www.pcsdms.us

STUDENT HANDBOOK

PERRY COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027

BOARD APPROVED
JULY 6, 2026
PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRIT

Perry County School District

Mission Statement

To empower students with knowledge, skills, and values to become productive citizens and lifelong learners through quality education, financial stability, and strong community engagement.

Vision Statement

To foster a nurturing and academically stimulating environment where every student can excel and every school is a beacon of excellence in education.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize students, teachers, and parents/guardians with the regulations and policies of the Perry County Schools. This publication is designed to outline the rights and responsibilities of our students. It is not intended to be a comprehensive set of rules, but it does set forth the philosophy that the school environment is critical to effective teaching and learning.

This handbook, therefore, is designed to assist us in creating a proper atmosphere for learning. The rules set forth in this handbook are broad principles that support the concept of student rights and responsibilities.

Students and Parents/Guardians should become familiar with the handbook as it contains the important school and district policies. This handbook has been prepared by a handbook committee at Perry County Schools and approved by the Perry County School Board.

The Perry County Board of Education and Administration of Perry County Schools reserve the right to amend any part of this handbook at any interval in the school year should a need arise.

WE BELIEVE

- Everyone can learn.
- Each individual is accountable and responsible for the quality of education in his/her community.
- Everyone can be successful.
- Parental/Guardian involvement is essential.
- High expectations promote high achievement.
- Quality education is essential.
- Differences are strengths, not weaknesses.
- Education is a cooperative effort between the school and community.
- Families play a major role in education.
- All people should have an opportunity to learn.
- The total well-being of the individual must be a part of the educational process.
- Vocational-Technical education is an important, essential component of our school system's total educational process.

BOUNDARIES

We will not initiate any new programs of service that:

- Are not consistent with our beliefs
- Do not contribute to our mission
- Are not accompanied by adequate staff development

Our behavior will be consistent with our beliefs and mission. We will not exclude anyone from participating in the accomplishment of our mission.

ANNUAL REPORT TO ALL PARENTS

The Federal Environment Protection Agency (EPA) required that on an annual basis each school district notify every parent and employee of the status of any asbestos in the school. This report will serve as the annual notification by the Perry County School District.

The Perry County Schools completed the required re-inspection report. There was no major change in the report. A copy of this report is on file in the school administration office and is available to the public for review.

Perry County School District Student Handbook

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District Directory Information

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Titus M. Hines
P.O. Box 137
New Augusta, MS 39462
Office: 601-964-3211
Fax: 601-964-8204

PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Jason Gerald ..... Board Chairman
Mr. Fredrick Jackson ..... Vice Chairman
Mrs. Deborah Boyd ..... Board Secretary
Mrs. Sylina Bolton ..... Member
Mrs. Tammie McLain ..... Member

Central Office

Titus M. Hines, Ed.D	Superintendent	601-964-3211
Allison Temple, Ed. D	Federal Programs Director	601-964-3211
	Special Services Director	
Fina Gayden Hence, Ed.D	Director of Assessment	601-964-3211
	Director of Accountability	
	Director of Curriculum	
	Director of Technology	
	Licensure/Certification	
Holly Easterling	Case Manager	601-964-3211
Krystal Lott	Child Nutrition Director	601-964-3699
Kimberly Parker	Business Manager	601-964-3211
Jeannie Bolton	Accounts Payable Clerk	601-964-3211
	16th Section Land Manager	
Julie Prine	MSIS/Purchasing/Fixed Assets	601-964-3211
Brandon Gordon	Network Administrator	601-964-3211
Wendy Carter	Information Technician	601-964-3211
Doug Dunnam	Maintenance Supervisor	
Michael Odom	Transportation Supervisor	
	School Resource Officer	

DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PHONE
Perry Central Middle Turpin Smith, Ed.D Principal	P.O. Box 197 New Augusta, MS 39462	964-3226 964-3229 (fax)
South Perry Elementary Marissa Lee, Principal	1300 Beaumont/Brooklyn Road Beaumont, MS 39423	784-3393 794-9374 (fax)
Runnelstown Elementary Sandra Stuart, Principal	9214 Hwy 42 Petal, MS 39465	544-2811 543-0933 (fax)
Perry Central High School Nastasha McDonald, Principal Benjamin Austin, Assistant Principal	P.O. Box 139 New Augusta, MS 39462	964-3235 964-8273 (fax)
Perry County Vo-Tech Jared Lott, Director	P.O. Box 138 New Augusta, MS 39462	964-8282 964-8562 (fax)
Perry County Alt. School Benjamin Austin, Director	P.O. Box 139 New Augusta, MS 39462	964-3235 964-7273 (fax)

School	Student Arrival	School Begins	Student Dismissal	Early Dismissal
Runnelstown Elementary	7:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
South Perry Elementary	7:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
Perry Central Middle School	7:50 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	3:20 p.m.	12:40 p.m.
Perry Central High School	7:50 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	3:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.

2026-2027 Academic School Calendar

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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					

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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			

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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

November 2026

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

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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		

Perry County School District

100-B Eighth Ave.
New Augusta, MS 39462
601-964-3211 (Fax) 601-964-8204

Jul 3	4th of July
Jul 29-31	Professional Development Days
Aug 3	First Day of School for Students
Sep 7	Labor Day
Oct 5-9	Fall Break - No School
Oct 2	End of 1st Term
Oct 5	Professional Development Day
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 18	End of 2nd Term
Dec 21-Jan 6	Christmas Holiday
Jan 6	Professional Development Day
Jan 7	Students Return
Jan 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
Feb 15	Presidents' Day - No School
Mar 12	End of 3rd Term
Mar 15-19	Spring Break
Mar 12	Professional Development Day
Mar 26-29	Easter Holiday
May 25	Graduation
May 27	Students Last Day/End of 4th Term
May 28	Teachers Last Day
May 31	Memorial Day - No School

TEST DATES
ACT:
Sept 19; Oct 17; Dec 12; Feb 27; Apr 10; Jun 12

Other Important Events	
Jul 7,8,9	New Student Registration
Oct 23	Homecoming
Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Apr 29	Employee Awards Banquet
May 4	High School Underclassmen Awards
May 6	Athletic Banquet
May 10	Senior Awards
May 13	Vo-Tech Awards
May 20	RES Pre-K, 1st - 4th
May 21	SPES Awards
May 21	RES K&5 Promotion
May 24	8th Grade Attainment

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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						

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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					

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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			

Grading Terms End		Progress Reports	Exams Begin	Report Cards	Student Days	Teacher Days
Term 1	2-Oct	Sept 3	Sept 30	Oct 15	44	47
Term 2	18-Dec	Nov 13	Dec 16	Jan 11	45	46
Term 3	12-Mar	Feb 4	Mar 10	Mar 25	44	46
Term 4	27-May	Apr 20	May 25	Jun 3	47	48

BOARD APPROVED
MAY 07, 2026
PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Closed
Early Release
PD Professional Development (no school for students)
Report Cards
Progress Reports
First & Last Day of School

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY CONSENT FORM FOR USERS

The Perry County School District (the "District") is pleased to offer to its students, faculty and staff, access to the Internet and the District's wide area network in accordance with the terms and conditions of this policy.

PCSD's Network and Internet access are provided through a complex association of government agencies and regional networks. Access to the Internet and to the Network provides users with a vast array of educational resources. The District's goal in providing service is to promote educational excellence and student achievement in our school through increased access to resources, information, and global communication.

Reliable operation of the Network is depended upon the proper conduct of its users. To this end, Congress passed two laws to assist districts in providing a safe and secure environment for its users –the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and The Children's On-Line Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). In compliance with CIPA and COPPA, the Perry County School District will implement technology protection measures to restrict, filter or block access to inappropriate material, particularly visual, depictions of obscene material, child pornography, and materials considered harmful to minors. Use of filtering will also help the District (1) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of telecommunications; (2) monitor online activities; (3) deter unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful online activities; (4) prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use of dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (5) restrict access to harmful material by minors.

Users must practice ethical conduct and comply with policies and regulations while using the Network. The regulations adopted prohibit users from accessing harmful matter on the Internet that may be obscene or pornographic and address consequences for misuses of the system. Any user violating the policies and regulations will be subject to disciplinary action and/or loss of privileges. Law enforcement shall be notified when appropriate.

Basic guidelines are provided in School Board Policy so that users are aware of the responsibilities they are about to assume. If a user violates any of these provisions, his/her use will be terminated and future access may be denied. Disciplinary action may also result. Disciplinary action for users shall be in accordance with existing policies and may include suspension, expulsion, and/or termination of employment. If possible criminal activity is discovered, the proper authorities will be notified, and an investigation may ensue.

AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by students, faculty, and staff at Perry County School District. This policy ensures that AI is utilized in a manner that supports learning, maintains academic integrity, and upholds the values of the school community.

Scope: This policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff at Perry County School District who use AI-powered tools, including but not limited to chatbots, generative AI models, automated grading systems, and content creation applications.

Acceptable Use:

1. AI tools may be used to support learning and enhance educational experiences when permitted by teachers or administrators.
2. AI-generated content must be properly cited, and students must disclose when they have used AI tools for academic assignments.
3. Teachers may integrate AI tools into lesson plans to enhance instruction, provided they adhere to school curriculum guidelines.
4. Staff may use AI to improve administrative efficiency but must ensure that human oversight remains central to decision-making.

Prohibited Use:

1. Using AI to complete assignments, essays, or assessments without proper use or permission from instructors is considered academic dishonesty.
2. Plagiarism, including submitting AI-generated work as original, is strictly prohibited.
3. AI tools may not be used to generate harmful, misleading, or inappropriate content.
4. Unauthorized AI tools or software may not be installed or accessed on school devices.
5. Students and staff may not use AI for purposes that violate school policies, privacy regulations, or ethical guidelines.

Privacy and Data Security:

1. Users must not input personally identifiable information (PII) or confidential school data into AI systems.
2. AI tools must comply with data privacy laws, and their usage should align with school cybersecurity protocols.
3. Any AI-generated content that includes personal or sensitive information must be reviewed and approved before dissemination.

Accountability and Enforcement:

1. Violations of this policy will be addressed according to the school's disciplinary procedures.
2. Consequences for misuse may include loss of technology privileges, academic penalties, or further disciplinary action.
3. Faculty and staff are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and educating students on responsible AI usage.

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed annually to adapt to advancements in AI technology and ensure alignment with best practices in education.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact the school administration.

REGULATIONS

Instructional Focus

Use of the Network, equipment, and access to the Internet must be in support of the educational objectives of the District. Use of it is limited to the purpose(s) authorized by the District.

System Resources

1. Perry County School District does not represent or warrant that the functions of the network systems will meet any specific requirements or that it will be error free or uninterrupted; nor shall the District be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including lost data and information) sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operation or inability to use the Network system.
2. Any action by a user that is determined by the District to improperly resist or inhibit other users from accessing and using the Network is strictly prohibited.
3. The District shall not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations incurred by users resulting from the use of the District Network. Any obligation charged to the District shall be assessed to the user making such charge.
4. Users will not attempt to circumvent user authentication or security of any host, network, or account on the Network or the Internet.
5. Users will not use the Network in a manner that encumbers disk space, processors, bandwidth, or other system resources as to interfere with normal use of services on the Network or other systems or networks. ("denial of services" attack)
6. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law or regulation is prohibited. Use of commercial activities is prohibited unless prior written consist from the District has been granted.

CIPA/COPPA COMPLIANCE

1. Individually identifiable information about a child such as the child's full name, home address, email address, telephone number, or other information that may allow individuals to identify or contact a child will not be made available via the District or school web sites.
2. User shall not access, transmit, retransmit, submit, publish, display or print any defamatory, abusive, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, illegal written or visual depictions of obscene material, child pornography and other materials considered harmful or inappropriate.
3. Users shall not access, transmit, or retransmit material that is threatening, disruptive, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs.
4. Users shall not access, transmit, submit, publish, display, or print copyrighted materials (Including plagiarized materials), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that may be inappropriate for minors.
5. Users shall not access, transmit, or retransmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property or devices including, but not limited to, the use of firearms, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices, or other similar materials.
6. Any transmission or reception of material that is libelous, slanderous, gang related, or incites students and/or staff so as to create a clear and present danger of a) the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, b) the violation of law and/or administrative regulations, or c) the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district of any school in the District is prohibited.

Personal Safety

1. The District will not disclose, disseminate, or divulge personal or private information about students or employees such as, but not limited to, last names, social security numbers, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.
2. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password.
3. Access to student information is limited to authorized parties and will only be permitted in support of district educational goals and objectives. Parties granted access will fall under the auspices and regulations of this policy and may be required to complete and sign an Oath of Confidentiality.
4. Users will immediately report to District officials any attempt of others to engage in unauthorized activities, inappropriate communication, or prohibited use of the Internet and District resources.
5. Users agree to immediately notify school district officials of any attempt by others to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal contact.

Copyright Infringement

Each user agrees to use the Network in accordance with all copyright laws. Copyrighted material may not be placed on the Internet/Network without the author's or copyright owner's permission. Users may download copyrighted material for their own use only in accordance with copyright laws.

Monitoring

Files stored on District servers, computers, electronic mail and other resources of the Network are not private and are subject to inspection and/or monitoring by District officials. Network administrators reserve the right to monitor any and all activity on the Network.

Disclaimer

Parents and/or guardians must be aware that direct supervision of student computer use may not always be possible. The District is not responsible for material or information accessed on the Internet by users and shall not be responsible for the impact or effect of the information on the user. The District specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained via the Internet.

Process for Restricting Internet Access

If a parent/guardian does not wish a student to have access to the Internet, the parent/guardian shall send a letter to that effect to the school principal. Likewise, employees who do not wish to have Internet access should submit a letter stating such to their supervisor. Copies of all letters shall be forwarded to the Technology Coordinator.

Sanctions

1. Use of the Network and its resources is a privilege, not a right. Violations of the regulations of this policy may result in the denial, revocation, suspension, and/or termination of the user's privileges and/or disciplinary action.
2. Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges and/or disciplinary actions. Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to access, damage, delete, infect, destroy or alter data files, folders, or directories.

3. PCSD will fully cooperate with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through use of the District Network, the Internet or any of its resources.
4. Internet/Electronic device misuse will result in discipline procedures in accordance with the discipline ladder and is at the discretion of administration. This includes alerts generated by any monitoring program.

Each member of the school community will be provided a copy of this policy. As this policy is a legal and binding document, use of the network and district computer resources constitutes agreement by each user to comply with the terms set forth in this policy.

PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Introduction
It is the policy of Perry County School District to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions
Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material
To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage
To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Perry County School District online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring
It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Perry County School District staff to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the

Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of The Technology Director or designated representatives.

The Perry County School District or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the Perry County School District Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote Perry County School District's commitment to:

I. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Perry County School District Internet Acceptable Use Policy;
II. Student safety with regard to:
    a) safety on the Internet;
    b) appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
    c) Cyber bullying awareness and response.
III. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

Any violations of the Internet Safety Policy will be handled according to student discipline ladder.

Adoption
This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of the Perry County School District at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on May 7, 2012.

EMAIL
Users shall not (a) send mass email mailings of any notice, (b) send a large number of e-mail messages or singularly large email messages of a signal address in order to flood a recipient's mailbox, (c) forge email headers to obscure the true originator of an email message, (d) creative or participate in pyramid schemes or chain letters, and (e) send harassing email letter, either by language, size or frequency.

SCHOOL ISSUED DEVICES
Any computer or device issued to a student remains property of the Perry County School District. It is the responsibility of the student and parent(s) to ensure the device is taken care of. Parent(s)/Guardians may be responsible for any costs incurred in repairing or replacing parts or the whole device should damage occur.

A parent signed permission form must be submitted before students can be issued school devices.

A list of charges will be available for school issued devices in the administrator's office

PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT/STUDENT DEVICE ASSIGNMENT & RESPONSIBILITY FORM

The Perry County School District's Student Device Assignment Program is an agreement made between the Perry County School District and the student and parent/guardian that the Device is assigned to.

The Device is restricted to student use for instructional purposes. Only Perry County School District-assigned accounts will be utilized on the device and student usage, including the internet and local account access, will be subject to web filtering and monitored by district staff at all times as required by law. It is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian to ensure that the use of the device is in compliance with the Perry County School District's Device Use Policy and Acceptable Use Policy.

- I have reviewed and agree to the Perry County School District's Acceptable Use Policy on pages 13-15 of the 2026-2027 Perry County School District's Student Handbook.

- I understand that if my Perry County School District issued device is Lost, Stolen, or needs to be replaced due to irreparable damage, I am responsible for the following fees:

- Replacement of broken screen $25; keyboard (depending on style) up to $55
- Replacement of battery/adapter cord $25
- Full Replacement Cost if device is less than 1 year old.
- 70% of replacement cost if device is from 1 - 2 years old.
- 50% of replacement cost if device is 2 – 3 years old.
- 30% of replacement cost if device is 3 - 5 years old.

