupelo community as we work towards our common goals. Please know, at PSE, you are welcome, and you are heard. I am so excited to work alongside you.

Let's PAWTY,

Anthony S. Golding

2026-27 TPSD Calendar

July 1, 2026	Begin FY 2027
July 2-3, 2026	District Holiday (Independence Day Observed)
July 27, 2026	Staff Report
July 27-30, 2026	Professional Development Days
July 31, 2026	Students Report
September 1, 2026	First Quarter Progress Reports
September 7, 2026	District Holiday (Labor Day)
October 2, 2026	End of First Quarter
October 5, 2026	Second Quarter Begins For Students
October 9, 2026	First Quarter Report Cards
October 12, 2026	District Holiday (Columbus Day)
October 13-14, 2026	Fall Break (196+ Day Employees)
October 13-16, 2026	Fall Break (Students and 187 Day Employees)
November 17, 2026	Second Quarter Progress Reports
November 23-27, 2026	District Holidays (Thanksgiving)
December 18, 2026	End of Second Quarter (60% Day)**
December 21, 2026-January 1, 2027	District Holidays (Christmas)
January 4, 2027	Staff Reports (Professional Development Day)
January 5, 2027	Third Quarter Begins For Students
January 7, 2027	Second Quarter Report Cards
January 18, 2027	District Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr Day)
February 9, 2027	Third Quarter Progress Reports
February 15, 2027	District Holiday (President's Day)*
March 8-12, 2027	District Holidays (Spring Break)
March 17, 2027	End of Third Quarter
March 18, 2027	Fourth Quarter Begins For Students
March 25, 2027	Third Quarter Report Cards
March 26, 2027	District Holiday (Good Friday)*
March 29, 2027	District Holiday (Easter Monday)
April 20, 2027	Fourth Quarter Progress Reports
May 21, 2027	End of Fourth Quarter/End of Year for Students (60% Day)**
May 21, 2027	Fourth Quarter Report Cards
May 21, 2027	Graduation
May 24-25, 2027	Professional Development Day/No Students
May 31, 2027	District Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 30, 2027	End FY 2027

*Reserved For Makeup Days **
*Students follow early dismissal schedule ***
First Semester: 90 days
Second Semester: 90 days
Student Day Total: 180 days
Staff Day Total: 187 days

2026-27 Tupelo Public School District Calendar | TupeloSchools.com | @TupeloSchools

Tupelo Public School District Mission

The Tupelo Public School District serves the community by engaging each student in an excellent education that develops skills and citizenship needed for success in a global society.

1.) Increase student achievement across the District

2.) Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools

3.) Attract and retain all stakeholders

4.) Maintain sound financial stability

SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SUPERINTENDENT:

- Dr. Robert Picou

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- President: Mr. Jon Milstead
- Vice President: Mr. Paul Mize, III
- Secretary: Ms. Sherry Davis
- Board Member: Ms. Hope Huey
- Board Member: Ms. Amy Tate

The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources/TPSD Administrative Office
Post Office Box 557
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-841-8850

Arrival & Departure Times & Procedures

Arrival:

Teachers at Pierce Street will be on duty at the front of the building and at the bus entrance on the east side (Lincoln Drive) at 7:30 a.m. each morning. Students may enter the building at this time. Students who walk, ride bikes, and are brought by automobiles will enter the front of the building (Pierce Street) by the office. Students who walk are encouraged to walk directly to school in the morning and to go directly home in the afternoon.

The tardy bell will ring at 8:00 a.m. Any student who arrives in the building after 8:00 a.m. is considered tardy and will need to be escorted into the building and signed-in by a parent. Students will then receive a tardy slip from the office before proceeding to their classroom.

Instructional time is valuable and begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Please be considerate of the time.

Dismissal:

Dismissal will begin each afternoon at 2:50 p.m. Walkers and students being picked up by carpool will exit the front of the building, while bus students and daycare students will be dismissed at the east side of the building on Lincoln Drive (closest to the Middle School) as their bus or daycare arrives.

Car riders will exit from the front of the building along Pierce Street. The circle drive will be used for car rider dismissal ONLY and will flow one way. The desire is that 10 cars load and pull away simultaneously. Please do not enter the side parking lot to pick up your children. This causes a safety hazard for our students.

