

SECTION 5: STUDENT BEHAVIOR

STUDENT DISCIPLINE - Policy 4.17

- A. The Jonesboro School Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the district's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:
1. at any time on the school grounds;
 2. off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event;
 3. going to and from school or a school activity.
- B. The district's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to a felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, an assault or battery, drug law violations, or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. Any disciplinary action pursued by the district shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.
- C. The district's personnel policy committee shall review annually the student discipline policies, including State and District student discipline data and may recommend changes in the policies to the Jonesboro School Board of Education. The board shall approve any changes to student discipline policies.
- D. The district's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.
- E. The District shall develop and provide programs, measures, or alternative means and methods for continued student engagement and educational access during periods of suspension or expulsion.
- F. The superintendent is authorized to modify the penalties set forth in the District's student discipline policies on a case by case basis.
- G. It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge, report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the superintendent, that person shall also inform the superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The superintendent or designee shall inform the Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.
- H. The **minimum penalty** for student misconduct will be a **verbal warning** and the **maximum penalty** will be **expulsion** by the board or legal action dependent upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct.

*Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-113, A.C.A. § 6-18-502, A.C.A. § 6-18-514, A.C.A. § 6-18-2401, DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
HISTORY BOE: ADOPTED MARCH 11, 2008 REVISED JUNE 12, 2012; JUNE 25, 2019; JULY 14, 2020; JUNE 8, 2021; APRIL 12, 2022; JUNE 10, 2025*

For the complete policy regarding Student Discipline, Policy 4.17, please refer to the JPS District Policy on the JPS website.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT - Policy 4.18

- A. Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. JPS personnel recognize that each student discipline case must be handled on its own merits. While it is important that parents be notified about the behavior of student's, it is also recognized that not every case of discipline needs to be reported to

parents at the time of the offense. The circumstances of each may dictate a different approach. On offenses that result in either an in-school or out of school suspension, an effort will be made to notify parents immediately. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following.

1. **Insubordination** - Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
2. **Disorderly Conduct** - Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
3. **Physical Abuse, Threat or Assault on a Student** - Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
4. **Verbal Abuse of a School Employee** – Harassing, threatening or inappropriate behavior directed toward any school employee;
Minimum - Suspension
Maximum - Expulsion
5. **Physical Abuse, Threat or Assault on a School Employee** - Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any school employee;
Minimum - Suspension
Maximum - Expulsion
6. **Weapons** - Possession of any weapon or object that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
Recommended Expulsion – See Policy 4.22
7. **Tobacco** - Possession or use of tobacco or any tobacco related paraphernalia in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
8. **Vandalism/Theft** - Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property or another individual's personal property;
Minimum - Conference/Parent Notification/Restitution
Maximum – Expulsion/Restitution
9. **Electronic Communication Devices** - Misuse of any electronic devices on the school campus during normal school hours;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum – Suspension, Restitution
10. **Drug/Alcohol** - Possession, attempting to possess, selling, attempting to sell, buying, attempting to buy, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, any ingestible matter, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
Minimum – Suspension
Maximum – Expulsion
11. **Misuse of Medication/Medical Supplies** -Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
Minimum – Suspension
Maximum – Expulsion
12. **Public Display of Affection** - Inappropriate public displays of affection;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
13. **Cheating** - Cheating, copying, forging, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
14. **Gambling** – Participation in any game of chance;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
15. **Dress Code** - Inappropriate student dress;

- Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification*
Maximum - Suspension
16. **Profanity** - Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
 17. **Truancy** – Absence from school or a class without parent and/or school authorities prior knowledge or consent;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
 *A court referral will be submitted after 6 truanies.
Maximum – In-School Suspension
 18. **Tardiness** - Excessive tardiness;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum –In-School Suspension
 *NOTE: Secondary Tardy guidelines can be obtained from the building administration.
 19. **Discrimination** - Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or disability;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
 20. **Hazing** - Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Suspension
 21. **Gangs or Gang-Related Activities**- Activities including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, “throwing signs” or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
 22. **Sexual Activity** - Sexual harassment or other sexual activity;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
 23. **Harassment or Bullying** – Harassing, verbally assaulting or inappropriately threatening another student;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
 24. **Disrupting the Learning Environment** – Any behavior that disrupts or threatens the learning environment including bomb threats, false alarms, inciting a riot, etc.
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
 25. **Loitering** – Inappropriate entry or assembly on a school campus;
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum - Expulsion
 26. **Behavior that is subversive to good order and discipline even though such behavior is not explicitly listed in the above rules.**
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum – Expulsion
 27. **Possess, view, distribute or electrically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form**
Minimum - Conference/Warning/Parent Notification
Maximum – Expulsion
 28. **Defacing ID, Mutilation, destroying, damaging, misusing, reproducing, altering or defacing any student identification card**
Minimum – Warning
Maximum – Suspension
 29. **Failure to Identify, refusing to give one’s name or using a false name when asked by a school employee to identify one’s self. This includes failure to wear or properly display Student ID.**
Minimum – Warning
Maximum – Suspension
 30. **Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device.**
Minimum – Warning
Maximum – Suspension
 31. **Crime of Video Voyeurism**

The unlawful use of a camera, video tape, photo-optical, photoelectric, or any image-recording device used for the purpose of secretly observing, viewing, photographing, filming, or videotaping on any JPS property or at any school function without the consent of any person(s) who has reasonable expectations of privacy is prohibited.

A person shall be guilty of this offense if they voluntarily participate in placing (uploading, downloading, copying, etc.) the photographic image(s) obtained to any public viewing area, i.e. internet, cell phone, camera, etc. Violators could be subject to arrest under Arkansas State Statute 5-16-101.

Minimum- verbal warning

Maximum- expulsion by the board or legal action dependent upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct.

- B. The board directs each school in the district to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.
- C. The Jonesboro School District reserves the right to pursue disciplinary, legal action or contact juvenile authorities for behaviors that justify such actions.
- D. In extreme circumstances where law enforcement must be contacted immediately, every effort will be made to contact parents before students are removed from the campus by authorities.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-502, A.C.A. § 6-18-707, A.C.A. § 6-15-1005, A.C.A. § 6-21-609, A.C.A. § 6-18-506, A.C.A. § 6-18-222, A.C.A. § 6-5-201, A.C.A. § 6-18-514, A.C.A. § 27-51-1602, A.C.A. § 27-51-1603, A.C.A. § 27-51-1609, DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
HISTORY BOE: ADOPTED MARCH 11, 2008 REVISED JUNE 11, 2009; JUNE 8, 2010; JUNE 12, 2012; MAY 11, 2015; JULY 10, 2018; JUNE 25, 2019; JULY 14, 2020; JUNE 10, 2025

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Policy 4.47

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Misuse of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly, classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden. To protect the security of statewide assessments, no electronic device as defined in this policy shall be accessible by a student at any time during assessment administration unless specifically permitted by a student's individualized education program (IEP) or individual health plan; this means that when a student is taking an ATLAS assessment, the student shall not have his/her electronic device in his/her possession. Any student violating this provision shall be subject to this policy's disciplinary provisions. The prohibition in this policy does not extend to the electronic device the District provides the student for the student's use during assessment administration to the extent the student is using the District-provided device to complete the assessment.

Students shall not utilize personal electronic devices during the instructional day.

As used in this policy, "electronic devices" means anything that can be used to transmit, capture images, sound or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the device to record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms, make audio recordings, or use the device to conduct any acts detrimental to a positive school culture;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Use of electronic devices is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Before, during and after normal school hours, possession of electronic devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.