Please note: Irreparable damage as a result of irresponsible behavior will be assessed at the Full Replacement Cost. This includes trading the issued device with another student and not turning in the device originally issued.

- I understand that all damage/replacement fees must be paid BEFORE a temporary or replacement device is issued.

- I understand that the Device must be returned at the end of the school year or at the request of school district administration.

By signing below, I understand that I am agreeing to the above statements.

Student

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only:

Device Make/Model: _____ Issued by: _____
Asset Tag #: _____ Date: _____

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA
For Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) 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 a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. 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 in order 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 (34 CFR § 99.31):
    - 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 specific 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. However, 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.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Perry County School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Perry County School District (now referred to as "the district") may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with Perry County School District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the district to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the district to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by July 28, 2026. The district has designated the following information as directory information:

- **Student's name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone listing**
- **School electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**
- **Major field of study**
- **Dates of attendance**
- **Grade level**
- **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
- **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
- **Degrees, honors, and awards received**

FAMILY SAFETY INFORMATION

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

The safety of each child is a primary concern of the Perry County School District. Our school district has spent considerable time and effort planning and practicing safety and security measures appropriate for dealing with major critical incidents. Every school has a school safety plan. Teachers, staff, and students participate in appropriate training covering a variety of potential crises. The school district employs a School Resource Officer and also partners with the Perry County Sherriff's Office. The school district works closely with city and county law enforcement, the Emergency Management Agency, and other public safety departments.

We ask our families for support and assistance with our safety plan. At the beginning of the school year, review the student handbook with your children. Make sure they know the expectations the school has for their academic and social behavior. Talk to your children about the things they like at school, as well as the things that may cause them some concern. Talk to school personnel about these concerns so that they may be addressed. During the year, you may hear your children discussing various drills that may occur on campus. We regularly participate in fire and weather drills, as well as lockdown and evacuation drills. The School Safety Act of 2019 requires that we conduct an active shooter drill within the first 60 days of each semester at all school sites. Due to the requirements of the law, the drill will be longer and more intensive than our previous drills. Please have a conversation with your student(s) about the importance of our drills. Remind them that our goal and priority is their safety.

It is important that you provide the school with up-to-date phone numbers and addresses, as well as vital medical information. In the event a crisis should occur at school, please be aware of the following procedures:

- Tune into the local media sources. These services will notify the community of school closings and possible evacuation sites.
- School closings will be posted on our website www.pcsdms.com. In addition, parents may check Facebook for emergency closings.
- Notification will also be sent via the district call notification system.
- Please do not call the school. We will need to keep communication lines open for emergency responders.
- Please do not come to the school unless instructed to do so by the media. It is important to keep roadways clear for emergency responders.
- If the school is in a lockdown, students will stay on campus in a secure classroom. Teachers and school personnel have received extensive training in lockdown procedures. No one will be allowed to enter during a lockdown.
- If the school must be evacuated, students will be evacuated to an alternative location, which will be released to you through media resources.
- No student will be released until everyone is accounted for and the superintendent's office authorizes the release.
- No student will be released until the authorized parent or legal guardian signs him or her out.

It is important that you trust and work with your school and emergency personnel in the event of a crisis so that these individuals can accurately implement the procedures that they have trained on throughout the year.

DELAYED START

The superintendent of schools may close any school because of an epidemic prevailing in the school district or because of the death, resignation, sickness, or dismissal of a teacher or teachers, or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the school. The superintendent is authorized to close schools and offices or dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety or health of students or staff members.

It is understood that the superintendent will take such action only after consultation with transportation, emergency management, and weather authorities. The superintendent shall notify the school board of the decision to close the schools. Parents, students, and staff members shall be informed how they shall be notified in the event of emergency closings, early dismissals, or delayed start.

When the superintendent declares a delayed start due to inclement weather conditions, typically a one or two hour delay, employees and students are expected to report to school at the delayed start time. For example, if there is a 2 hour delay from the usual start times, then, bus drivers who normally begin their routes at 6:30 am will begin at 8:30 am, staff who normally report at 7:15 am will report at 9:15 am, and school that normally begins at 7:45 am will begin at 9:45 am (students begin reporting at 9:15 am).

Information on closing and delays by the district will be announced on the district website and other internet outlets, selected radio and television stations before 6:00 a.m. No announcement means schools will operate on a normal schedule.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

In cases of a severe weather alert, such as a tornado, hurricane, or snow/ice warning being issued by the National Weather Service, the superintendent of schools or designee shall notify each principal and necessary administrators. Children will be retained in the school buildings until it is deemed safe to dismiss them, unless they are picked up by their parents. Pupils will not be allowed to use the telephone during severe weather alerts except in cases of emergency. Parents and their children should have an arrangement worked out in advance with regard to transportation during extreme weather conditions. However, all such schools so closed shall operate for the required full time after being reopened during the scholastic year, unless the school board of the local school district submits a plan to alter the school term that is approved by the State Board of Education under the authority of Section 37-13-63(2). 37-13-65

DISASTER EMERGENCY

If the school board determines that it is not economically feasible or practicable to operate any school within the district for the full one hundred eighty (180) days required for a scholastic year as contemplated due to an enemy attack, a manmade, technological or natural disaster, or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a disaster or state of emergency or the U.S. President has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the school board may notify the State Department of Education of the disaster or weather emergency and submit a plan for altering the school term. If the State Board of

Education finds the disaster or extreme weather to be the cause of the school not operating for the contemplated school term and that such school was in a school district covered by the Governor's or President's disaster or state of emergency declaration, it may permit that school board to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180) days; however, in no instance of a declared disaster or state of emergency under the provisions of this subsection shall a school board receive payment from the State Department of Education for per pupil expenditure for pupils in average daily attendance in excess of ten (10) days. 37-13-63

GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangements, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute, which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such group, presents a clear and present danger and is prohibited. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts and/or violations of school regulations may occur.

The Perry County School District shall enforce the above rule and attempt to ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

OTHER PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS/SECRET ORGANIZATIONS

No student shall actively participate or wear other indications of membership in an organization which advocates violence or hatred toward any group of students or other individuals, or an organization which either intends to or does disrupt the educational process through its purpose or actions.

State law specifically prohibits the existence of any sorority, fraternity, or secret society as part of any school in Mississippi. The Perry County School District expressly prohibits use of Perry County School District as part of the name of any of these groups, raising funds in the name of Perry County School District, conducting any part of the initiation at Perry County School District (including wearing of unusual dress, signs, and directions or instructions given to initiates by member), and the use of any school facility grounds or buildings for the purpose of meeting or holding any type of program or exhibition.

The above regulations are not inclusive; other conduct in connection with these groups is forbidden at or in the schools. Students who violate the position of the Perry County School District in this matter will be subject to suspension, with a parental conference required before student reinstatement.

STUDENT BULLYING

The Perry County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communications, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of

harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior, including cyberbullying, will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property if such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

Cyberbullying refers to the use of electronic communication—such as social media, text messages, or emails—to harass, intimidate, or threaten others. Any cyberbullying that disrupts the school environment may result in disciplinary action, even if it occurs off-campus. Examples include sending mean or threatening messages online, posting harmful or false information or creating fake profiles to harass or impersonate someone.

The Perry County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by others. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. Retaliation is strictly prohibited, and any form of intimidation, reprisal, or adverse action will result in disciplinary consequences.

The District encourages any student, parent, guardian, school employee, or volunteer who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident using the PCSD Bullying/Harassment Form, available in the school office or on the district website.

The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and/or harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the Perry County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. 37-7-301(e)

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

Students and employees in the Perry County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such

conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

1. Definitions

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

2. Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student, parent, guardian, school employee, or volunteer who feels they have been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that such behavior has occurred, shall report the conduct to a teacher, counselor, school administrator, other school official. The report shall be made promptly, but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred.

Reports should be submitted using the PCSD Bullying/Harassment Form, which is available in the school office and counselor's office. A school official shall complete the form if the reporting party needs assistance. The form shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim and alleged perpetrator, the names of any witnesses, and other relevant information.

The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent, who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent, and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents/guardians of both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator will be notified. The District official will arrange meetings as needed with all parties within five (5) working days of the complaint's receipt. All parties will have the opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. Findings will be documented in writing. Once the investigation is complete, the official shall notify the victim and parents, as appropriate, of the results and any disciplinary action.

If the victim, parent, or guardian is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, a written appeal may be submitted to the superintendent within ten (10) working days of the decision. The superintendent will arrange meetings as needed and provide a written decision within ten (10) working days.

If still dissatisfied, a final appeal may be submitted to the Board within ten (10) working days after receiving the superintendent's decision. The Board shall allow the victim and parent/guardian to appear within twenty (20) working days to present their case. The Board will provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the hearing

HARASSMENT
Harassment is forbidden between student and student, teacher and student, teacher and parent, teacher and teacher or by any individual to another individual. Students are to report any harassment to a teacher or staff member as soon as possible and a preliminary report will be filed.

Harassment is forbidden on school property and during any school-authorized activity. Harassment may include, but is not limited to: name-calling, slurs, pulling on clothing, graffiti, notes or cartoons, unwelcome touching of persons or their property, hand signs or signals, gestures, facial expressions, badgering, bullying, coercion, jokes, rumors, innuendos, demeaning comments, or any verbal or written communication (including texts or other forms of electronic communications) that may make someone feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or hurt physically or emotionally.

POSSESSION OR USE OF TOBACCO
Possession or use of tobacco or paraphernalia in any form including e-cigarettes and/or vapors is prohibited within the local buildings, on the school campus, going to or from school, or in the general vicinity of the school campus. Students possessing or using tobacco in any form, including e-cigarettes and/or vapors at school will be punished according to the discipline ladder. **(No persons under twenty-one (21) years of age shall purchase any tobacco product. No student of any high school, junior high school or elementary school shall possess tobacco on any educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, MS Code 97-32-9).**

GENERAL DISTRICT INFORMATION/POLICIES

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS
Within thirty (30) days of final State Board of Education approval of state accountability results, the Perry County School Board will publish, in a newspaper having a general circulation within the school district, and report to the State Board of Education and the Mississippi Reading Panel the following information relating to the preceding school year:

1. The provisions of this act relating to public school student progression and the school district's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion;
2. By grade, the number and percentage of all students performing at each level of competency on the reading and math portion of the annual state accountability system and the number and percentage of students given an approved alternative standardized reading assessment and the percentage of these students performing at each competency level on said alternative standardized assessment;
3. By grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in kindergarten through grade 5; and
4. Information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause described in this act.

The MDE shall compile annually the required district information, along with state-level summary information, and report the information to the Governor, Senate, House of Representatives, and general public.

DISCIPLINE PLANS: Parental responsibility for conference appearances, fines and damages

1. A copy of the school district's student handbook distributed to each student enrolled in the district and the parents, guardian or custodian of such student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies. The school board shall have its official discipline plan legally audited on an annual basis to ensure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and state and federal constitutional provisions.
2. All discipline plans of school districts shall include, but not be limited to the following:
    a. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
    b. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by an appropriate school official for conference regarding acts of the child specified in a paragraph (a) of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
    c. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools and be required to attend such discipline conference; and
    d. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity as defined in Section 37-11-29 occurring on school grounds.
3. Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars ($20,000.00), plus necessary court cost, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6) years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district.

However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall be in addition to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged. Communication with parents many times is the key to student success and positive rapport with the parent. All parent-teacher conferences will be held before or after school, or during planning periods. Teachers will not be called out of their rooms to talk with a parent. A mutually satisfactory time will be arranged for the conference. The principal will sit in on the conference if the teacher or parent requests. The counselor will assist in arranging conferences. ***(District's standard agenda for conferences is to be utilized.)

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child who shall fail to attend a conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be jailed and/or fined.

CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Perry County Schools will be responsible for issuing report cards, progress reports, and other necessary reports to either parent unless a court order states otherwise. ONLY THE SIGNATURES OF PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS MAY GRANT PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND SIGN LEGAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS INDVIDUAL SUCCESS PLANS (ISP) AND GRANTING PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE CUSTODIAL PARENT.

VISITORS

Parents are encouraged to visit the school. Visiting your child's school is one way of showing your child that you are interested in his/her success in school. It is very important that we know the people who are in the building, therefore: **EVERY VISITOR MUST CHECK IN AT THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE UPON ENTERING THE SCHOOL CAMPUS**. Visitors must be approved by administration and must surrender **vehicle keys or driver's license** to the office personnel before being given a **visitor badge** to wear while on campus. Anyone who fails to comply with this policy is subject to being reported to the local law enforcement authorities. This is very important in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are supplied by the school at no cost to the student on a loan basis. Since these books remain the property of the school district, defacement or abuse of books will result in the assessment of a damage fee. The amount charged will be determined according to the damage.

TRESPASSING

Students who are found on the school grounds at unauthorized times (including but not limited to early release) will be apprehended by either school officials or law enforcement personnel and may be subject to arrest. In all instances of such trespassing that involves vandalism, restitution will be the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students who are assigned to out-of-school suspension, recommended for expulsion, or expelled but are on campus unaccompanied by a parent/guardian will be considered to be trespassing.

COMPLIANCE POLICIES

The Perry County School District is in compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1962, including regulations in vocational education, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

District policy assures that no one shall, on the grounds of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the school. Copies of the Title IX policy of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Family Educational Act of 1974 are available in the principal's office in each building upon request.

The name and address of the Perry County School District, P.O. Box 137, New Augusta, MS 39462, telephone 601-964-3211.

It is the policy of Perry County School District not to discriminate against any otherwise qualified individual with a disability, solely by reason of the disability, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, any program or activity sponsored by this School District. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy should be directed to the Special Service Director Section 504/ADA Coordinator or to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

The name and address of the Coordinator of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the Director of Special Services, P.O. Box 137, 800-B Eighth Ave., New Augusta, MS 39462: telephone 601-964-3211.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phone/electronic devices have been proven to be a distraction to the educational environment thus it is suggested that students leave these personal items at home. Perry County School District or its school personnel will not be responsible for any damaged, missing or stolen devices and accessories (headphones, earbuds, chargers, etc.).

Student cell phones, along with any accessories (earbuds, headphones, etc.) must not be on the person/student at any time. If these items are brought to school, students must keep them turned off, out of sight in their backpacks, at all times. Smart watches may be worn, but must be turned off while at school.

If any student is caught recording/videoing/disseminating any violation of school policies, he/she will be placed on the discipline ladder at the discretion of the school administrator.

PCHS ONLY: To protect instructional time and maintain a focused learning environment, student cell phone use is strictly limited during the school day. Students are permitted to use cell phones only during the following times:

- Breakfast: 7:50 AM – 8:25 AM
- Break

At all other times, including during class, transitions, and lunch, cell phones are not permitted and must be put away and not in use.

Failure to comply with the PCSD cell phone policy will result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the student handbook.

Consequences for failure to follow cell phone policy:

1st Offense: If a cell phone is confiscated during the school day, the phone may be picked up by a parent. The parent will be given a copy of the cell phone policy and will be required to sign a formal acknowledgement.

2nd Offense: If a student has a cell phone confiscated a second time, it will remain in the office for one calendar month.

3rd Offense: If a student has a cell phone confiscated a third time, it will remain in the office for the remainder of the school year.

NOTE: If it is determined that a cell phone was used in a drug transaction, recording, sharing, or promoting a disturbance, texting answers, or any illegal/immoral activity, the student will be suspended and the phone will be returned on the last school day of the school year.

OTHER TECHNOLOGY

iPads, smart glasses, and similar personal electronic devices are not permitted on campus. Any unauthorized devices brought to school may be confiscated and returned in accordance with school policy.

FUNDRAISING

A school sponsored student organization must receive prior approval from the principal and the superintendent before beginning any fund-raising project. No student representing groups outside the school will be permitted to conduct fund raising activities in the school. Students possessing candy or other items at school for sale to other students, other than school sponsored and approved activities, will be subject to disciplinary action.

ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS

School clubs and organizations will deposit all money and make requests for withdrawals through the office of the principal.

PARTIES

School parties at the elementary schools are at the discretion of the administration.
Parties are not permitted in the high school during the school day. All evening parties and dances must be scheduled with the administration in accordance with district policy.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Balloons, flowers, food, and other special deliveries for students will not be accepted at school or allowed on the school bus.

WATER BOTTLES

To support student hydration and minimize spills or distractions in the classroom, students may bring only water in approved water bottles each school day. The following guidelines apply:

Approved Water Bottles

- Students may bring a reusable water bottle that is non-breakable and sized appropriately for school use (e.g., fits in a backpack).
- Bottles must have a secure, closeable lid to prevent leaks.

Prohibited Containers and Beverages

- Cups with open straws, tumblers, mugs, or any container not designed as a water bottle are not permitted.
- Only plain water is allowed in water bottles. Flavored water, juice, soda, sports drinks, energy drinks, coffee, and similar beverages are not permitted.