Student Check-In:

The front doors of the school will be shut and locked at 8:00 a.m. Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. will need their parent to accompany them into the building to sign their child into school. Students are not allowed to sign themselves into school. This same procedure will be used for students who check into school late throughout the school day.

Student Checkout:

For safety reasons, we will not dismiss your child via telephone requests. Any change in how your child normally goes home will need to be made in writing. Without written notification, your child will be dismissed to their usual afternoon destination. Additionally, students may not check out after 2:45 as this disrupts the learning environment. *All checkouts must occur before 2:45 p.m. each afternoon. Please show an ID to check your student out.

STUDENT ABSENCES & EXCUSES

Attendance – JBD TPSD Board Policy

To be considered as having attended school for a full day, a student must be present for 63% of his/her instructional day as fixed by the Board for each individual school. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than 37% of the student's instructional day shall be considered absent the entire school day.

1. Excused Absences shall include:

a. Parental Excused Absences

Students are allowed to have a maximum of three (3) excused parental absences per semester. Parental absences must be substantiated in writing within **2 school days** of the absence. A parent/ guardian can substantiate the absence by sending a signed note, emailing or faxing to the school attendance office. The note must have the child's first and last name and date of absence(s). A parent signed checkout will also substantiate a parental excused absence. A parental excused absence may be for one class, any 30-minute period within a class or an entire day.

b. Medical Excused Absences

Students are allowed excused medical absences when the absences result from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school; a medical or dental appointment; isolation ordered by the county health officer, and State Board of Health or appropriate school official. Excuses from the doctor or dentist must be substantiated in writing within **2 school days** of the absence.

Unexcused Absences- Any absence, tardy or dismissal, which does not meet the criteria of an excused absence, shall be considered unexcused. No absence will be considered excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The teachers at Pierce Street Elementary School are committed to establishing an atmosphere throughout the school in which children will feel safe, secure, happy, and have a maximum opportunity to learn.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Exhibit positive and respectful behavior at all times
- Respect school and personal property
- Be courteous to everyone
- Bring only necessary items to school
- Walk, not run
- Exhibit the P.A.W.S... characteristics at all times
  Personal best, Act responsibly, Wise choices, Show respect

Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classrooms. Rule violations that result in the referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the established discipline ladder. Depending on the severity of the offense, the consequence may be entered at any given point on the ladder.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

PIERCE STREET PAWS Expectations:

School is a place that provides rewarding experiences for a group of students working together daily. In order for each student to reap all the benefits that Pierce Street Elementary offers, it is imperative that discipline and order be maintained consistently. Our goal is to promote an atmosphere within the school that is conducive to learning while protecting the rights of students. Therefore, no student's behavior will be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of others. Parental involvement with the school is essential for a positive school environment. Parents are required to attend conferences, and to provide current emergency contact information. Parents are also required to make arrangements for their child if he/she is suspended from school. In order to minimize student discipline issues, parents should discuss with their children the importance of good behavior and good attitudes while in school. While the primary responsibility for conduct rests with the student, collaboration between the parents and the school is the best discipline intervention.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES:

Pierce St. Elementary Rules and Consequences are the same for each classroom; the rules support our PSE P.A.W.S. plan. in an effort to ensure:

RULES are followed by students at all times.

CONSEQUENCES are consistent when students choose not to follow the rules.

Teachers will follow the PSE Consequence ladder prior to sending a student to the office.

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT: DISCIPLINE POLICY

HTTP://TUPELO.MSBAPOLICY.ORG/DISTRICTPOLICIES/VIEWSADMIN/SELECTEDDOCUMENTREADONLY/TABID/5911/DEFAULT.ASPX?DOCID=66445

Discipline Supervisors:

Mr. Art Dobbs, Elementary

Dr. Melissa Thomas, Milam/Middle School

Dr. Brock English, High School

TPSD BOARD POLICY: STUDENT DISCIPLINE: ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5

School is a place that provides rewarding experiences for a large group of students working together from day to day. In order for all to benefit, enjoy, and learn from these experiences in a safe environment; discipline and order must be maintained. The primary responsibility for the conduct of a student rests with the student, the parents, and the school. Parents should discuss with their children the importance of, and need for, good behavior and a good attitude while in school. Our goal is to promote an atmosphere within the school that is conducive to learning while protecting the rights of students. No student's behavior will be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of others. We work to preserve the dignity of the individual while at the same time not allowing them to manipulate the system. Students, parents, teachers and administrators must be consistent in their decisions and be supportive of each other. Parent involvement with the school is required for a positive school environment. It is the parent's responsibility to attend conferences, make arrangements for children upon suspension, and provide current emergency information to the school.

PROCEDURE

All teachers will have a classroom management plan in place based on the following disciplinary guidelines. The principal must approve the plan. Each classroom management plan will include some type of parent contact and/or conferencing as one of its steps. The plan will be based on these district-wide elementary rules:

A. Respect the rights and property of others.
B. Be responsible for your own actions.
C. Be resourceful with your assets and abilities.

It should include procedures for:

- Use of classroom space and facilities.
- Use of other parts of the school.
- Whole class activities and seat work.
- Small group activities.
- Keeping students accountable for their work
- Beginning and end of day activities.
- Administrative and housekeeping chores.
- Special activities and safety rules.
- Time out within the classroom.

Prior to sending a student to the office for disciplinary infraction, steps are taken within the classroom to correct misbehaviors. Teachers document these corrections with a low-level referral form. Low level form should be attached to discipline referrals if/when the teacher refers a student to the principal.

However serious infractions require immediate referral to the office. All administrators are trained with the TPSD discipline ladder.

LADDER OF CONSEQUENCES

Depending on the severity of the offense, the discipline ladder may be entered at any point.

Step 1

Warning
Parent/Guardian Contact

Step 2

Time-out of class
Parent/Guardian Contact
Removal from ladder if not referred to office for twenty school days from date of entry into ladder

Step 3

Overnight Required Conferences (ORC)
Parent/Guardian Conference
Removal from ladder if not referred to office for twenty school days from date of entry into ladder

Step 4

Administrative Detention-2 hours
Parent/Guardian Contact
Probation for twenty school days

Step 5

1/2 day-1 day In-School Suspension (ISS)
Parent/Guardian Contact
Probation for twenty school days

Step 6

2-3 days In-School Suspension (ISS)
Parent/Guardian Conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 7

1-3 days Out-Of-School suspension (OSS)
Parent/Guardian Conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 8

Up to 10 days Out-Of-School suspension
Parent/Guardian Conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 9

Alternative assignment
OR
Out of school suspension up to 10 days pending a district disciplinary committee hearing; Parent/ Guardian Conference prior to hearing

Step 10

Expulsion

DEFINITIONS

- Disobedience - Refusal to obey, failure to follow request; insubordination.
- Defiance - Open or bold resistance to authority.
- Deliberate Mischief - A planned action or conduct that causes damage or trouble.
- Rebellion - Resisting authority, opposing any control
- Obscenities - (Oral, written, or graphic) something obscene, profane or vulgar, in language, conduct, a remark, an expression, or an act.
- Deliberate Falsehood - Planned deception, telling of lies, lying.
- Cruelty - The quality of being cruel, inhumane, hard heartlessness, a cruel action, or remark.
- Intimidation - To make timid, make afraid with threats of violence such as extortion, teasing, harassing, hurting, frightening, threatening, or tyrannizing others.
- Refusing Punishment - To decline to accept discipline that is intended to establish habits of self control.

EXCEPTIONS

Any of the following offenses can merit out-of-school suspension at the discretion of the principal, or principal designee, without going through any steps of the discipline plan:

A. A shocking or dangerous behavior which may cause physical or emotional harm to the student or others such as inappropriate touching
B. Fighting, physical altercation
C. Weapons or other materials punishable by law
D. Stealing
E. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia
F. Gang related dress or activity
G. Destruction of school materials and property
H. Inappropriate clothing
I. Sexual Harassment
J. Intimidation

Description of Violations & Infractions Consequences

1. Defiance or intentional disobedience of teacher or staff Step 1-10
2. Profanity or vulgarity (to include acts, gestures, or symbols Directed at another) Step 4-10
3. Possession or use of tobacco or tobacco related products at school Step 7-10
4. Use, sale, or possession of drugs, look-alike drugs, or alcohol on school grounds or at school functions; intoxication Step 7-10
5. Defacing or otherwise injuring school or personal property (to include writing on walls, inside or outside) Step 4-10 + restitution
6. Physical Altercation, Struggle, Assault Step 6-7
7. Fighting at school, on the way to or from school, or at school Step 7-10
8. Use or possession of dangerous objects Step 7-10
9. Use or possession of weapons or look-alike Step 7-10
10. Use or possession of fireworks, explosive devices or odorous devices Step 7-10
11. Disruptive behavior at school or other school activities Step 4-10 12. Skipping detention Step 6-8
13. Stealing or possession of stolen property (plus restitution) Step 5-10
14. Cutting classes Step 1-10