General Expectations

- Water bottles should be clearly labeled with the student's name.
- Students are responsible for bringing bottles that meet these requirements and for using them appropriately throughout the school day.
- Water bottles that do not comply with this policy may be confiscated or subject to other consequences per district procedures.

BACKPACKS/BAGS – PCHS ONLY
All backpacks/bags must be clear or mesh.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS

VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS
As a result of the Residency Verification Procedure adopted as a policy of the Mississippi Board of Education on April 20, 1990, each parent or legal guardian with whom a student lives must provide to the school administration the following documents at the beginning of each school year:

1. A valid state issued photo ID.
2. A copy of two of the following items of verification of residence. No post office box address will be acceptable. These items must reflect a street address or designated road address. All documents must be for present residence only; documents for commercial property will not be accepted.
    a. Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
    b. Mortgage documents or property deed
    c. Apartment or home lease
    d. Utility bills (water, electricity, landline phone, or gas)

    Only one of the following documents will be accepted. These items must also reflect street address or designated road address.
    1. **Voter precinct identification**
    2. **Automobile registration**
    3. **Affidavit of residence and personal visit by designated school official at district/administrator option.**
    4. **Any other documentation, that in the determination of the Perry County School Board, will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides in the school district.**

If you are the legal guardian of the student, you must also provide a copy of the court order appointing you as the guardian. If a petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, you must provide a certified copy of the filed petition for guardianship.

Note: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district purposes shall not be recognized by the board. (Legal reference: Mississippi Code Ann. Section 37-15-31, 1989 Supplement.)

Note: Only parents or legal guardians may grant permission for school activities and sign legal documents such as Individual Education Plans, etc.

If you fail to provide the necessary documentation, your child will not be allowed to attend school in the Perry County School District. No temporary enrollment will be processed.

If the Perry County School District receives a complaint regarding the residence of a student, the district is required to take action to further verify residence, including but not limited to follow-up visits to the resident's address by school officials.

Any false information or illegal residence may result in a student not being permitted to remain enrolled.

ADMISSIONS

1. In accordance with the laws of the state of Mississippi, in order to be admitted to Kindergarten, students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. First grade students must be (6) six years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. Certificates of Immunization (vaccination) are required upon entering school. (Immunization requirements are subject to change.)
   **In order to be admitted to Pre-Kindergarten, students must be 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year.
2. A certified birth certificate must be presented upon admission. The birth certificate must be from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or from the State Department for students born overseas. No other birth certificate, hospital records, baptismal records, telephone calls, etc., will be accepted. The principal or his/her designee must verify the birth certificate.
3. Students must present an up-to-date immunization record.
4. If a student is transferring into the Perry County School District from a state accredited agency, an official transcript, directly from the office of the previously attended school, will be required. A report card or transfer paper from the previous school attended may be used for temporary class placement.
5. Students transferring into K-8 of the Perry County School District from a non-accredited school must be given appropriate placement tests by school officials in order to determine grade and/or subject placement. Students in grades 9-12 will be classified and placed by credits earned from a state accredited agency.

ENROLLMENT

Pupils transferring from out-of-state or another school district within the state should present the following upon registration:

a. Proper withdrawal documentation from previous school
b. Guardianship papers if applicable
c. Mississippi immunization certificate
d. Two proofs of residence
e. Parent/guardian presence
f. Special education information if applicable
g. Alternative School information if applicable

A request through the school office for complete transcript of prior credits or grades shall be made upon registration of the pupil. The final grades and credits of the pupil shall be incomplete until the transcript is received. Any student who is on probation, expelled, or not properly cleared from his/her former school will not be allowed to enroll in Perry County School District, unless otherwise approved by the Perry County School Board. It is the responsibility of the student's parents to notify the school if the student is suspended or expelled from the school from which the student is transferring. Any student who transfers from an Alternative Program must complete his/her time in the Perry County School District Alternative Program. Perry County School District will not require written consent of parents or eligible students in order to transfer records.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES – ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

TRANSFERS, WITHDRAWALS, AND CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

1. The principal will release Perry County School District education reports or records when an official written request is received from the school district to which the student is transferred.
2. A parent or legal guardian has the right to review his/her child's school records.
3. A student leaving Perry County School District may obtain the following: a report card and/or a record of the student's work for the current term. Reports may be held if the student has any outstanding fines or school property (cafeteria, chromebooks, workbooks, library books, textbooks, damages, etc.).
4. Any student who relocates during the school year must record the change of address with the main office. Any changes of telephone number must be corrected in the same manner.
5. In order to be able to contact or locate parents or guardians in a timely manner, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to be sure that addresses and telephone numbers on student registration forms are accurate and up-to-date.

MCKINNEY-VENTO

To be in compliance with the federal law, McKinney-Vento, Perry County School District has a policy to support students in grades K-12 who are lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. For more information on this policy, refer to the Perry County School District's website under School Board and Board Policies. Board policy JQN

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Services are provided for children who have been evaluated and determined eligible for placement in the program. Students moving into the district should contact the Program Director for school assignment. The classes provided in the Perry County School District are under the direction of trained and certified teachers for exceptional children. Call 601-964-3635 for further information.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Perry County uses the resource option for students meeting eligibility requirements for the Intellectually Gifted Program in grades 2-8. Students are grouped together for a minimum of five hours per week. Gifted students shall not be required to make up work missed when scheduled for a time in gifted. However, gifted students shall be held accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts for information on regularly scheduled test.

LANGUAGE/SPEECH DISABLED

Students determined to be eligible for Language/Speech therapy are provided therapy by qualified therapists.

CHILD FIND PROGRAM

Child Find is an ongoing project to locate, identify, evaluate, and appropriately place children three to twenty-one years of age with disabilities. Information regarding Child Find and referral

can be found on the district website. Contact the Program Director of Special Education for additional information at 601-964-3635.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TESTING
Educational evaluations are provided for students suspected of having a disability at no expense to parents in order to determine the student's eligibility for placement in special education in the Perry County School District.

SCHOOL NURSE
A school nurse is assigned to all schools on a less than full-time basis, offering health information and special health services for students who need them.

CRISIS INTERVENTION
Counseling and consultative services are provided to a school or classroom in times of extreme emotional stress.

CHILD NUTRITION
The Perry County Schools will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U S Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast and snack programs with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U S Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Encourage staff and families to participate in school meal programs.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EE-2E)
- Establish food safety as a key component of all school food operations and ensure that the food service permit is current for the Food Service school site.
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EEH).
- Establish guidelines for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

	Breakfast – Full Price	Lunch – Full Price	Breakfast - Reduced	Lunch - Reduced
Students	$1.25	$3.00	$0.30	$0.40
Adults	$3.25	$5.25		

Student Meal Expectations
Students are permitted to eat during designated break times only. Eating during instructional times is not allowed in order to maintain a focused and effective learning environment.

Outside food and Beverage Guidelines
To maintain consistency, safety, and compliance with school expectations:

- All outside food and beverages brought onto campus must be placed in an unmarked, plastic container or bag.

- Items with restaurant logos, branding, or labels are not permitted on campus.
- Third-party deliveries (Doordash, etc.) are not allowed during the school day.

These expectations align with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education to support a safe and distraction-free school environment.

Items not meeting these expectations may be confiscated, and students may be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the student handbook.

MEDIA CENTER/LIBRARY

1. All pupils in the school are entitled to use the media center and check out books. Students with library deficiencies or overdue books are not permitted to check out books.
2. Reference books, such as encyclopedias and dictionaries, are to be used only in media center.
3. Books on reserve may be borrowed for one period or after school, in which case they must be returned the next morning before school starts.
4. Other books may be checked out for a period of two weeks.
5. The student must have the book with him/her when he/she wishes to renew.
6. Five cents per day is charged for each overdue book.
7. When a reserve book is not returned, the fine is twenty-five cents per half day.
8. Students will pay for lost books and will pay fines on books that have been returned damaged.
9. No book may be taken from the media center unless it is checked out to the borrower.
10. The media center is open each school day before and after school and at times set by the building principal.
11. Students are urged to use the media center regularly and to comply with the above regulations.
12. Students in the media center are subject to book check.
13. The use of electronic media (computers) will be monitored. Students who are found to be using electronic media for illicit or illegal purposes will be disciplined according to the discipline ladder in a manner appropriate to the severity of the violation.
14. Students are not allowed to eat food or drink beverages in the Media Center.

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

The Perry County School District offers an Alternative School Program for compulsory-school-age children who:

- Have been suspended or expelled from school, except that such placement may be denied when the expulsion was for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct.
- Are referred for placement based upon a documented need by the parent, legal guardian, and/or school personnel because of but not limited to disciplinary problems, academics, or attendance issues.
- Are referred by order of a Chancellor or Youth Court judge. Students placed in the alternative program are subject to the policies and rules of conduct and discipline as well as any other rules of conduct and discipline deemed appropriate by the superintendent. Students will be placed in the Alternative Program for no less than one grading period (nine weeks).

STUDENT HEALTH

FIRST AID

The school attempts to provide an environment in which the child will be safe from accidents. If a minor accident occurs, first aid will be administered. No care beyond first aid, defined as the immediate, temporary care given in case of accidents or sudden illness, will be given. Home telephone numbers, business telephone numbers, and emergency telephone numbers **must be furnished to the school**.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATIONS

It is unlawful for any child to attend school without first being vaccinated with at least one dose of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, red measles, rubella, and polio vaccine and completing the entire series within ninety days. Every student in pre-k and kindergarten-12th grade must present a certificate of immunization compliance from his/her doctor or from the health department. This certificate of compliance must be presented in order to attend school.

In order to secure this certificate of compliance, it will be necessary for the student to go to the Perry County Health Department or the office of his/her family physician, taking with him/her all official shot records. Before a child can register, the CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE or copy must be presented. The validation of this certificate will become a permanent part of the student's records and will be valid through grade 12. The date of compliance recorded on the record will be the date of the last immunization received.

The following vaccines are required:

- 5 doses of DTaP, unless the 4th dose is given on or after the 4th Birthday
- 4 doses of Polio, unless the 3rd does is given on or after the 4th Birthday
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of MMR
- 2 doses of the Varicella-containing vaccine or a history of typical varicella
- 1 dose of Tdap prior to entering 7th grade.

If the doctor signs the certificate indicating that other doses are necessary, the student will be given (90) ninety days to complete the required immunization. If they are not completed at the end of (90) ninety days, the child by law will not be allowed to attend school until compliance is achieved.

INSURANCE

All students participating in athletics are required to have proof of insurance. Failure to provide proof of insurance or failure to sign the waiver form will require the removal of the student from the program or activity. The school district, by law, cannot assume any responsibility for costs in connection with student accident or injury. Parents are encouraged to have or purchase student insurance.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Any and/or all problems or conditions deemed to be medical in nature will be subject to evaluation by the school nurse and/or designated personnel of Perry County Schools and may require a doctor's excuse for return to school.

HEAD LICE
Identified infected students will be sent home immediately with a letter and information sheet.

Returning to School-The student may be readmitted after treatment providing there are no visible lice. Proof of treatment is also required upon the child returning to school. Proof of treatment includes the box, empty bottle, and the store receipt.

After the third occasion of a student having head lice, a "no-nit policy" will be in effect. Any student who has had lice on four occasions will be required to be free of all nits before being readmitted to school.

House Bill 154 passed in the 1997 Legislative Session:

"If a student in any public elementary or secondary school has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by school officials that the student has had head lice on (3) consecutive occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by the school nurse, public health nurse or a physician, the principal or administrator shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student."

Treatment of Head Lice – Prescribed or over-the-counter anti-lice treatments are considered appropriate. Back comb hair with a fine-tooth comb to remove all the nits.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS—REGULATIONS
School personnel will not administer prescription medicine to a student without the authorization of a physician and the signature of the parents/guardians on the indemnity agreement/permission form associated with this policy. The parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining a statement from the physician authorizing school personnel to administer the medicine. The statement should include:

- Student's name
- Diagnosis
- Physician's signature
- Date
- Name of medicine
- Time/s to administer the medicine
- Method of administration route
- Date to discontinue or review
- Strength of medicine

Parents will be required to have on file for each child a Parent Authorization and Indemnity Agreement/Medications Release Form. Only prescription medication will be administered by the Perry County School District. No over the counter medications will be administered.

- The parent/guardian should bring the medications to the school. Never send medications to the school by the student.
- No medications will be sent home with a student.
- All medications will have to be in original containers.
- A new Form A must be signed for each medication or change of medicine order. Parents must notify the school if the medicine is no longer required or has been changed.

- If the medication is ordered twice a day or three times a day, it should be administered by the parent at home, unless doctor orders otherwise.
- Students may keep asthma inhalers, diabetic medication, and Epipen with them at all times if given permission from parent, physician, and school nurse.
- Maximum of one month dosage of any medication should be brought to the school at a time.
- The school will ensure that there are copies of medication forms in the student folder and available for staff members responsible for administering the medication and will note the time on the student file when the student takes the medication.
- It is the parent's responsibility to obtain all unused medication from the school when the medicine is discontinued and/or the school year ends or if student transfers to another school. All medication left in the school at the end of the school year will be disposed of by the school nurse or designee.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (Miss.37-13-91) requires all children who have attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who have not attained the age of seventeen (17) on or before September 1st of the calendar year to be in regular attendance at school. The law (SB 2286) also requires that the school administrators report immediately to the local school attendance officer any compulsory-school-age child who has not enrolled by August 15th of the current school year. In addition, the Superintendent will report any child with three (3) absences to the School Attendance Officer for appropriate consultation between the officer and parents/guardian. **When the child has eight (8) un-excused absences, the law provides that charges of "Educational Child Neglect: may be brought against the parent/guardian. Potential punishment for Education Child Neglect is a fine of up to $1,000.00 and/or one (1) year in jail."**

The school district must require students to be in attendance at school on a regular basis to foster student academic growth. Therefore, it is required that each student attend a minimum of 180 class days during the school year of course work.

Elementary, Middle School, and High School Students must be in attendance 66% of the instructional school day in order to be counted present for the day.

High School students **must be in attendance 66% of the class time in order to be counted present for that class.** No student will be entitled to receive academic credit for any course in which absences exceed the allowable limit, including absences addressed through the After School Attendance Program (ASAP). All attendance recovery is subject to the guidelines, limitations, and requirements outlined in the ASAP policy. Students and parents should refer to the ASAP policy for full details regarding credit eligibility.

Parents/guardians and attendance officer will be notified after students have been absent for three (3) unexcused days in a semester. **In the event that a student exceeds the allowable number of absences, the student will not be allowed to participate in school sponsored activities. Students should bring a note to the office on the day they return to school stating the reason for the absence and including a phone number so the absence can be verified.**

EXCUSED ABSENCES
A student may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness verified by medical note. Any day after the third (3rd) day, you MUST have a medical note.
2. Serious illness or death in the student's immediate family. Immediate family includes: parent/guardian, brother, sister, grandparent, spouse, child, uncle, and aunt.
3. Deemed by school officials to be of sufficient educational value when compared to school work scheduled for that period or is of such urgent circumstances as to warrant and justify the absence. Written permission must be requested by a parent or guardian in advance and granted by school officials.
4. Students taking a regional, state, or national test during the school day must have approval of administration prior to missing in order for the absence to be excused.
5. Students may bring no more than 3 parental notes per semester to excuse absences. This does not apply to tardies. Parent notes must include a valid telephone number.
6. Students must present an excuse when they return. If an excuse is not received on the day of return, the excuse will not be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
7. College days (See High School Policies)

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES
Any other reason not listed above will be considered an unexcused absence unless approved by the superintendent.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE
Perfect Attendance shall be defined and observed as no absences, no tardiness to school, and no early dismissals from school. Exceptions shall be school bus tardiness or school sponsored field/activity trips.

CARNEGIE UNIT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS/AFTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM (ASAP) ---- HIGH SCHOOL ONLY
Perry Central High School will operate an after school attendance program for students who have excessive absences or commit minor disciplinary infractions.

ASAP Attendance Requirements
To be counted present in a class, a student must attend at least 60% of the class period. Any student with a documented long-term or major illness must contact the principal for review and possible exemption.

Students who exceed the allowable number of absences may recover missed instructional time through the After School Attendance Program (ASAP), within the limits outlined below based on Carnegie unit value:

To **earn a Carnegie unit**, students must meet the following **attendance requirements**:

- **¼ Carnegie Unit (9-week course):**
  - Maximum of **3 absences** for full credit eligibility
  - Up to **4 total absences** allowed with ASAP recovery
- **½ Carnegie Unit (9-week course):**
  - Maximum of **3 absences** for full credit eligibility
  - Up to **4 total absences** allowed with ASAP recovery

- **1 Carnegie Unit (semester course):**
    - Maximum of **5 absences** for full credit eligibility
    - Up to **8 total absences** allowed with ASAP recovery

Students required to participate in the **ASAP program** must report at one of the following times:

- **Morning Session:** 7:30 AM – 8:25 AM (No entry after 7:30 AM)
- **Afternoon Session:** 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM (No entry after 3:30 PM)

This policy is established to address chronic absenteeism and ensure that students are present for instruction. Regular attendance is directly tied to academic success, credit attainment, and overall student outcomes.