15. Truancy (unauthorized absence) Step 4-10
16. Leaving campus without authorization Step 4-10
17. Unauthorized fund raising, including sale of candy or gum Step 5-7
18. Possession of radios, walkmans, beepers, telephones, recorders, laser pointers, televisions, tapes, compact disk (parent pickup) Step 1-7
19. Gambling or possessions of gambling devices Step 1-7
20. Harassment, intimidation, or threatening of students Step 1-10
21. Refusal to identify oneself properly at any school or school district activity Step 1-7
22. Disruptive behavior on the bus or at the bus stop (Note #7) Step 1-10
23. Gang or cult activity Step 1-10
24. Forgery Step 1-10
25. Other misbehavior as determined by the school officials Step 1-10
26. Possession or wearing of caps, sun glasses, disruptive accessories, or offensive clothing. Only parents may pick up banned items. Step 1-7
27. Possession of inappropriate photos or printed materials on weapon making, pornography, violence, hatred, etc. Step 1-10
28. Sexual misconduct or improper touching Step 7-10
29. Bullying Step 7-10
30. Misconduct towards a teacher Step 7-10
31. Misuse of Technology Step 1-10

NOTES

1. Incentive is provided for the student to improve his/her behavior through provisions of a probationary period that allows a student to remove himself/herself from the disciplinary ladder by improved conduct.
2. A parent/guardian conference with an administrator is required before a student can return to school after an out-of-school suspension.
3. A student may enter the discipline ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.
4. Failure to complete the step consequence as designated can result in escalation to the next step in the ladder.
5. Referral to the office during the probationary period prescribed in the discipline step will result in escalation to at least the next step. Students referred for a repeat violation may escalate more than one step.
6. In all cases of OSS, the student will lose all privileges during the time he/she is suspended. Loss of privileges means that during the time stated the student cannot participate or attend assemblies or any school function designated as an extracurricular activity, including athletic events, dances, plays, extra-curricular program, field trips, school-sponsored activities, etc. This would include the entire 24 hour period of the suspension.
7. Loss of school bus riding privileges for five days may be added to any step if the misbehavior occurred on a school bus or at the bus stop.
8. In all disciplinary matters, a student will be accorded due process under the district policy governing student rights.
9. Self-defense is the use of appropriate, reasonable force to defend or remove oneself or another person against the assault of an aggressor when there is no reasonable avenue of escape or means of avoidance.
10. The administrator may issue a warning with or without probation when deemed appropriate.

11. Counseling may be added to any step.
12. Tobacco use or tobacco possession will be reported to law enforcement officials.
13. The superintendent, or designee, shall have authority to transfer to an alternative education program any student who has been arrested, arraigned for or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a serious crime, as defined in this section, which occurred off of school property or away from school related functions. A serious crime, for the purposes of this section, is an illegal act which indicates the capacity and willingness of the student to injure students and employees with bodily harm, or to threaten to cause bodily harm, or to place students and employees in danger of bodily harm. The superintendent, or designee, will evaluate the circumstances of the serious crime to determine whether (1) the acts of the student indicates a present and possible danger to the health, safety, and welfare of one or more students or employees, and (2) whether the more restrictive, security oriented environment of alternative education program would serve the educational interests of the student while preserving the safety of students and employees. The Board shall review the student's placement in any alternative program at the next following regular meeting. Serious crimes shall include, without limitation, and as examples only: a) Assault with a deadly weapon

b) Aggravated assault
c) Rape
d) Sexual battery, stalking, or other sexual crime
e) Armed or strong-armed robbery (or attempted)
f) Sale or distribution of a controlled substance

Grading Scale

Range	Letter Grade	Points
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
65-66	D	1
Below 65	F	0

Grading Report Dates

Progress Reports	Report Cards
September 1, 2026	October 19, 2026
November 17, 2026	January 7, 2026
February 9, 2026	March 25, 2027
April 20, 2026	May 21, 2027

Cafeteria Guidelines

The cafeteria at Pierce Street Elementary will provide two nutritious meals every day- breakfast and lunch. At the lunch meal, students are given a choice of the regular menu meal or an alternate meal. Parents and other visitors are welcome to join the students; however, we ask that you do not bring takeout food to the cafeteria. We will not search your brown bags or lunch boxes, but we ask that you follow our request. If you would like to have lunch prepared by our cafeteria staff, please call our cafeteria at 662-841-8942 in advance.

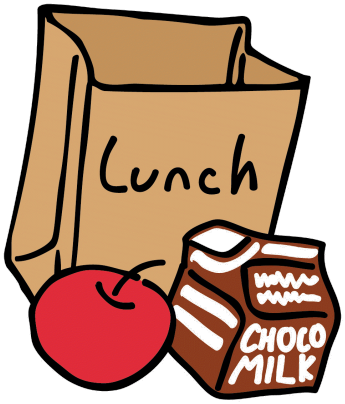
Lunch at Pierce Street may be purchased for the week. However, any day a student brings money for lunch/milk, etc. they should turn it into the cafeteria as soon as they arrive at school. Students who bring their lunch may purchase milk or bring their own beverages. Glass bottles are not permitted. Canned drinks are allowed. Sodas are discouraged as a part of a healthy lunch. You may choose to send 100% pure fruit juice or bottled water.

Parents may apply for free or reduced lunches. If you have not received an application, please contact your child's homeroom teacher or call the office. You may also find an application by visiting www.SchoolLunchApp.com

Staff Lunch Price: $4.25 per lunch meal

Student Lunch Price:
PreK - $2.75
K through 12th - $3.00
Reduced - .40 cents

On-line payments for meals can be made through myschoolbucks.com. At no charge, Parents may create an account in order to have emails sent to their home or phone to notify of low meal balances. Parents may check their child's meal account balance at any time at no charge. A very small fee is charged when parents prepay money into their child's meal account. This online service includes breakfast and lunch meals.



Enrollment & Withdrawal Procedures

Enrollment Procedures:

http://tupelo.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/5911/Default.aspx?docId=82624

Withdrawal Procedures:

- A withdrawal form needs to be completed by Pierce Street in order to enroll your child in another school.
- Your child must be cleared by the media center having turned in all textbooks, and library books belonging to the school.

Pierce Street Information

Literacy Statement

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

Chorus:

Pierce Street will offer a volunteer chorus. The chorus will meet during or before school once per week. Chorus is for the student who desires a more advanced musical experience than is offered in the regular class.

Performances:

Each grade level will participate in a performance at some time throughout the school year. On the day of the event, a performance will be held that morning at 9:00 a.m. for the school, with an encore performance at 1:30 p.m.

D.A.R.E. - Drug Abuse Resistance Education:

D.A.R.E., an acronym that stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is a 17-week course for fifth grade students taught by a uniformed police officer. The nationally recognized program is a joint effort by the Tupelo Public School District and the Tupelo Police

Lost & Found:

There is a designated area on the stage at Pierce Street for lost and found items. Students are encouraged to turn in items, as well as look for their lost items in this area. Any valuable item turned in will be kept in the office for safe keeping. Periodically, when the items are not claimed, we will donate these items to a charitable organization.

Visitors:

The principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the campus and will schedule through his/her designee visits from parents, community members, and other educational professionals. The following policy applies to all visitors entering a school other than for attendance at a scheduled activity open to the general public: In order to assure that no unauthorized persons enter the school with wrongful intent, all visitors will report to the school office when entering to receive authorization and identification passes to visit elsewhere in the building.

> Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session must arrange such visits in advance with the principal so that classroom disruption will be minimal. Principals are authorized to refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school and to request any unauthorized person or persons engaging in unacceptable conduct to immediately leave school property. Principals are further authorized to request assistance of law enforcement officers in cases of emergency and to seek prosecution to the full extent of the law when persons violate the intent of this policy.

Student Deliveries:

Students may not receive deliveries (flowers, balloons, candy, etc.) to the school for any occasion.

PERSONAL ITEMS AT SCHOOL:
Students are asked to refrain from bringing personal items to school, especially those considered valuable as this helps to minimize distractions in the classroom as well as prevent loss or damage to personal items.

MEDIA CENTER:
Pierce Street's Media Center operates on an open or flexible schedule in order to provide more time for independent study and to ensure that media skills are successfully integrated into the curriculum. Modern technology such as computerized card catalog, IPads, Nooks, and a computer lab with a Promethean board, enhances the media services offered to our Pierce Street students.