ASAP Expectations

- Each absence beyond the allowable limit requires assignment to ASAP.
- Students may attend ASAP only until the maximum allowable absence threshold is reached.

Loss of Credit

- Once a student exceeds the maximum allowable number of absences, including ASAP recovery, credit will not be awarded.
- Failure to attend assigned ASAP sessions will result in immediate loss of credit eligibility for the course.

Extracurricular Eligibility (Attendance Requirement)

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and requires students to remain in good standing.

- Students must be in compliance with attendance expectations, including ASAP assignments, to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Students who are:
    - Assigned to ASAP and fail to attend,
    - Approaching or exceeding allowable absences, or
    - No longer eligible to earn credit in a course due to attendance
- May be restricted or removed from participation in extracurricular activities.
- Participation privileges may be reinstated once the student returns to compliance, when applicable and within allowable limits.

The school administration reserves the right to make determinations regarding individual attendance cases in accordance with district policy and state guidelines.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students who are absent for any reason are responsible for obtaining all missed assignments. Students are expected to request make-up work immediately upon their return to school. Responsibility for securing make-up work rests with the student, not the teacher.

This should occur within two (2) days of their return. Students will be give the number of days missed plus one (1) to complete assignments. Students who miss due to an out-of-school suspension will be allowed to make up his or her missed assignments, but that work must be made up within the same number of days that the student was suspended. For example, if a student has out-of-school suspension for three (3) days, upon his or her return, the student has three (3) days within which to complete his or her missed work. The requirement that the

make-up work be completed within the same number of days the student missed due to out-of-school suspension does not relieve the student from the requirement that he or she complete the regular assignments given to his or her class in the time allotted as well.

Students are required to make up and submit only assignments that are graded and recorded in the teacher's gradebook. Assignments that are not graded or not entered into the gradebook shall not be required for submission for credit.

Students are responsible for getting all missed content, including notes, study guides, and class activities, to stay on pace with instruction. While not all work may be graded, students are expected to catch up within the same two (2) day window.

Completion of make-up work within the two (2) day timeframe does not excuse students from completing current and ongoing assignments by their original due dates.

In cases of severe or documented extenuating circumstances, the timeframe may be adjusted at the discretion of the principal and teacher. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Hospitalizations
- Documented medical conditions
- other verified extenuating circumstances.

STUDENT CHECK-OUT

Students may check out with a note presented to office upon arrival at school or may be picked up by an authorized person. Notes will be verified before a student is allowed to leave campus. **Phone calls will not be accepted during school hours for student check-outs. There will be NO CHECK-OUTS ALLOWED 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO DISMISSAL.**

1. Students who were participating in a program that is no longer active will not be allowed to sign out early.
2. If a student is ill or an emergency arises, the student must come to the office and have a parent or preapproved person (designated and listed in active student for emergency checkout) called to come get the student.
3. If the student has a doctor or dental appointment, a pre-approved person or parent may come sign the student out or send a note that includes check-out time and telephone number where parent can be reached for verification purposes.
4. All checkout notes must be turned in before 1st period begins. School authorities have the right to refuse the release of the student if the note cannot be verified.
5. Any student checking out of school or participating in early release will not return to the campus nor will the student remain on campus after checking out.
6. Early release students are only allowed on campus during their scheduled class times.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Students will not be allowed on any campus without the supervision of a teacher or staff member of Perry County Schools. Students should not arrive before the scheduled student arrival time for each campus. Students should not remain after school unless they are attending a supervised school activity and are under the supervision of a staff member of the school district.

Students at Perry Central High School must exit their vehicle immediately upon arrival to campus and are not allowed to return to their vehicle until leaving campus for the day. Students who arrive on campus by bus must exit the bus and remain in the front of the school and are not allowed to enter the student parking area. Students should not be dropped off by bus or parent before 7:50 am, unless it has been preapproved by the principal.

Students may not leave the school early without parental permission and must sign out in the front office before leaving campus. Students must meet the requirements established under the check-out policy. Students will be counted absent in the classes that are missed when they sign out early. Disciplinary action will be taken if a student leaves and disregards proper procedure.

STUDENT TARDINESS

School attendance on a daily basis is critical to a child's academic success. Students are expected to be at school and in class on time when the tardy bell rings. Any student arriving after the tardy bell must be signed in by a parent or guardian through the front office before being permitted to enter class. Arrival at school on time and staying the entire school day is crucial to the learning process. Since students are engaged in learning activities the entire school day, parents are strongly encouraged to refrain from bringing a child late to school and from checking a student out of school.

The following are the only ways a tardy can be excused:

1. The student reports to a doctor or dentist appointment and provides verification from the medical office.
2. The student arrives on a late bus.
3. The student was involved in an accident and provides verification from a police department, or the principal has personal knowledge of the incident.
4. The student has a documented medical condition that may cause occasional tardiness, supported by written documentation from a physician on file with the school

All other tardies will be counted as unexcused.

Elementary

The accumulation of three (3) unexcused tardies will result in the student receiving one (1) day of detention. The accumulation of five (5) unexcused tardies will result in the student receiving three (3) days of detention. Excessive tardiness will be turned into the truancy officer.

Middle School

Detention will be issued for a fourth and every other tardy to school within the same term.

High School

Students arriving after the tardy bell must report to the office and be signed in by a parent or guardian. Students arriving after 8:30 AM without a parent or guardian to sign them in will be subject to consequences outlined below.

Students must be in their assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings for each period. Teachers will mark and document all tardies.

Tardy Consequences (Per Nine Weeks)

- **1st – 3rd Tardies:** Warning issued and parent/guardian contact made.
- **4th Tardy:** Office referral issued; In-School Detention (ISD) assigned; Driving privileges revoked for the remainder of the nine-week term (if applicable)

- **5th Tardy:** Office referral issued; Extended In-School Detention (ISD); Extracurricular eligibility reviewed and may result in loss of participation; Placed on a tardy intervention plan
- **6th Tardy:** Office referral issued; In-School Suspension (ISS); Administration will assign loss of extracurricular participation
- **7 or More Tardies:** Office referral issued; student classified as habitual; May be assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS); additional administrative consequences as determined

****Tardy counts will reset at the beginning of each semester.**

PARENT NOTE REQUIREMENTS

ALL PARENT NOTES MUST INCLUDE: ***STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME** ***STUDENT'S GRADE** ***A PARENT SIGNATURE** ***A PHONE NUMBER FOR VERIFICATION**			
Absence	Date(s) of Absence	Reason for Absence	Date written *Must be received on day of return
Tardy	Date of Tardy Time Arriving	Reason for Tardy Date written *Must be received on day of tardy	ALL Elementary and Middle School students must be signed in by a parent in the office when Tardy
Checkout	Time Leaving ***No checkouts 30 minutes prior to dismissal**	Reason for Leaving Who will be checking the student out (must be on contact list) or self-checkout for High School Students	Must be submitted before 1st period No Phone Calls Will Be Accepted
Bus Note	Drop-off address	Who the student is riding with or where riding to	Date(s) of requested bus transportation change Must be submitted before 1st period No Phone Calls Will Be Accepted
Please ensure all correspondence has the required information. If you have questions, please contact your student's school for more information.			

LEAVING CLASS

Instructional time will be protected. Students are expected to remain in class for the duration of each period unless granted permission by the teacher. At no time should a student be in the hallway during class without an approved hall pass. Any student out of class must have a pass

that includes the student's name, date, time, and destination. Students may be called from class only in cases of emergency.

PCHS ONLY – RESTROOM USE DURING CLASS

Students are permitted to use the restroom during class; however, to protect instructional time, the following expectations apply:

- Each student will be issued a punch card per class, per nine-week grading period.
- Students may leave class for restroom use up to five (5) times per nine weeks, per block.
- Each use will be recorded on the student's punch card.
- Once all punches are used, students will not be permitted to leave class for restroom use unless there is a verified emergency or documented medical need.
- Restroom use during scheduled break times and after lunch does not count toward punch card usage.

Exceptions may be made in cases of:

- Serious illness
- Documented medical conditions

**All exceptions must be approved and documented through the school administration or nurse.

HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT (Board Policy IHB)

The Perry County School District Board of Education recognizes the value of purposeful, well-planned, and properly motivated home assignments that are as follows:

1. Appropriate to the grade level, age, and abilities of the student;
2. Designed to stimulate initiative and independence or to reinforce and enrich classroom instruction;
3. In alignment with the goals of daily instruction;
4. Carefully planned so that home assignments are not so lengthy as to be self-defeating nor so complicated as to require assistance or resource materials not available to the student; and
5. An extension of class work that has already been introduced.

As in the assignment of in-school work, homework assignments must be left to the sound professional judgment of the teacher, who will be expected to interpret the needs and assess the abilities and interest of each student. All teachers in the Perry County School District are expected to follow the guidelines listed below in regard to their handling of homework assignments.

Time Element of Homework

The time necessary to complete a homework assignment should vary from kindergarten to twelfth grade. The maximum length of time which the school should expect an average student to devote to homework that is to be completed overnight is as follows:

1. Kindergarten, no homework
2. Grades 1-3, maximum 30 minutes
3. Grades 4-5, all subjects combined, maximum 60 minutes
4. Grades 6-8, all subjects combined, maximum 90 minutes
5. Grades 9-12, all subjects combined, maximum 120 minutes

PROGRESS REPORTS, GRADING, GRADE REPORTING

PROGRESS REPORTS

During the fifth week of each nine-week term, all teachers will inform the parents of the progress of the student in each subject. This is done by way of a progress report. Students will sign a receipt for the progress reports, which are to be signed by a parent and returned. Parents will find the progress report release dates on the school calendar.

REPORT CARDS

1. Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine week grading period.
2. Parents should be aware of dates when report cards will be issued. Parents should expect students to have their report cards on dates as noted in the district calendar. Parents should also check student progress via Active Parent. These grades will be updated weekly by teachers.

GRADE REPORTING

A ---------- 90-100

B ---------- 80-89

C ---------- 70-79

D ---------- 65-69

F ---------- 64 and BELOW

Daily grades will account for ¼ of the grade, tests will count ½ of the grade, and nine weeks tests will count ¼ of the total grade. Teachers should ensure that each student has a minimum of nine grades per nine weeks excluding the exam.

Nine weeks grades are determined as follows:

		Example:
Daily Grades	1/4	86
Test (Major Projects)	1/2	78 + 78 = 156
9 Weeks/Final Exam	1/4	75
		86 + 156 + 75/4 = 79 Average

*The yearly average will be determined by adding the first and second term grades and dividing by two.

THE MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

Three Tier Instructional Model

The Three Tier Instructional Model is a part of State Board Policy 41.1. This model is designed to meet the needs of every student and consists of three tiers of instruction:

- Tier 1: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi standards.
- Tier 2: Focused supplemental instruction.
- Tier 3: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

If Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction is unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the local team responsible for interventions developed at Tier 3. Each school must have a TST implemented in accordance with the process developed by the Mississippi Department of Education.

(Six-weeks minimum documented interventions, not to exceed eighteen weeks maximum per subject area.) Teachers shall use progress-monitoring information to (a) determine if students are making adequate progress, (b) identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and (c) modify instruction early enough to ensure each and every student gains essential skills. Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments, and large-scale assessments.

If strategies at Tiers I & II are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier III. Each school must have a Teacher Support Team (TST) implemented in accordance with the process developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. The chairperson of the TST shall be the school principal as the school's instructional leader. The core members of the Teacher Support Team shall not be comprised of members of the school's Special Education staff. Special Education staff may serve in an advisory capacity only.

Interventions shall be:

√ designed to address the deficit areas;
√ research based;
√ implemented as designed by the TST;
√ supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions.

In addition to failing to make adequate progress following Tiers I & II, students will be referred to the Teacher Support Team for interventions as specified in the guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur.

A. Grades 1-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
B. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades, OR
C. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year.

Referrals to the Teacher Support Team must be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student failed the preceding year resulting in a referral as stated above.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and to maintain daily personal hygiene. All students are to comply with the policies listed below. Any student who violates the regulations will be given an office referral and be sent home until the violation has been fully rectified. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached to pick up the student, that student will not be allowed to attend regular classes and will be placed in ISD until the violation is corrected.

1. The student must present a neat, well-groomed appearance.

2. Students will be required to wear clothing as the garments were intended to be worn (example: no low-riding pants) and in such a manner that will not cause undue attention or disruption of instructional activities.
3. No hats, caps, bandannas, sunglasses, or other inappropriate headwear will be worn on the school grounds at any time except during adverse weather. If worn during adverse weather, caps or head protection should be stored in backpack upon arrival at school. **PCHS ONLY:** Hoodies and any clothing with hoods attached are not permitted during the school day. Students must remove all hooded clothing upon arrival to campus and ensure it remains off for the duration of the school day, including on the bus, while transitioning between classes, or participating in any outdoor instructional activities.
4. Appropriate footwear will be worn at all times. Gym or tennis shoes should be worn during physical education class. (No house shoes, wheelie shoes or plastic flip flops allowed at any time.)
5. No crop tops will be allowed at any time. Shirt lengths must be long enough to be tucked in.
6. Clothing with inappropriate patches or emblems or profane, vulgar or abusive images or language or portrays violence will not be worn. Clothing, accessories, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with gangs or gang activity or association will not be permitted. Symbols that might be considered racially offensive will not be worn. In addition, clothing displaying symbols or advertising or promoting the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or drugs will not be worn at school.
7. No picks, combs or curlers in hair. Disruptive hair styles are not permitted.
8. Students whose dress, appearance, or lack of dress is disruptive will not be permitted to remain in school. Appropriate undergarments shall be worn by all students. Students who wear see through shirts must wear proper undershirts so that no undergarment or midriff is visible.
9. Clothing that is considered indecent or extremely sloppy will not be allowed. If pants or shorts have belt loops, then a belt must be worn.
10. The fit and length of skirts, shorts and dresses must not distract from the learning environment and must not be shorter than 4 inches above the top of the knee cap. Gym/athletic shorts MUST meet the 4 inch above the knee requirement.
11. Pants or shorts that are torn, cut-up, or frayed exposing skin more than 4 inches above the knee are not acceptable.
12. **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Bicycle pants/shorts, pajama pants, leggings or tights may only be worn under skirts, dresses or pants. Pants, shorts, skirts/dresses exposing skin four-inches above the knee are not allowed. Final discretion will be left to the building administrator. **PCHS ONLY:** Leggings and jeggings are permitted provided they are worn with a top or outer garment that extends to no higher than four (4) inches above the knee and fully covers the posterior.
13. No tank tops, muscle shirts, sleeveless undershirts, or anything resembling these items will be worn without T-shirts or other clothing that provides adequate cover.
14. Septum rings will not be allowed. (Ex: hooks, bull rings, etc.)
15. No items dangling from waistbands, etc. will be allowed.
16. No trench coats or full-length coat.
17. No blankets or will be allowed on the bus or in school.

In all instances, school administrators or designee, considering the style or manner in which the clothing is worn or how it fits, will determine the appropriateness of school dress. This includes all school functions. The dress and grooming of students is to be monitored by all faculty members and the school administration throughout the school day.

VIOLATION OF DRESS CODE

1. First violation results in a warning and correction of dress offense.
2. Second violation and thereafter results in a discipline action.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student. Behavior which prevents the driver and student from having a safe trip to and from school will not be tolerated.

Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed for elementary or secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year; in these matters the principal determines the action that is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. (MS State Code 37-7-301,e) The principal, according to the severity of offense, will determine consequences for misconduct on the bus.

Questions involving disciplinary actions should be directed to the school principal. Action requiring suspension shall be the responsibility of the school administration. The administration shall notify the transportation director/supervisor and/or bus driver and the student's parents when a student's bus riding privileges are suspended.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

1. Students must be assigned seats at loading time.
2. At no time are students to touch the outside of the bus. They are not to hang heads, arms, legs, bodies, or hands out the window of the bus.
3. Immediately upon entering the bus, students are to be seated and are to remain seated until they arrive at their destination school in the morning and bus disembarking station in the afternoon.
4. Students will board the bus and leave the bus according to the instructions of the bus driver. Students are to obey all directions of the bus driver.
5. Students may not leave the bus on its way to or from school except at their designated stop.
6. Students are not to throw or in any way sail/shoot/pitch objects.
7. Students must sit in the seat assigned by the bus driver.
8. The bus must come to a complete stop before students try to enter or exit the bus.
9. Loud talking and other loud noises are not permitted on the bus.
10. Students are not to damage any part of the school bus. Students and parents will be held financially responsible for any damages.
11. No beverages or food may be consumed on the school bus.
12. Chewing gum is prohibited on the bus.