PLACEMENT REQUESTS:
Requests for student placement in classrooms are not honored at Pierce Street. We are, however, open to any information you wish to provide to us regarding your child (behavioral issues, specific learning needs, personality characteristics, etc.) so that we may make the best decision in placing your child with their assigned teacher.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLBEING:
We are concerned about the health of all of our children. Students who display signs of illness should not be sent to school. Pierce Street will have access to the services of a school nurse. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school he/she will be cared for temporarily. The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and expected to pick up the child within the hour.

***IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE KEPT CURRENT.**

MEDICATIONS:
Parents must request in writing that medication prescribed for their child be provided by school officials and must read and sign a copy of this policy, which will be kept on file by the principal. Medicines must be brought to the principal or designee by the parents in the original container with the pharmacy information label attached listing the name of the prescribing physician, name of the medicine, dosage and instructions for administration.

1. The instructions should be specific, such as "before meals" or "with food," etc.
2. Medicines will only be administered in accordance with the specific instructions on the original container pharmacy label.
3. No more than a forty-five (45) school day supply of medication will be stored at the school. The principal or designee should return to the parent, or destroy with permission of the parent, any unused, discontinued or obsolete medication.
4. Medicine which is not repossessed by the parent within seven (7) days of notification by school authorities will be destroyed by the principal or designee in the presence of a witness.

If the student's physician has prescribed an over the counter medication for the student, it must be in an unopened, original container, with a pharmacy label showing the student's name, directions for administration and the recommended dosage. If the prescribing physician has given the parent a sample medication, the container must be labeled as stated herein.

Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication
Students may self-administer asthma and anaphylaxis medication only in accordance with state law and Board policy. Each student with asthma or anaphylaxis is required to have an Asthma Action Plan (AAP) or Allergic Reaction Care Plan (ARCP), signed by his/her healthcare provider and updated annually, on file at the student's school. Neither the District nor its employees shall, by law, be liable for any injury sustained by the student who has self-administered asthma or anaphylaxis medication.

Access to all stored medication will be limited to the principal or designee who will witness the administration of the medication.
The following procedures will be followed in case of a medical emergency as may be deemed appropriate:
* Call 911
* Notify the school nurse! * Notify parent/guardian
* Notify private physician

In The Event of Inclement Weather:

In the event of inclement weather and school closings, parents will receive an ALERT NOW phone call (automated phone message) with details regarding the closing. The district webpage, www.tupeloschools.com as well as local television and radio stations are reliable resources as well.

Title 1: Parents Right to Know:

Upon parent request, the qualifications of teachers and assistants employed in schools or programs funded by Title 1 will be provided. Title I School wide programs are available at all K-5 schools within the Tupelo Public School District. For further information, please contact the Director of Federal Programs at (662-841-8850) or your child's principal.

Tupelo Public Schools strives to ensure that students who meet the criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Act of 2002 are placed upon arrival. To ensure their placement, slots are left open should a student arrive at any time during the school year.

Communication Between School & Home

Clear communication is essential in an effective school-home relationship. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school personnel. A newsletter will be sent out each week informing parents of the happenings in the child's classroom.

Concerns:

Direct your communication to one person in the position closest to the situation. If there is an issue involving the teacher, contact the teacher first. If there is a concern in which you feel the counselor could be of assistance, please call the office for the counselor. Contact the principal in general situations involving more than one individual or classroom or if satisfaction is not gained after talking with the teacher.

Parent Conferences:

Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate as much as possible with their child's teacher. A parent conference can be scheduled by contacting the classroom teacher or the school guidance counselor. The most appropriate times to schedule a parent-teacher conference are before school, after school, and/or during a teacher's planning period. Parents who wish to arrange a conference should call the school counselor during the day at 841-8940.

Hours of Operation:

- The hours of operation of Pierce Street Elementary School are 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students **are allowed to enter the building at 7:30am** and dismissal begins at 2:50 p.m. and ends at approximately 3:15 p.m.
- The Tupelo Public School District is not responsible for your child before or after these hours. If you are not able to pick up your child upon dismissal from school, bus transportation should be considered. Bus transportation is available to every student in the district who lives outside of the walking zone of the specific school.