13. Intentional littering of the bus is prohibited.
14. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by school personnel.
15. Vulgar language is prohibited on the school bus.
16. Students are not to molest or bother in any way (harass, intimidate, or threaten) other students while waiting for/or while riding on a school bus.
17. Students will not fight on the bus or at the bus stop.
18. Use or possession of dangerous objects on the school bus or at the bus stop is forbidden.
19. Students will not use, sell, or possess drugs or alcohol on the school bus or at the bus stop.
20. Stealing is prohibited.
21. Smoking is prohibited while on the school bus. Tobacco products are not permitted on the bus.
22. Open defiance or open displays of disrespect toward a bus driver will not be condoned.
23. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration including a pattern of repeated bus misbehavior will not be permitted. Written instructions from the parent must be presented to the principal before a student will be permitted to ride a bus other than his/her regular bus. The note must be given to the principal in advance in order to provide time for verification.
24. Any act, which places the safety of the students on the bus at risk, will be referred to the principal for appropriate action.
25. Students' behavior will be monitored on a random basis through video recording equipment installed on district buses. Students found to be continually disruptive or threatening to the safety of other students will be immediately removed from the bus and will be permanently suspended from bus transportation.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW BUS SAFETY RULES

Students will be disciplined for disorderly conduct on the bus. The bus driver will give to the principal a written report of the misbehavior. Reports will be investigated and offenders will be subject to the following consequences:

- **1st Offense:** reprimand, corporal punishment, parent care, or loss of transportation privilege for 1 to 3 days. A copy of the report will be sent home to the parent/guardian. Other appropriate action may be taken which may include suspension for 1-5 days from the bus, school, or both.
- **2nd Offense:** corporal punishment, parent care, or loss of transportation privilege for 3 to 5 days.
- **3rd Offense:** corporal punishment or loss of transportation privilege for 5 to 9 days.
- **4th Offense:** loss of transportation privilege for 9 days. Could also result in student being removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

**If a student is suspended from his/her bus, the student may not ride any bus until the suspension period ends.

Infractions involving spitting out the window, throwing objects, smoking, striking matches, using lighters, or engaging in other dangerous behaviors will result in an immediate suspension from both the bus and the school, with the length of suspension determined by the principal.

Fighting, vandalism, or exiting the bus without permission will result in immediate suspension from the bus according to the following:

- **1st offense** ---- Suspension from the bus for one (1) nine-week period
- **2nd offense** --- Suspension from the bus for one (1) semester period
- **3rd offense** ---- Suspension from the bus for one (1) calendar year

Assault on the bus driver or school personnel will result in an immediate suspension from the school and a recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year. A report will also be submitted to the local police department or Perry County Sheriff's Office.

The principal may, at his/her discretion, use more severe punishment than listed above if the situation warrants. When a student is suspended from the bus the parent/guardian must arrange for transportation to and from school. Regular school attendance is expected.

RIDING BUS OTHER THAN REGULARLY ASSIGNED BUS

Students often need to ride a bus to a different location other than the regular bus going to the student's residence. Such requests must be made by the parent/legal guardian in writing to the principal prior to the student being allowed to board any other bus other than the bus that the student regularly rides. Such requests must be presented to the principal on the day that the student wishes to board a different bus. The written request must be submitted by 12:00 noon on the day the boarding change is to occur. The written request must include a telephone number where the parent/legal guardian may be contacted for verification.

INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL BUSES

It is unlawful for any individual other than a member of the public school administration or faculty or a law enforcement official to interfere in any way with the operation of a school bus. State law prohibits unauthorized boarding of school buses or interference with passenger boarding or leaving under penalties of fine and/or imprisonment.

DISCIPLINARY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT CONDUCT

Although student conduct in the Perry County School District is considered in most cases to be exemplary and situations have not arisen to cause undue concern for students' welfare and safety, the Perry County School District is required to establish policies and procedures that detail expectations of students and outline consequences of student misbehavior. The publication of these policies and procedures in the student handbooks will help assure that there is a clear understanding among students and parents concerning matters covered in the handbook under Student Conduct.

The provisions of these policies shall apply to all students at the discretion of the principal and his/her recommendation to the Board of Education of this school district. Appropriate referrals will be made to juvenile authorities as required under state law.

DISCIPLINE GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

The basic objective of discipline within the school may be described as fourfold:

1. To establish conditions under which no student will be permitted to prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning.

2. To establish and maintain study conditions conducive to learning.
3. To develop, on the part of each student, the habits and skills that make him/her self-directive and to help him/her realize that he/she is responsible for his/her own behavior.
4. To guide students in learning how to make better behavioral choices based on decision-making skills that enable them to become self-disciplined.

**In both elementary schools the *Keys to Successful Learning* will apply:

1. Students can and will do what is asked, the first time they are asked, by any adult in the school.
2. Students can and will respect all people.
3. Students can and will do good deeds and say good things.
4. Students can and will ask permission to speak or to leave their seats.
5. Students can and will be prepared for class and do their best at all times.
6. Students can and will walk quietly from place to place, in a straight line.
7. Students can and will tell the truth at all times.

Conferences, reprimands, parent care, corporal punishment, suspension or expulsion may follow student's failure to conform to accepted standards of behavior in school.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is an option in the disciplinary program of the Perry County School District. The district has established procedures under which a parent/legal guardian will indicate whether he/she gives permission for his/her child to receive corporal punishment as appropriate under the assertive discipline plan outlined in the student handbook and in accordance with district policy. Alternative disciplinary actions will be required for students whose parents/legal guardians have declined in writing corporal punishment permission.

Disciplinary action in lieu of or in addition to corporal punishment may include parent care, suspension from school, referral to social services, or other appropriate disciplinary measures, including requirement that the parent or legal guardian attend classes with the child.

Corporal punishment shall be administered by an administrator in the principal's office or a designated area, with a witness present. A maximum of (3) three licks may be administered. Corporal punishment will not be administered to students with IEP and 504 Plans as described by law. All discipline K-12 will be at the discretion of the principal, subject to review by the Superintendent of Education.

SUSPENSION

Suspension (both in-school detention, ISD, and out-of-school suspension) is a forfeiture of participation in regular scheduled school activities for the time designated during suspension. Graded work missed during the time of suspension may be made up at a time designated by school officials. Students may be assigned to in-school, alternative school placement, or out-of-school suspension.

In all cases, parents must have a conference with the designated school administrator before the child will be allowed to return to classes. Telephone calls will not be acceptable. In-school detention requires that a student complete all assignments during the period of suspension. Additional time in ISD may be given for failure to complete assignments in the ISD program. A student who disrupts the ISD program will be referred to the appropriate

administrator and the student will complete the assigned suspension in the district's alternative school or out-of-school; he/she will not be allowed to return to regular classes until suspension is completed in its entirety.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is the total exclusion of the student from participation in or attendance at any school District related activity. A student who has been expelled from the Perry County Schools must apply in writing to the Board of Education for possible re-admission.

DISCIPLINE DEFINITIONS

The following definitions and procedures shall be used as guidelines in matters relating to discipline and punishment.

1. **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION**—Student detention is part of the discipline plan. Detention will be held at the discretion of the administration. Students must arrive on time or be assigned an additional hour of detention. Failure to follow the Administrator's directions during detention may result in more severe disciplinary actions. Students must provide their own way home and if they are unable to leave by this time they may be picked up at the Sheriff's Office. Students will have one day notice of assignment to detention.
2. **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** is an option in the disciplinary program of the Perry County Schools and will be administered in accordance with the policy of the Perry County School District. The district has established procedures under which a parent/legal guardian will indicate whether he/she gives permission for his/her child to receive corporal punishment as appropriate under the assertive discipline plan outlined in the student handbook and in accordance with district policy. Alternative disciplinary actions will be required for students whose parents/legal guardians have not checked and signed the required Corporal Punishment Permission statement.
3. **PARENT CARE** is an intervention process through which a student is placed under parent supervision until a parent conference can be arranged with a building administrator. Parent care is not considered a suspension from school, but each day of a student's absence for parent care is considered an absence from school under the attendance policy.
4. **SUSPENSION/DETENTION** (both in-school detention and out-of-school suspension) is a forfeiture of participation in regulatory scheduled school activities (both Home & Away) for the time designated during suspension. Graded work missed during the time of suspension may be made up according to make-up work policy, see page 12. Students may be assigned to either in-school, or out-of-school suspension. In all cases, parents must have a conference with the designated school administrator before the child will be allowed to return to classes. Telephone calls will not be acceptable. In-school suspension requires that a student complete all assignments during the period of suspension. A student who disrupts the ISS program will be referred to the appropriate building administrator. Students who miss work due to an out-of-school suspension will be allowed to make up his or her missed assignments, but that work must be made up within the same number of days that the student was suspended. For example, if a student is suspended out-of-school for three (3) days, upon his or her return, the student has three (3) days within which to complete his or her missed work. The requirement that the make-up work be completed within the same number of days the student missed due to the out-of-school suspension

does not relieve the student from the requirement that he or she complete the regular assignments given to his or her class in the time allotted as well.

PCHS Only

- **ISD (In-School Detention):** Detention served during lunch and/or break for up to three (3) school days, as determined by school administration.
- **ISS (In-School Suspension):** One (1) full school day of in-school suspension served in the Achievement Center, as determined by school administration. Students assigned to ISS are removed from the regular classroom setting and are required to complete assigned academic work under supervision.

5. **EXPULSION** is the total exclusion of the student from participation in or attendance at any school related activity. A student who has been expelled from the Perry County Schools must apply in writing to the Board of Education for possible readmission.

Repeated patterns of misbehavior may require counseling and parental involvement and assistance to the extent that the parent may be requested to come to school and attend classes with the student in order to identify and correct such behavioral patterns.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTIONS

1. **ALCOHOL POSSESSION OR USE** - Students responsible in any way for alcoholic beverages of any description being on a person, in a school building, on a school bus, on school property, at an off campus activity sponsored by the school, to, from, and/or at, or adjacent to school property shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school.
2. **ASSAULT** - Any act of assault accompanied by force (hitting, kicking, fighting, slapping or other such overt acts) that could cause bodily injury, or any attempt with force and violence to do bodily injury to another (threatening, bullying, and other forms of intimidation).
3. **BULLYING** - Refer to bullying/harassment section
4. **CHEATING** - Any act of giving or receiving information on tests, exams, homework, or other work or projects assigned by teacher.
5. **DISOBEDIENCE** - The failure to act upon or to follow instructions given by the person in charge. Ex: Dress Code violations.
6. **DISRESPECT** - Failure to show regard for a superior.
7. **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR** - Any act, physical or vocal, which makes it difficult to continue normal activities.
8. **DRUG POSSESSION OR USE** - Students responsible in any way for illegal, prescription, or over-the counter drugs of any description being on a person, in a school building, on a school bus, on school property, at an off-campus activity sponsored by the school, to, from and/or at or adjacent to school property shall be subject to suspension and expulsion from school.
9. **FIGHTING** - Any acts involving assaults or physical altercations between two or more individuals that will potentially cause physical harm to another.
10. **GAMBLING/POSSESSION OF DEVICES** - Betting or placing a wager on an uncertain outcome.
11. **GANG** - Refer to gang activity or association section
12. **HARRASSMENT** - Refer to harassment section
13. **HAZING** - Any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

14. **HORSEPLAY** - Any rough or rowdy play that causes unintentional injury to another or damage to another's property (examples: chocking games, cup checks, burning with lighter, etc.).
15. **INCITING CONFLICT** - Bullying, intimidating, or in any way encouraging or provoking others to fight or engage in conflict.
16. **OBSCENITY/PORNOGRAPHY** - An act or expression which is offensive to the prevailing concepts of morality or decency of the school community; stressing or suggesting indecency, lust, or depravity, offensive to the senses.
17. **OPEN DEFIANCE** - Refusal to act upon or to follow instructions given by the person in charge.
18. **PARKING VIOLATION** - Refer to student drivers and parking
19. **PETTING** - Inappropriate touching, show of affection, etc.
20. **POSSESSION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES -** Refer to student conduct section.
21. **PRETENSE** - Any act of telling falsehood with the intent to deceive.
22. **PROFANITY** - The irreverent use of a sacred name or any other words considered lewd or course, swearing, cursing, or other vile words showing contempt.
23. **SEXUAL CONTACT** - Students engaged in physical acts of sexual intercourse.
24. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** - Unwelcome sexual advances either verbal and/or physical constitutes sexual harassment.
25. **STEALING** - Any act of removing public or private property without the consent of the owner.
26. **TARDY** - Not adhering to approved time schedule.
27. **TOBACCO USE OR POSSESSION** - Refer to student conduct section.
28. **TRESPASSING** - Refer to trespassing section
29. **TRUANCY** - An act of being absent from school or class without permission.
30. **UNAUTHORIZED FUND-RAISING** - Refer to fundraising section
31. **USING FORGED OR ALTERED DOCUMENTS** - Falsifying or altering documents with the intent to deceive.
32. **VANDALISM** - Any act of destroying, altering, defacing or otherwise damaging public or private property.
33. **VULGAR LANGUAGE** - The use of words which are offensive, inappropriate or tend to defame the character of another person.
34. **WEAPONS POSSESSION** - Having in one's possession any instrument capable of causing bodily harm.
35. **WEAPONS POSSESSIONS WITH THREAT TO USE** - Any overt display of and/or threat to use instrument capable of causing bodily harm.
36. **WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE** - Willfully failing to act upon or to follow instructions given by the person in charge.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Class I Behaviors

Each teacher shall deal with these behaviors:

1. Classroom/campus disruptions (examples: throwing objects, distracting other students, etc.)
2. Defiance

3. Disrespect
4. Dress Code Violations
5. Improper use of internet/Network
6. Electronic Device Violation
7. Failure to report to detention
8. Other behaviors designated by the principal

Disciplinary Options for Class I Behaviors:

- Contact Parents
- Detention (examples: recess detention, afterschool detention, etc.)
- Administrative, student, parent, and/or teacher conference
- Appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

Failure to report to detention may result in out-of-school suspension for up to three (3) days.

Class II Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class I behaviors
2. Instigate/Participate in Pushing/Shoving in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function
3. Instigate/Participate in verbal confrontation in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function
4. Horse playing
5. Public display of affection
6. Profanity, vulgarity, and/or biased language, including gestures
7. Forge/deceive/misrepresent the truth/lying/cheating
8. Defacing/Destruction of school property (writing on walls, desks, etc.)
9. Stalking
10. ISS Misbehaviors
11. Trespassing or student in unauthorized area

Disciplinary Options for Class II Behaviors:

- Contact parents
- Detention or After-School Detention – Failure to report to detention or after-school detention may result in out-of-school suspension for up to three (3) days.
- Loss of privileges to all school activities (ex: graduation exercises, field trips, assemblies, sporting events, etc.)
- In-school detention
- Out-of-school detention (1 to 5 days)
- Confiscation of cellular phone or electronic device not to exceed 365 days. Parents are required to pick-up confiscated cellular phone or electronic device in the office after school.
- Appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

Class III Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class II Behaviors
2. Bullying, harassing, or threatening other students, faculty, staff
3. Possession, distribution, or sharing of obscene content
4. Leaving classroom without permission (*Truancy Policy JBAC*)

5. Leaving school without permission or failure to report to class (*Truancy Policy JBAC*)
6. Acts that are detrimental to decency, decorum, or order
7. Hazing – Physical or mental abuse
8. Vandalism and/or destruction of school property
9. Possession/Distribution/Transfer/Use of fireworks
10. Instigate/Participate in fight
11. Sexual Harassment

Disciplinary Options for Class III Behaviors:

- Detention or After-school detention – Failure to report to detention or after-school detention may result in out-of-school suspension for up to three (3) days.
- Three (3) to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension
- Total restitution for any injury to other person requiring medical attention and/or for items stolen or damaged (MS Code 37-11-53)
- Loss of privileges to school activity/activities (ex: graduation exercises, field trips, assemblies, sporting events, etc.
- Referral for placement in an alternative program
- Appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

Class IV Behaviors

1. Habitual behaviors of Class III Behaviors
2. Unauthorized use/sale/possession/transfer of prescription/non-prescription drugs
3. Possession/Sale/Use of tobacco and tobacco/nicotine-related products including electronic nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, e-cigars, vape pens, juuls, etc.)
4. Steals, appropriates, or converts to own use property of another with restitution required (up to $99.99 value)
5. Sexual Misconduct
6. Violation of Gang Policy

Disciplinary Options for Class IV Behaviors

- Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension
- Loss of privileges to school activity/activities (ex: graduation exercises, field trips, assemblies, sporting events, etc.)
- Up to forty-five (45) day placement in an alternative program
- Total restitution for any injury to other person requiring medical attention and/or for items stolen or damaged (MS Code 37-11-53)
- Eleven (11) days or more suspension with recommendation for expulsion (Expulsion is defined as the complete loss of privileges in the Perry County School District.)
- Appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

Class V Behaviors

1. Verbal assault of school district employee or other student
2. Physical assault of school district employee or other student
3. Possession sale, or use of alcohol, narcotics, illegal drugs or any drug paraphernalia
4. Possession or use of a deadly weapon or of any item that has the shape, form, or appearance of or intended use as a weapon (MS Code 97-37-14 and 97-37-17)

5. Steals, appropriates, or converts to own use property of another with restitution required ($100.00 value or greater)
6. Poisoning
7. Sexual assault or sexual battery as defined under Mississippi Law
8. Threat—including but not limited to—bomb, weapon, or any type threat that rises to the level of Law Enforcement involvement.
9. Arson

Disciplinary Options for Class V Behaviors:

- Loss of privileges to school activity/activities (ex: graduation exercises, field trips, assemblies, sporting events, etc.)
- Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension
- Up to forty-five (45) day placement in an alternative program
- Eleven (11) days or more suspension with recommendation for expulsion (Expulsion is defined as the complete loss of privileges in the Perry County School District.)
- Any student who becomes involved in any criminal or violent behavior shall be removed from the school program, and with probable cause, the case will be referred to the appropriate court system.
- Appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

FIGHTING

- **1st Offense**: Up to ten (10) days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), as determined by school administration.
- **2nd Offense**: Up to ten (10) days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) with recommendation for placement in the Achievement Center, as determined by school administration.

Administrative Provision

All incidents involving fighting are subject to review by school administration. Disciplinary consequences may be adjusted based on severity of the incident, level of student involvement, prior disciplinary history, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. School administration reserves the right to impose additional consequences, including but not limited to, achievement school placement, recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion, in accordance with district policy and applicable law.

VAPING/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES/TOBACCO DEVICES

- **1st Offense**: Five (5) days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), as determined by school administration.
- **2nd Offense**: Recommendation for placement in the Achievement Center for up to forty-five (45) school days, as determined by school administration.
- **3rd Offense**: Recommendation for placement in the Achievement Center for up to One (1) calendar year, as determined by school administration.

Administrative Provision

Violations involving vaping or the possession or use of electronic cigarettes or tobacco devices are subject to review by school administration. Consequences may be modified based on the circumstances of the offense, including but not limited to possession versus use, distribution, prior offenses, and student disciplinary history. School administration reserves the right to

impose additional disciplinary actions in accordance with district policy, including referral to law enforcement when applicable.

OTHER INFORMATION

Parents are financially liable for child's destructive acts toward school property or person, and if the school requests, the parents will be required to attend a disciplinary conference. Parents who willfully fail to attend a properly notified conference may be guilty of a misdemeanor. (MS Code 37-11-53)

A student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Control Substance Law, a knife, handgun, or other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property as defined in Section 97-37-17, shall **be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year.** Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the rights of due process. (MS Code 37-11-18)

While being suspended or expelled, a student is not allowed to enter a campus or building in any Perry County School during or outside of school hours, nor may the student attend any school-related activity inside or outside of Perry County School District. To do so may make the student liable for arrest on grounds of trespassing as well as jeopardizing future chance of re-admission to the school district.

Students in K-12 with two (2) class III or higher discipline referrals will have his/her discipline file reviewed by the TST committee to determine the need for possible behavior interventions or alternative programming.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY -- PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

Purpose

Perry County School District is committed to fostering an environment of academic excellence, integrity, and ethical behavior. This policy outlines the expectations for academic honesty and the consequences of violations, including cheating and plagiarism.

Definitions

- **Academic Dishonesty**: Any action that gives an unfair academic advantage or misrepresents a student's work.
- **Cheating**: Using unauthorized materials, information, or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include:
    - Copying from another student's work.
    - Using unauthorized aids during tests.
    - Sharing or receiving answers without permission.
    - Submitting work completed by someone else.
- **Plagiarism**: Presenting another's ideas, words, or work as one's own without proper acknowledgment. This includes:
    - Copying text without citation.
    - Paraphrasing without crediting the source.
    - Using AI-generated content without permission or acknowledgment.

Policy

1. **Student Responsibilities**:
    - Submit original work and properly cite all sources.

    - Seek clarification from teachers when uncertain about academic honesty.
    - Refrain from assisting others in dishonest practices.
2. **Teacher Responsibilities**:
    - Clearly communicate expectations regarding academic integrity.
    - Provide guidance on proper research and citation methods.
    - Report violations to school administration.
3. **Consequences of Violations**: may result in one of the following.
    - **First Offense**:
        - Zero on the assignment.
        - Parent/guardian notification.
        - Documentation in the student's disciplinary record.
    - **Second Offense**:
        - Zero on the assignment.
        - Parent/guardian conference.
        - Detention or in-school suspension.
    - **Third Offense**:
        - Zero on the assignment.
        - Out-of-school suspension.
        - Potential loss of extracurricular privileges.

Appeals Process
Students may appeal disciplinary actions by submitting a written request to the principal within five school days of the incident. The appeal will be reviewed by the District's Appeals Committee. A meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and relevant staff will be scheduled to discuss the matter.

Conclusion
PCSD expects all students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Understanding and adhering to this policy ensures a fair and honest academic environment for all.

DUE PROCESS: APPEALS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS
Students are afforded due process. Information is distributed to the students regarding school rules and student conduct in the student handbook. When a disciplinary action results in a disciplinary reassignment, suspension, or expulsion, due process of law involves three procedures:

1. Prior Notification – The student and/or legal guardian is informed of the disciplinary action which is being considered.
2. Specification of Charges – The student and/or legal guardian is made aware of the misconduct for which the student is being accused.
3. Opportunity to Respond – The student and/or legal guardian is allowed to present his view of the accusations and of the disciplinary action to be taken.

If an administrator's decision is questioned, the parent or student may appeal the administrator's decision. The appeal must be made in writing to the District Discipline Appeals Committee. (District policy JCAA, DDAC)

SEARCHES

The right to inspection of students' school lockers or desks is inherent in the authority granted school boards and administrators and will be exercised to protect the well-being of all students. Not only do school authorities have a right to inspect, but their right becomes a duty when suspicion arises that something of an illegal nature may be hidden in a locker or desk. Drug dogs and metal detectors may be used in searches. By bringing a backpack, book bag, purse, etc. to school, a student hereby consents to a search of the contents by school personnel.

Repeated patterns of misbehavior may require counseling and parental involvement and assistance to the extent that the parent may be requested to come to school and attend classes with the student in order to identify and correct such behavioral patterns.

All disruptions/discipline problems and consequences shall be applicable to all students during all periods of time they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Education of this school district and/or while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal, or other authority of this school district.

HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

Student Arrival	7:50 AM	
Cafeteria/Breakfast	7:50 – 8:25 AM	
Report to Class	8:25 – 8:30 AM	
Tardy Bell	8:30 AM	
1st Block	8:30 – 10:04	94 minutes
Break	10:04 – 10:12	8 minutes
Transition	10:12 – 10:15	3 minutes
2nd Block	10:15 – 11:49	94 minutes
Transition	11:49 – 11:52	3 minutes
3rd Block	11:52 – 1:48	116 minutes
Transition	1:48 – 1:51	3 minutes
1st Lunch	11:52 – 12:16	24 minutes
2nd Lunch	12:26 – 12:50	24 minutes
3rd Lunch	1:00 – 1:24	24 minutes
4th Block	1:51 – 2:39	48 minutes
Transition	2:39 – 2:42	3 minutes
5th Period	2:42 – 3:30	48 minutes

CURRICULUM

All Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard courses for credit are approved by this board as options for curriculum choices for the master schedule. Students will benefit from teacher advisors, counseling, preregistration and registration to make course selections. Students are required to take classes with increasing rigor each academic year.

10-10 RULE

To protect instructional time and minimize disruptions, students are not permitted to leave the classroom during the first 10 minutes of the last 10 minutes of class.

Hall passes should not be issued during these restricted times.

Exceptions will be made only in the case of a verified emergency or with an approved doctor's note of file.

Failure to comply will result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the student handbook.

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDIT

1. Academic credit for courses taken by students in the Perry County Schools shall be awarded upon successful completion of courses and meeting state testing requirements.
2. Credit for high school courses will be awarded in quarter, half, full or multiple units as approved by the latest edition of Mississippi Public School Accountability.
3. In full year courses the student must complete both semesters for a full-year (two-semesters) course with 65 overall yearly average. The final grade will be determined by averaging first and second semester averages.
4. In semester courses the course grade for the semester must be 65 to receive credit. The average will be determined by using the semester exemption policy found in the handbook.
5. A semester of a different course cannot be substituted, in a 1-unit course for credit whether through the regular program or through summer school or correspondence.
6. **A student will not be eligible to receive academic credit for any course <u>if excessive absences in the class occur</u>, subject to administrative review, if granted.**
7. Perry Central High School will recognize and honor courses taken at other accredited schools if courses are recorded on the permanent record or transcript; but in the matter of required courses, students shall meet all regulations governing graduation requirements without unauthorized assistance.
8. No credits toward graduation can be awarded for courses not taken at accredited schools.
9. Each student is responsible for completing required work. The integrity of the grading and testing procedures must not be compromised, and any student who is determined to be guilty of cheating will retake the assignment. The highest grade that can be received will be a 70. The student will also be subject to disciplinary action**.**
10. In order to receive credit for one year of English III and English IV, the student must complete an acceptable research paper as determined by the instructor.
11. In order to receive a diploma from Perry Central High School, a student must have attended Perry Central High for a minimum of one full semester and must earn at least two of the last four units of credit in residence at Perry Central High School. Attendance in summer school will not be counted toward this requirement.
12. Transfer students who enroll in Perry Central High School for less than twenty (20) school days must arrange for credit through their previous schools.
13. Perry Central High School will accept transfer students and award credit for grades earned during the school year if the student is enrolled in the Perry County Schools for at least twenty (20) school days. A student enrolled in Perry Central for less than twenty (20) school days will receive an incomplete grade, until grades in progress are sent from

a previous school. Grades in progress will be averaged with grades received while in attendance at Perry Central High School.

14. Students withdrawing from a course after two weeks into that course must have approval of the principal.
15. A student with a passing grade of 65 or higher in the technology class in grade 8 will meet the computer proficiency/competency state requirements and will receive one Carnegie unit of credit toward graduation requirements.
16. An 8th grade student enrolled in Algebra I who passes the course with a 65 or higher will receive one Carnegie unit of credit toward graduation. The student must also pass the corresponding state exam.
17. Students will be placed in math classes based upon the sequence of math courses.
18. In order to enroll in 9th grade Spanish I, if offered, a student must (1) have a grade of 90 or higher in 8th grade English and/or score advanced on the reading portion of the MAAP Assessment, or (2) be recommended by the 8th grade English teacher.
19. All students must successfully complete four (4) units of English in order to graduate from Perry Central High School. In order to receive credit for English III or English IV the student must write an acceptable research paper as determined by the instructor. Students will not be allowed to take English II until English I has been mastered.
20. All dual credit/dual enrollment courses taken during any semester, including summer college semesters, prior to graduation will be added to the students' academic transcript.

EXEMPTION POLICY (High School Only)

Students may be exempt from taking final exams under the following conditions. To determine a student's average for exemption, average the first term and second term grade for the final average. This gives you the grade that determines their exemption. If they are exempt this is the grade that you use for their final grade. If they are not exempt, they will take the final exam. The final exam counts 1/4 of the grade.

1) Students with an average of 90 or above in a class shall be exempt from the exam in that class if he or she has:
   a) NO excessive absences (No more than five excused absences)
   b) No more than two Office Discipline Referrals
   c) No fines owed

OR

2. Students with an average of 85-89 in a class shall be exempt from the exam in that class if he or she has:
   a) No excessive absences (No more than two excused absences)
   b) No more than two Office Discipline Referrals
   c) No fines owed

Students who meet the requirements for exam exemption will be exempt from taking their exam ONLY, not the school day. If a student is exempt from taking exams and chooses not to attend school on exam day, he or she will be counted absent. However, the absence will not count against Perfect Attendance Awards. No exemptions will be permitted for any student who has been assigned to ISD or Out-of-School Suspension. **The exemption does not apply to

the first term exam in courses for which the subject area tests are given; Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History. Three unexcused tardies may be counted as an unexcused absence and applied toward determination of final exam exemption.

EARLY RELEASE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – Perry Central High School

Early release is a scheduling option that allows students to arrive late or leave school early; however, it does not mean a student has completed school. Students approved for early release must remain enrolled and actively attending school through the end of he academic year.

Students participating in dual enrollment are required to remain enrolled in at least one on-campus course at Perry Central High School during both the fall and spring semesters of their senior year. Participation in dual enrollment does not replace this requirement.

Seniors are expected to remain enrolled through May and may not complete all graduation requirements at the end of the fall semester unless extenuating circumstances exist in accordance with Mississippi Department of Education requirements and the exception is approved by the principal and superintendent.

Early release is a privilege. Students must meet all state graduation requirements as set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education and the criteria below to qualify and remain eligible.

General Requirements (Each Semester):

1. Be on track for graduation and meet one approved diploma endorsement pathway
2. Maintain passing grades in all courses and remain in good academic standing
3. Submit a parent-signed early release approval form each semester
4. Have reliable transportation (driver's license, insurance, and parking permit if applicable)
5. Provide proof of employment for the semester if enrolled in the Work-Based Learning Program

Approved Diploma Endorsements

Career and Technical Education (CTE) or JROTC Endorsement

- 26 credits
- 2.5 GPA
- ACT WorkKeys Silver or higher
- Complete one: dual credit, work-based learning, national credential, AP/IB/AICE (C or higher with exam), or NOCTI/JROTC credential

Academic Endorsement

- 26 credits
- 2.5 GPA
- 2 CPC electives
- One: ACT (17 English, 19 Math), SAT equivalent, or Essentials of College Math/Literacy
- Plus one: AP/IB/AICE (C or higher with exam) or dual credit (C or higher)

Distinguished Academic Endorsement

- 28 credits

- 3.0 GPA
- 2 CPC recommended electives
- One: ACT (18 English, 22 Math) or SAT equivalent
- Plus one: AP/IB/AICE (B or higher with exam) or dual credit (B or higher)

Behavior

- No more than 3 discipline write-ups per 9-week grading period

Attendance

- No more than 3 unexcused absences per 9-week grading period

Additional Options

Students may also qualify for early release by meeting one of the following:

- Earn an ACT WorkKeys Gold certification or higher
- Provide proof of employment for the semester in which the student is enrolled in the Work-Based Learning program

Early release can and will be revoked immediately if any requirement is not met. Students who lose eligibility will be returned to a full-day schedule.

Early release is a privilege, not a right. Foundation First. Excellence Always.

COLLEGE DAYS

Students who are classified as juniors or seniors will be permitted two excused college days during their junior year and two excused college days during their senior year. These visits should be used during the months of September through April. Students wishing to make a college visit should submit a request in writing one week prior to the scheduled visit. In order for the absence to be waived, the student must present a signed college visitation form upon his/her return to school. (Visitation forms are generally available on all college campuses.) A college day waiver will not count against exam exemption.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

CLASSIFICATION/PROMOTION POLICY

To be classified as a sophomore, one must have successfully completed seven (7) units of credit; to be classified as a junior, one must have fourteen (14) units of credit; and to be classified as a senior, one must have twenty-one (21) and above units of credit. Grade classification is to be updated each year. No student shall be given a Carnegie unit of credit for any course in which the student has not achieved objectives outlined by the State Board or the Perry County School District. Student performance on the core objectives must be used as the principle basis for determining whether a student fails or passes for each elementary school and secondary school academic course. (See “Academic Credit”).

GENERAL POLICIES REGARDING COURSE SELECTION

The policies listed below will be followed by students, parents, and counselors in setting up the students’ programs: It is the intent of the Perry County Schools that students will be assisted at the end of the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade year in making course selections, that will best meet the student’s needs, interests, and capabilities in preparing them for their career choices and goals as they work toward high school graduation. This will be accomplished through the teacher advisor program and assistance from the guidance counselor and career center

technician at the discretion of the Perry County School Board. Students are required to take classes with increasing rigor each academic year.

EXIT OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Special Education students entering the ninth grade will have two (2) options concerning a course of study:

1. Students may enroll in an academic course of study aimed at obtaining a Mississippi High School Diploma or a Mississippi High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement.
2. Students may obtain a Graduation Certificate based on the completion of IEP goals.

The decision regarding choosing a program of study leading to one of these exit options must be made by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) committee during the student's ninth grade year or IEP developed prior to the student's sixteenth birthday, whichever comes first.

PERRY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Credit recovery is defined as a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion. Credit Recovery Program Rules, Regulations, and Processes.