- The Mississippi Department of Human Resources has requested that we report any parent or guardian who has repeatedly failed to pick up his/her child upon dismissal, as this conduct constitutes child neglect. In the past, children left at school after all faculty and staff members have left campus have been transported to Juvenile Hall by local law enforcement officials. Other available arrangements may be made, at the discretion of the District.
- Please plan to have your child picked up at the time of dismissal. If you need to arrange bus transportation, please call the department of transportation at 662-841-8908.
- **All transportation changes must be in writing.**

SUPPORT SERVICES:

COUNSELING:

The guidance program at Pierce Street Elementary is committed to the individual growth and development of each student and to working with both students and parents to ensure the greatest benefit from school experiences. We have a school counselor and an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) therapist. Teachers, administration, parents, or students themselves may refer a student in need to the counselor or the SEL therapist at any time.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Special Education services are available at Pierce Street Elementary for students with special learning needs. Testing and evaluation are part of the resources provided by specialists trained in the areas of speech and language, learning disabilities, challenge and teaching the physically handicapped.

CHALLENGE PROGRAM:

The Challenge Program is provided for intellectually gifted children in grades two through eight in the Tupelo Public School District. Students are screened in first grade through teacher observations, group intelligence tests, and achievement tests. In some circumstances, students are screened in higher grades. Students who are referred for testing take an individual intelligence test. The Mississippi Department of Education regulations require that all children score at or above the 90th percentile to be eligible for the Challenge Program. Students who are in the program meet for five hours each week with the Challenge teacher.

P.T.O. - Parent-Teacher Organization:

Active parental involvement in every aspect of school life is encouraged at Pierce Street. The Pierce Street PTO is a very important support group that seeks to include all parents. If you would like to become more involved with the Pierce Street PTO, please call us at 662-841-8940.

Title I:

Title I is the largest federal aid program for elementary, middle, and high schools. Through Title I, the federal government gives money to school districts around the country based on the number of at-risk students in each district. The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Title I schools have a choice as to how they set up their Title I program as long as the program helps its students meet state academic standards. Title I funds at Pierce Street are used to:

1. Hire additional instructional staff,
2. Purchase equipment and learning materials, and
3. Support parent involvement activities.

Parents-Right-To-Know

The qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals employed in schools funded by Title I will be provided upon parent request. Title I School wide Programs are available at the Early Childhood Education Center and the eight K-5 elementary schools. For further information, please contact the principal of the school where your child attends or the Director of Federal Programs. In addition, a parent may request information on the level of achievement of the parent's child on each state academic assessment, and/or a timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act:

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. This directory information includes the student name, address, telephone number, picture, height and weight of athletes, extracurricular activities, awards, honor rolls, electronic listings, Internet web pages, and other information which is typically found in school yearbooks, programs, bulletins, and student newspapers. In addition, the District discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. Parents and eligible students shall have from July 15 until September 1 to review this notice and request in writing to the school principal that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Asbestos Notification:

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations established by the EPA, all school districts are required to provide an annual notification to all parents, teachers, and employees regarding our asbestos management program. This annual notification informs all persons of their option to review the Asbestos Management Plan for our school district.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an accredited asbestos inspector. Any changes to these materials are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

Additionally, an accredited Asbestos Management Planner conducts a comprehensive inspection of all ACM's every 3 years. This 3-year re-inspection has been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education.
A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all Asbestos Management Plans for the district are maintained in the Superintendent's office located at 72 South Green Street. If you are interested in reviewing this information, please contact the Central Office at 662-841-8853 to schedule an appointment.

TPSD BOARD POLICIES

Note: To access TPSD Board Policies listed below, use the following steps:

Go to: http://www.tupeloschools.com
Click About Our District Click
Board of Trustees
Click Board Policies
To view policy, type Policy Code next to the Descriptor.