1. Admission to and removal from the Credit Recovery Program:
    a. Students will fill out an application that will include student name, grade level, grade received in class, teacher of class and teacher signature, parent signature, counselor and administrator signature.
    b. Minimum criteria for participating in the credit recovery program.
2. Must be enrolled at Perry Central High School
3. Students earning a grade between 54 and 60 may be considered for grade recovery. Students earning between 50 and 53 may be considered for recovery at the discretion of the administration, based on individual circumstances and documented need. Students earning below 50 are not eligible for grade recovery or adjustment. The principal reserves the right to make final determinations regarding all grade recovery.
4. Must have parental consent
    a. Students who have already received credit for a course are not eligible unless they have not passed the end of course test(s) required for graduation.
    b. A student may take no more than two credit recovery courses at one time.
    c. Students may not remain in a credit recovery course for more than one year.
5. **Instruction:** Perry Central High School may use direct instruction, and or computer assisted instruction. Staff development is provided for instructors and facilitators.
6. **Content and Curriculum:** Credit recovery curriculum shall be based on the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks competencies and objectives or Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards.
7. **Grades:** Students will receive a grade of 65 when they successfully complete the course requirements.
8. Credit Recovery must be completed within one calendar year of the course failed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

PERRY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

Participation in Perry Central High School Graduation is limited to those students who have completed all graduation requirements, as specified by the Perry County School Board and the 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.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES RELATED TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES

As of April 17, 2015, the State Board of Education (SBE) granted approval of a final rule to revise the following State Board Policies related to graduation:

1. State Board Policy 3801 – Policies for EOY assessments
2. State Board Policy 3802 – Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit
3. State Board Policy 3803 – Assessments Required for Graduation

State Board Policy 3803 contains the following revision effective for students enrolled in the 2014-2015 school year: Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting one (1) of the following options:

1. Passing the applicable end-of-course assessments;
2. Using options outlined in State Board Policy 3804;
3. Using the end-of-course assessment score with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table for each of the four end-of-course assessment as provided to the school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). (Students must be enrolled in school in order to utilize this option.)

UNDERCLASSMEN AWARDS NIGHT DRESS CODE

In order to ensure that the accomplishments of our students are appropriately celebrated, students are required to comply with school dress code qualifications and encouraged to wear "Sunday Best."

SENIOR CELEBRATIONS DRESS CODE

Completion of the high school career is an accomplishment that deserves a dignified and solemn celebration. In an effort to ensure the uniformity and formality of our senior celebrations students are required to adhere to the following dress code:

Males – Black Pants, Black Dress Shoes and socks, White or Black button up (Oxford type) collared shirt, and a school appropriate tie

Females – School appropriate White or Black Dress or Pant suit with Black Dress Shoes.

<u>SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT</u> – Students are required to comply with the above dress code. Attendance is a requirement. Students are not allowed to have a cell phone, gum or candy or any other items that can be considered a distraction on their person during the awards ceremony.

<u>GRADUATION</u> – Students are required to comply with the above dress code. Seniors must attend Senior Awards Night, Senior Breakfast, Graduation Practice, and the Elementary/Middle School Senior Walk Activity in order to be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Seniors are encouraged to wear all medallions, cords, medals, etc. awarded by PCHS and the Perry County Career and Technical Center. Any other regalia is not permitted. Students are not permitted to alter any part of the graduation gown, cap, tassel, or stole. Students must arrive at the designated time on the night of graduation in order to have individual and group professional photos made, complete senior exit interviews, be placed in the correct walking order for the ceremony, and have all regalia checked by a school official (students cannot leave the room once their regalia is checked). In order to accomplish these tasks in a timely and accurate manner, only eligible PCHS Senior class members are allowed inside the building. If any part of the regalia is missing or if a student is not compliant with the above dress code they WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. If a student arrives after students have been placed in line for the ceremony they WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

DUAL CREDIT/DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Enrollment in Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Courses are a privilege, not a right. Students must meet all requirements set forth by the institution in which enrolling. Students interested in enrolling in Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment courses should request a Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment packet from the high school/CTE counselor.

DUAL CREDIT COURSE ENROLLMENT POLICY

Dual Enrollment – Earning college credit while a high school student
Dual Credit – Earning college and high school credit simultaneously while a high school student

1. Students must meet the standards set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Advanced Placement Task Force along with any requirements set forth by the governing college.
2. All course registration must go through the counselor's office. All class withdrawals/drops must be approved by the high school counselor. Any class that a student enrolls in without the permission of the high school will be considered a dual enrollment course (no high school credit) and any cost associated with that course will be the responsibility of the student/parent.
3. **Enrollment at District Expense:**
    - The opportunity to enroll in **dual credit courses at the district's expense** is dependent on **available funding**.
    - **Priority for district-funded enrollment** will be given to students **who have not previously taken** dual credit courses.
    - The **school principal** will make final determinations regarding district-funded enrollment **at their discretion**.

    Enrollment at Student Expense:
    - Students who choose to **self-fund** their dual credit courses may enroll **during any semester** through the **academic guidance counselor's office**.
    - Payment for additional courses **must be submitted to the Institution** before the withdrawal deadline set by the presiding college.
    - If payment is not received by the deadline, the student will be **withdrawn from the course** and must enroll in a **replacement course** if needed to fulfill graduation requirements.

    Academic and Financial Responsibility:

- If a student does not meet the “C” requirement for a Dual Credit Course (70 or above per PCSD Grading Policy), the district will not fund any additional dual credit course for that student.

For any questions regarding dual credit enrollment, funding eligibility, or payment procedures, please contact the **academic guidance counselor’s office**.

4. Students will not be placed in activity periods for Academic Dual Credit courses. In extreme circumstances students may be granted approval by the principal to be enrolled in an activity period. Students in CTE Dual Credit courses will be enrolled in appropriate activity periods as needed.
5. When in person dual credit courses are available, students will be required to enroll in those courses before enrolling in online courses.
6. If required paperwork and registrations are not completed by published deadlines, students will not be allowed to enroll in dual credit courses for that term.
7. Dual credit students are required to submit complete and accurate grade reports every two weeks. Students who are failing a course may be required to withdraw from a course at the discretion of the principal or their representative.
8. Students must monitor their school email. All emails from school officials must be answered within 1 school day.
9. Students must submit an official transcript at the end of their course. If a student fails to submit their transcript, the dual credit course can be removed from their record and no credit given and/or the student will not be allowed to enroll in future dual credit courses.
10. Federal guidelines prohibit colleges from divulging student information to anyone other than the student. Parents will not be allowed to access student information.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA
(Entering ninth graders in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.* Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (*See* Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28.2 and 28.3, State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rules 28.2 and 28.3.) Students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 may be awarded a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit bearing course in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. Enrollment in online courses listed in this document must have prior approval granted by the principal.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has met the requirements for each of the required high school assessments is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7.

Beginning school year 2018-2019 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below. Student may earn the following endorsements to be added to the traditional diploma: Career and Technical Endorsement, Academic Endorsement, and/or Distinguished Academic Endorsement. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4[1]	English I, English II
MATHEMATICS	4[2]	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3[3]	Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History[4] 1 U.S. History[4] ½ U.S. Government[4] ½ Economics[5] ½ Mississippi Studies[6]
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½[7]	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½[8]	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1[9]	
THE ARTS	1[10]	
COLLEGE- and CAREER-READINESS	1[11]	
ELECTIVES	5½	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24[12, 13, 14]	

[1]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental English courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) English Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental English may be taken only if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same

school year. English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

[2]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental Mathematics courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) Math Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental Mathematics may be taken only if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. CCR Mathematics Grade 8, Ready for High School Mathematics, and Foundations of Algebra cannot be taken after a student has received a Carnegie unit in the CCR Algebra I course. The Ready for High School Mathematics course shall only be available for 8th grade or 9th grade students. Foundations of Algebra shall only be available for 9th grade students. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II, and IB-DP Mathematical Studies I are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics I may be accepted in lieu of Algebra I. One (1) of the four (4) required Carnegie units for mathematics may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a mathematics unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a science or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[3]One (1) of the three (3) required Carnegie units for science may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a science unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a mathematics or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12. Coordinated Science I or Cambridge IGCSE Biology may be accepted in lieu of Biology. The following courses may be accepted for a science credit above Biology: any AP, Cambridge, or IB-DP science course, any approved dual credit natural or physical science course, any MDE-approved Special Topics in Science course, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine and Aquatic Science I and II, Physical Science, Physics, Zoology I and II, PLTW Principles of Engineering, PLTW Engineering Design and Development, PLTW Human Body Systems, PLTW Medical Interventions.

[4]Based on the *2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies*, AP World History, DC World Civilization I, AP European History, or DC Western Civilization I may be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. AP United States History or DC United States History II may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. AP Government and Politics: United States and DC American National may be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. IB-DP History of the Americas I may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II may be accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government may be accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. Cambridge IGCSE American History or Cambridge International AS level history may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course.

[5]A.P. Macroeconomics, A.P. Microeconomics, DC Macroeconomics, or DC Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[6]The Carnegie credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If a transfer enters without a State/Local Government course, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course (e.g., Civics, Law Related Education, Participation in American Democracy, Law and Policy, Contemporary Issues, etc.) may be accepted excluding U.S. Government and Economics. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program.

[7]The graduation requirement for one-half (½) unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music-Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Only one (1) elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music- Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that

meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required Carnegie units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements, the district may award additional units as outlined in the local school board policy.

[8]Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II shall be accepted as requirement met for Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. Dual credit Personal and Community Health may be accepted in lieu of the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[9]For approved course substitutions see Appendices A-12 and A-13.

[10]The Arts refers to Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Any course(s) in one of these areas can fulfill the required Carnegie unit in the Arts. The following dual credit classes: Music Appreciation, Theatre Appreciation, or Art Appreciation may be accepted in lieu of the Arts requirement for students. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[11]The purpose of the College and Career Readiness Course is to provide planning and instruction for postsecondary transition. The following courses are approved substitutions for the CCR course:

1. One (1) credit-bearing Carnegie unit of Career and Technical Work-Based Learning
2. Dual Credit SmartStart
3. JROTC III
4. Advanced Placement Seminar or equivalent International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International Courses
5. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior MS College and Career Readiness Seminar course for Early College High Schools.

*An out-of-state student who transfers after the completion of the first semester of their senior year may substitute any other one (1) unit social studies course or a combination of one-half (½) Personal Finance and one-half (½) social studies course.

The CCR course may be taught in one of the following sequences:

a. One (1) Carnegie unit Senior year only
b. One (1) Carnegie unit Junior year only
c. One-half (½) Carnegie unit in either freshman, sophomore, or junior year with the remaining one-half (½) Carnegie unit taught in either junior or senior year
d. One-fourth (¼) Carnegie unit per year beginning with the freshman year

[12]Additional requirements above the 24 Carnegie units and the assessment requirements include:

- Students must identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission this includes dropping the endorsement to earn only the Traditional diploma.
- For early release, students must meet College- and Career-Readiness benchmarks of 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT sub-score OR earn a Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys suite of assessments. For seniors that have not met the benchmarks, to qualify for early release students, excluding those enrolled in credit-bearing work-based learning, must meet the following requirements:
    - Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements for all three end-of-course assessments

      AND
    - Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

      AND
    - Are concurrently enrolled in the appropriate Essentials for College Math or another mathematics course above their Junior year mathematics course and/or Essentials for College Literacy or another English Language Arts course above their Junior level English Language Arts course.

      OR

- Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements

AND

- Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

AND

- Students meet postsecondary requirements for placement and are enrolled in ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra or have previously earned credit for ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra

[13]Additional recommendations (not requirements) above the 24 Carnegie units and assessment requirements include:

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement
- Student should take a math or math equivalency senior year

[14]Courses designed using the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MS AAAS) shall not be used as substitute courses or electives for students obtaining a traditional academic diploma with or without endorsements.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA WITH CAREER AND TECHNICAL OR JROTC ENDORSEMENT
(Entering ninth graders in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.* Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi.* (*See* Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.2 and 28.3, State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rules 28.2 and 28.3.) Students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 may be awarded a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit bearing course in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi.* Enrollment in online courses listed in this document must have prior approval granted by the principal.

To earn the Career and Technical or JROTC Endorsement, a student must complete the minimum graduation requirements as specified below, meet the requirements for each of the required high school assessments and complete all career and technical endorsement additional requirements. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37 -16-7.

Beginning school year 2018-2019 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders will be required to have a minimum of 26 Carnegie units as specified below to earn a Traditional Diploma with a Career and Technical Endorsement. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4[1]	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	4[2]	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3[3]	Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History[4] 1 U.S. History[4] ½ U.S. Government[4] ½Economics[5] ½ Mississippi Studies[6]
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½[7]	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½[8]	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1[9]	
THE ARTS	1[10]	
COLLEGE- AND CAREER- READINESS	1[11]	
CAREER and TECHNICAL/JROTC	4	
ELECTIVES	3½	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	26[12, 13, 14]	

[1]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental English courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) English Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental English may be taken only if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

[2]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental Mathematics courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) Math Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental Mathematics may be taken only if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. CCR Mathematics Grade 8, Ready for High School Mathematics, and Foundations of Algebra cannot be taken after a student has received a Carnegie unit in the CCR Algebra I course. The Ready for High School Mathematics course shall only be available for 8th grade or 9th grade students. Foundations of Algebra shall only be available for 9th grade students. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, and IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics I may be accepted in lieu of Algebra I. One (1) of the four (4) required Carnegie units for mathematics may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a mathematics unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for science or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[3]One (1) of the three (3) required Carnegie units for science may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a science unit, AP Computer Science Principals cannot then also be used for a mathematics or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12. Coordinated Science I or Cambridge IGCSE Biology may be accepted in lieu of Biology. The following courses may be accepted for a science credit above Biology: any AP, Cambridge, or IB-DP science course, any approved dual credit natural or physical science course, any MDE-approved Special Topics in Science course, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine and Aquatic Science I and II, Physical Science, Physics, Zoology I and II, PLTW Principles of Engineering, PLTW Engineering Design and Development, PLTW Human Body Systems, PLTW Medical Interventions.

[4]Based on the *2022 Mississippi College- and Career- Readiness Standards for Social Studies*, AP World History, DC World Civilization II, AP European History, or DC Western Civilization II may be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. AP United States History or DC United States History II may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. AP Government and Politics: United States and DC American National may be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. IB-DP History of the Americas I may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II may be accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government may be accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. Cambridge IGCSE American History or Cambridge International AS level history may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course.

[5]A.P. Macroeconomics, A.P. Microeconomics, DC Macroeconomics, or DC Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[6]The Carnegie credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If a transfer student enters without a State/Local Government course, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course (e.g., Civics, Law Related Education, Participation in American Democracy, Law and Policy, Contemporary Issues, etc.) may be accepted excluding U.S. Government and Economics. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program.

[7]The graduation requirement for one-half (½) unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music-Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the

instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Only one (1) elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music- Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required Carnegie units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements, the district may award additional units as outlined in the local school board policy.

[8]Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II shall be accepted as requirement met for Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. Dual credit Personal and Community Health may be accepted in lieu of the graduation requirements for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[9]For approved course substitutions see Appendices A-12 and A-13.

[10]The Arts refers to Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Any course(s) in one of these areas can fulfill the required Carnegie unit in the Arts. The following dual credit classes: Music Appreciation, Theatre Appreciation, or Art Appreciation may be accepted in lieu of the Arts requirement for students. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[11]The purpose of the College and Career Readiness Course is to provide planning and instruction for postsecondary transition. The following courses are approved substitutions for the CCR course:

1. One (1) credit-bearing Carnegie unit of Career and Technical Work-Based Learning
2. Dual Credit SmartStart
3. JROTC III
4. Advanced Placement Seminar or equivalent International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International Courses
5. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior MS College and Career Readiness Seminar course for Early College High Schools.

*An out-of-state student who transfers after the completion of the first semester of their senior year may substitute any other one (1) unit social studies course or a combination of one-half (½) Personal Finance and one-half (½) social studies course.

The CCR course may be taught in one (1) of the following sequences:

a. One (1) Carnegie unit Senior year only
b. One (1) Carnegie unit Junior year only
c. One-half (½) Carnegie unit in either freshman, sophomore, or junior year with the remaining one-half (½) Carnegie unit taught in either junior or senior year
d. One-fourth (¼) Carnegie unit per year beginning with the freshman year

[12]Additional requirements above Traditional Diploma Option and the 26 Carnegie units and the assessment include:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
  - One (1) academic OR CTE dual credit and earn a C or higher in the course
  - Credit-bearing Work-based Learning
  - Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential
  - One (1) AP, Diploma Program-IB, or Cambridge (AICE) course aligned to their career pathway. Students must earn a C or higher and take the appropriate exam.
  - NOCTI/JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills Credential
- For early release, students must meet College- and Career-Readiness benchmarks of 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT sub-score OR earn a Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys suite of assessments. For seniors that have not met the benchmarks, to qualify for early release students, excluding those enrolled in credit-bearing work-based learning, must meet the following requirements:

- Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements for all three end-of-course assessments

AND

- Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

AND

- Are concurrently enrolled in the appropriate Essentials for College Math or another mathematics course above their Junior year mathematics course and/or Essentials for College Literacy or another English Language Arts course above their Junior level English Language Arts course.