Elementary Student Guidebook
Topical Reference to Board Policies

A. Student Services and Programs

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Parental Involvement Policies under Title I	LAA Title I Parental Involvement
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment - Title IX
Birth certificate requirements for enrollment	JBC School Admission
Free and reduced meal program	EEA Free/Reduced Lunch
Any changes in the eligibility criteria for free and reduced lunch	EEA Free/Reduced Lunch
School wellness policy (Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010)	JG School Wellness Policy
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	JQN Education for Homeless Children and Youth
Abstinence education	ICG Sex-Related Education
Instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse	ICG Sex-Related Education

Provision of free appropriate public education to students with disabilities	IDDF Special Education Programs
Enrollment Requirements	JBC School Admission
Proof of Residency for enrollment	JBC School Admission
District ownership of student lockers; right to search	JCDA School Searches
Administration of medications to students	JGCDC Administering Medications to Students JGCDA Asthma Medications
Dismissal procedures	JGFC Dismissals
Responsible and acceptable use of TPSD computers and network and Internet safety program	IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use Computer Policy
Transportation policies	EDA Student Transportation
Student residency and tuition	JBCC Student Tuition for Out-of-District Students
Communicable and infectious disease and management of students with the disease	JGCC Communicable Diseases
Challenge Program	IDE Gifted Education Program
Early Literacy Program	ICHI Literacy Based Promotion
Weighted grades	IHA Grading System
Parental objections to sex education, family life instruction and sexually transmitted diseases	ICG Sex-Related Education
English as a Second Language education availability	IK Limited English Proficiency Instruction

Eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities	IDFA Intramural / Interscholastic Athletics
Parental right to review instructional materials	IJJ Instructional Resources
High school graduation requirements (high school only)	IHF Graduation Requirements
Right of students with IEP to participate in graduation ceremony (high school only)	IHF Graduation Requirements
Physical education requirement, including waiver of required classes	IHF Graduation Requirements
Dual Enrollment	IDAG Dual Enrollment

B.Student Rights and Responsibilities

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Bullying	JDDA Bullying
Controlled substances	JCDAC Drugs and Alcohol (Possession or Reasonable Suspicion)
Firearms and other weapons	JCDAE Possession of Weapons on School Property
Gangs and gang-related activity	JCBB Gang Activity
Sexting and other prohibited uses of technology	IJB CIPA Policy - Acceptable Use IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use Computer Policy JB Student Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment - Title IX
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment - Title IX
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	JRAB Compliance with FERPA

Directory information disclosure	JRAB Compliance with FERPA

and FERPA right to opt out	
FERPA right to review education records	JR Student Records
Title I: Parent Right to Know	LAA Title I Parental Involvement
Non-discrimination – Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA	BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy
Notice of non-discrimination coordinator(s) and procedures for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment	BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy
Sex equity policy and grievance procedures	JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX
School bus safety procedures	JCDAD Bus Conduct
Dress code	JCDB Dress Code for Students
Outstanding fees and fines	JS Fee Policy
School discipline code	JCB Code of Conduct JD Student Discipline Code
Parking	JGFF Automobile Use
Drug testing	JCDAB Student Drug Testing Program
Suspension and expulsion procedures, with due process requirements	JDD Suspension JDE Expulsion JCAA Due Process
Notice of disability accommodation	IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act - Nondiscrimination

C.General Information

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Notification	EM Hazardous Materials
Attendance, absenteeism, truancy	JBD Attendance, Tardiness and Excuses JBAC Truancy
Parent Council	LEB Relations with Parent Organizations
TPSD Goals	BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives Mission Statement
TPSD Mission	BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives Mission Statement
School visitation procedures	KM Visitors to the Schools
Waiver of school fees	JS Fee Policy
Abstinence education	ICG Sex-Related Education
Field trips	IFCB Field Trips and Excursions
Parking decals	JGFF Automobile Use
Recognition for Accomplishments	AGA Recognition for Accomplishments
Emergency School Closing Procedures	EBBD Emergency Closings

D.Special Circumstances Notifications

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
IDEA procedural safeguards	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA request for evaluation	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA request for due process	IDDF Special Education Programs
IDEA change of placement	IDDF Special Education Programs
Notification of eligibility for supplemental education services	IDDF Special Education Programs IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act – Nondiscrimination (and Exhibit)

STUDENT & PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). While it contains some information current at the time of printing, TPSD is constantly reviewing and updating policies, so the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the TPSD.

Our signatures verify that we have received a copy of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook and understand that the handbook is a work in progress document and that changes may be made throughout the school year in response to unanticipated events.

A copy of the current policies of the Tupelo Public School District is available at www.tupeloschools.com as well as in the District Office.

I certify that at the time of my child's enrollment, I was given a copy of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook.

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Parent Printed Name Student Printed Name

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Parent Signature Student Signature

After reviewing this publication, please sign and return this document to your child's school.