OR

- Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements

AND

- Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

AND

- Students meet postsecondary requirements for placement and are enrolled in ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra or have previously earned credit for ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra

[13]Additional recommendations (not requirements) above 26 Carnegie Units and assessment requirements include:

- For early graduation, refer to Rule 36.7, Early Graduation Policy.
- Students should take a math or math equivalency senior year

[14]Courses designed using the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MS AAAS) shall not be used as substitute courses or electives for students obtaining a traditional academic diploma with or without endorsements.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA with an ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
(Entering ninth graders in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.* Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (*See* Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.2 and 28.3, State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rules 28.2 and 28.3.) Enrollment in online courses listed in this document must have prior approval granted by the principal.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has met requirements for each of the required high school assessments is eligible to receive a high school diploma. Students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 may be awarded a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit bearing course in the current edition of *the Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi*.

Beginning school year 2018-2019 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders will be required to have a minimum of 26 Carnegie units as specified below to earn a Traditional Diploma with an Academic Endorsement. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4[1]	English I English II Two (2) additional English Courses above English II
MATHEMATICS	4[2]	Algebra I Two (2) additional Math Courses above Algebra I
SCIENCE	3[3]	Biology Two (2) additional science courses above Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History[4] 1 U.S. History[4] ½ U.S. Government[4] ½ Economics[5] ½ Mississippi Studies[6]
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½[7]	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½[8]	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1[9]	
THE ARTS	1[10]	
COLLEGE- and CAREER- READINESS	1[11]	
ELECTIVES	7½	Must Include two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum requirements (This information is available from Institutions of Higher Learning.)

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	**26** [12, 13, 14]	

[1]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental English courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) English Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental English may be taken only if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

[2]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental Mathematics courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) Math Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental Mathematics may be taken only if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. CCR Mathematics Grade 8, Ready for High School Mathematics, and Foundations of Algebra cannot be taken after a student has received a Carnegie unit in the CCR Algebra I course. At least two (2) of the four (4) required mathematics Carnegie units must be earned in courses higher than the CCR Algebra I course. The Ready for High School Mathematics course shall only be available for 8th grade or 9th grade students. Foundations of Algebra shall only be available for 9th grade students. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB- DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, and IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics I may be accepted in lieu of Algebra I. One (1) of the four (4) required Carnegie units for mathematics may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a mathematics unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a science or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[3]One (1) of the three (3) required Carnegie units for science may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a science unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a mathematics or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12. Coordinated Science I or Cambridge IGCSE Biology may be accepted in lieu of Biology. The following courses may be accepted for a science credit above Biology: any AP, Cambridge, or IB-DP science course, any approved dual credit natural or physical science course, any MDE-approved Special Topics in Science course, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine and Aquatic Science I and II, Physical Science, Physics, Zoology I and II, PLTW Principles of Engineering, PLTW Engineering Design and Development, PLTW Human Body Systems, PLTW Medical Interventions.

[4]Based on the *2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies*, AP World History, DC World Civilization II, AP European History, or DC Western Civilization II may be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. AP United States History or DC United States History II may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. AP Government and Politics: United States and DC American National may be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. IB-DP History of the Americas I may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II may be accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government may be accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. Cambridge IGCSE American History or Cambridge International AS level history may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course.

[5]A.P. Macroeconomics, A.P. Microeconomics, DC Macroeconomics, or DC Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[6]The Carnegie credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If a transfer student enters without a State/Local Government course, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course (e.g., Civics, Law Related Education, Participation in American Democracy, Law and Policy, Contemporary Issues, etc.) may be accepted excluding U.S. Government and Economics. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program.

[7]The graduation requirement for one-half (½) unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music-Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Only one (1) elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music- Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required Carnegie units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements, the district may award additional units as outlined in the local school board policy.

[8]Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II shall be accepted as requirement met for Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. Dual credit Personal and Community Health may be accepted in lieu of the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[9]For approved course substitutions see Appendices A-12 and A-13.

[10]The Arts refers to Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Any course(s) in one of these areas can fulfill the required Carnegie unit in the Arts. The following dual credit classes: Music Appreciation, Theatre Appreciation, or Art Appreciation may be accepted in lieu of the art requirement for students. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[11]The purpose of the College and Career Readiness Course is to provide planning and instruction for postsecondary transition. The following courses are approved substitutions for the CCR course:

1. One-credit of Career and Technical Work-Based Learning
2. Dual Credit SmartStart
3. JROTC III
4. Advanced Placement Seminar or equivalent International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International Courses.
5. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior MS College and Career Readiness Seminar course for Early College High Schools.

*An out-of-state student who transfers after the completion of the first semester of their senior year may substitute any other one (1) unit social studies course or a combination of one-half (½) Personal Finance and one-half (½) social studies course.

The CCR course may be taught in one (1) of the following sequences:

a. One (1) Carnegie unit Senior year only
b. One (1) Carnegie unit Junior year only
c. One-half (½) Carnegie unit in either freshman, sophomore, or junior year with the remaining one- half (½) Carnegie unit taught in either junior or senior year
d. One-fourth (¼) Carnegie unit per year beginning with the freshman year

[12]Additional requirements above the Traditional Diploma Option, the 26 Carnegie units and the assessment requirements include:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
  - ACT sub scores of 17 in English and 19 in Math
  - Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy (in senior year)
  - Students meet postsecondary requirements for placement and are enrolled in ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra and earned a C or higher in either course or have previously earned credit for ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra with a C or higher.
  - SAT equivalency subscore

- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
  - One (1) AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
  - One (1) Diploma Program-IB or Cambridge (AICE) course with a C or higher and take the appropriate exam
  - One (1) dual credit course and earn a C or higher in the course
- For early release, students must meet College- and Career-Readiness benchmarks of 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT sub-score OR earn a Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys suite of assessments. For seniors that have not met the benchmarks, to qualify for early release students, excluding those enrolled in credit-bearing work-based learning, must meet the following requirements:
  - Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements for all three end-of-course assessments

    AND
  - Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

    AND
  - Are concurrently enrolled in the appropriate Essentials for College Math or another mathematics course above their Junior year mathematics course and/or Essentials for College Literacy or another English Language Arts course above their Junior level English Language Arts course.

    OR

  - Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements

    AND
  - Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

    AND
  - Students meet postsecondary requirements for placement and are enrolled in ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra or have previously earned credit for ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra

[13]Additional recommendations (not requirements) above 26 Carnegie units and assessment requirements include:

- For early graduation, refer to Rule 36.7, Early Graduation Policy.
- Students should take a math or math equivalency senior year

[14]Courses designed using the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MS AAAS) shall not be used as substitute courses or electives for students obtaining a traditional academic diploma with or without endorsements.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS STANDARD 14
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA with a DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
(Entering ninth graders in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.* Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi.* (See Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.2 and 28.3, State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rules 28.2 and 28.3.) Enrollment in online courses listed in this document must have prior approval granted by the principal.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has met the requirements for each of the required high school assessments is eligible to receive a high school diploma. Students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 may be awarded a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit bearing-course in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi.*

Beginning school year 2018-2019 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders will be required to have a minimum of 28 Carnegie units as specified below to earn a Traditional Diploma with a Distinguished Academic Endorsement. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4[1]	English I English II Two (2) additional English Courses above English II
MATHEMATICS	4[2]	Algebra I Two (2) additional Math Courses above Algebra I
SCIENCE	4[3]	Biology Two (2) additional science courses above Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History[4] 1 U.S. History[4] ½ U.S. Government[4] ½Economics[5] ½ Mississippi Studies[6]
PHYSICALEDUCATION	½[7]	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½[8]	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1[9]	
THE ARTS	1[10]	
COLLEGE- and CAREER-READINESS	1[11]	
ELECTIVES	8	Must Include two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum requirements (This information is available from Institutions of Higher Learning).
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	28 [12,13,14]	

[1]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental English courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) English Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental English may be taken only if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same

school year. English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

[2]Carnegie units earned for Supplemental Mathematics courses cannot be included as any of the four (4) Math Carnegie units required for graduation; however, Carnegie units earned for these courses may be included in the general elective graduation requirements. Supplemental Mathematics may be taken only if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. CCR Mathematics Grade 8, Ready for High School Mathematics, and Foundations of Algebra cannot be taken after a student has received a Carnegie unit in the CCR Algebra I course. At least two (2) of the four (4) required mathematics Carnegie units must be earned in courses higher than the CCR Algebra I course. The Ready for High School Mathematics course shall only be available for 8th grade or 9th grade students. Foundations of Algebra shall only be available for 9th grade students. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, and IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics I may be accepted in lieu of Algebra I. One (1) of the four (4) required Carnegie units for science may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for a mathematics unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a science or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[3]One (1) of the four (4) required Carnegie units for science may be in AP Computer Science Principles. If used for science unit, AP Computer Science Principles cannot then also be used for a mathematics or computer science unit. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12. Coordinated Science I or Cambridge IGCSE Biology may be accepted in lieu of Biology. The following courses may be accepted for a science credit above Biology: any AP, Cambridge, or IB-DP science course, any approved dual credit natural or physical science course, any MDE-approved Special Topics in Science course, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine and Aquatic Science I and II, Physical Science, Physics, Zoology I and II, PLTW Principles of Engineering, PLTW Engineering Design and Development, PLTW Human Body Systems, PLTW Medical Interventions.

[4]Based on the *2022 Mississippi College- and Career- Readiness Standards for Social Studies,* AP World History, DC World Civilization II, AP European History, or DC Western Civilization II may be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. AP United States History or DC United States History II may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. AP Government and Politics: United States and DC American National may be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. IB-DP History of the Americas I may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II may be accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government may be accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. Cambridge IGCSE American History or Cambridge International AS level history may be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course.

[5]A.P. Macroeconomics, A.P. Microeconomics, DC Macroeconomics, or DC Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[6]The Carnegie credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If a transfer student enters without a State/Local Government course, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course (e.g., Civics, Law Related Education, Participation in American Democracy, Law and Policy, Contemporary Issues, etc.) may be accepted excluding U.S. Government and Economics. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program.

[7]The graduation requirement for one-half (½) unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music-Choral-Ensembles), instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Only one (1) elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, choral performance courses for show choir (i.e., Choral, Music- Choral-Ensembles),

instrumental performance courses (i.e., Band, Music Instrumental Ensembles, Strings), dance courses or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required Carnegie units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements, the district may award additional units as outlined in the local school board policy.

[8]Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II shall be accepted as requirement met for Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. Dual credit Personal and Community Health may be accepted in lieu of the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in health. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[9]For approved course substitutions see Appendices A-12 and A-13.

[10]The Arts refers to Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Any course(s) in one of these areas can fulfill the required Carnegie unit in the Arts. The following dual credit classes: Music Appreciation, Theatre Appreciation, or Art Appreciation may be accepted in lieu of the art requirement for students. For approved Career and Technical course substitutions see Appendix A-12.

[11]The purpose of the College and Career Readiness Course is to provide planning and instruction for postsecondary transition. The following courses are approved substitutions for the CCR course:

1. One-credit of Career and Technical Work-Based Learning
2. Dual Credit SmartStart
3. JROTC III
4. Advanced Placement Seminar or equivalent International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International Courses
5. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior MS College and Career Readiness Seminar course for Early College High Schools.

*An out-of-state student who transfers after the completion of the first semester of their senior year may substitute any other one (1) unit social studies course or a combination of one-half (½) Personal Finance and one-half (½) social studies course.

The CCR course may be taught in one (1) of the following sequences:

a. One (1) Carnegie unit Senior year only
b. One (1) Carnegie unit Junior year only
c. One-half (½) Carnegie unit in either freshman, sophomore, or junior year with the remaining one- half (½) Carnegie unit taught in either junior or senior year
d. One-fourth (¼) Carnegie unit per year beginning with the freshman year

[12]Additional requirements above the Traditional Diploma Option, the 28 Carnegie units and the assessment requirements include:

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL CPC recommended requirements
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
  - ACT sub scores of 18 in English and 22 in Math
  - SAT equivalency sub score
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
  - One (1) AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
  - One (1) Diploma Program-IB or Cambridge (AICE) course with a B or higher and take the appropriate exam
  - One (1) dual credit course earning a B or higher in the course
- For early release, students must meet College- and Career-Readiness benchmarks of 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT sub-score OR earn a Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys suite of assessments. For seniors that have not met the benchmarks, to qualify for early release students, excluding those enrolled in credit-bearing work-based learning, must meet the following requirements:

- Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements for all three end-of-course assessments

AND

- Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

AND

- Are concurrently enrolled in the appropriate Essentials for College Math or another mathematics course above their Junior year mathematics course and/or Essentials for College Literacy or another English Language Arts course above their Junior level English Language Arts course.

OR

- Have a GPA of 2.5 and have passed or meet the assessment option requirements

AND

- Are on track to meet the diploma requirements

AND

- Students meet postsecondary requirements for placement and are enrolled in ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra or have previously earned credit for ENG Comp I and/or MAT College Algebra

[13]Additional recommendations (not requirements) above 28 Carnegie units and assessment requirements include:

- For early graduation, refer to Rule 36.7, Early Graduation Policy.
- Students should take a math or math equivalency senior year

[14]Courses designed using the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MS AAAS) shall not be used as substitute courses or electives for students obtaining a traditional academic diploma with or without endorsements.

EARLY GRADUATION
Students may be eligible for early graduation if they meet all Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) graduation requirements and any applicable district requirements.

GPA CALCULATION
Final grades, (yearly or semester) will be used to calculate grade point averages. All classes receiving a credit will be used in the calculation. Any failed classes will also be included unless the class is retaken. In such instances, the grade for the failed class will not be used.

If calculating on a 4.0 scale is necessary…		Any advanced courses designated in the handbook will receive the following points for calculating GPAs:
A's – (90 – 100) will receive 4 points		A's – 5 points
B's – (80 – 89) will receive 3 points		B's – 4 points
C's – (70 – 79) will receive 2 points		C's – 3 points
D's – (65 – 69) will receive 1 point		D's – 2 points

ACCELERATED CLASSES
The following classes are considered accelerated and/or advanced and will be weighted by 1.05 points. Final average only. Average will be weighted for the purpose of determining class rank and will not be listed on the student record.

Accelerated CCRS English (I, II, III, IV)	Calculus
CCRS Algebra III	Physics
Trigonometry	Any second level foreign language
Health Science II	

All Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit classes will be weighted by 1.10 points, final average only. Average will be weighted for the purpose of determining class rank and will not be listed on the student transcript.

> Example: A grade of 98 in Accelerated English would be listed as "98" on the student's transcript. For ranking purposes only, the grade of 98 will be multiplied by 1.05, which equals 102.9.

Student transcript will show the following:			Calculating averages for class rank will show weighted grades listed below:	
CCRS English	98		CCRS English	102.9
U.S. Gov't	95		U.S. Gov't	95
Economics	92		Economics	92
CCRS Algebra III	94		CCRS Algebra III	98.7

HONORS AND AWARDS
Superior performance in both academic and non-academic areas for students in Perry County Schools shall be recognized. To accomplish this, the following honors and awards will be given to deserving students.

HONOR ROLL
These are published at the end of each nine weeks. To qualify for the honor roll a student must have no grade below a B and be enrolled in at least 2 academic subjects. Honor rolls will be designated as all A's Honor Roll and A & B Honor Roll.
*End of year awards for honor roll must have met requirements for the past 3 (9-weeks) grading periods.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK, MONTH, AND YEAR
These students must have no office referrals, must have good class attendance with no tardies, student must show conscientiousness in class work, have all assignments completed, and student must display overall good citizenship toward teachers and fellow students.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
IHL stands for Institutions of Higher Learning (College Prep Curriculum). For further information regarding IHL requirements go to www.mississippi.edu.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN
All candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian must complete the college prep curriculum and successfully pass at least two dual enrollment/dual credit courses. The senior with the highest cumulative average will be the valedictorian and the senior with the second highest cumulative average will be the salutatorian. A student must complete all 4 years in high school (**NO** 3-year completers). A student must also be enrolled for three (3) semesters prior to graduation (not counting summer school) to be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian.

Beginning with the Freshman Class of 2020-2021, Valedictorian and Salutatorian requirements are as follows:

*Students must take all of the Required IHL Courses as determined by the Mississippi Department of Education (see below), at least one higher level course above the required courses, one Advanced Placement class, Two dual enrollment courses with a final 3.0 average (provided district pays for the courses). GPA calculations will determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian among those students who meet the above requirement.

STAR STUDENT
The award of STAR Student is given annually to the student who attains the highest ACT score. At Perry Central High School, this score must be a minimum of 25 overall for the award to be presented. For years where no student achieves an overall ACT of 25, no award will be given. Also, the STAR Student must possess an overall GPA of 95 or better in selected courses as dictated by the STAR program.

SENIOR SUBJECT AREA AWARDS
A senior will be given an award in each of the major academic areas: Math, English, Science and Social Studies. This will be the senior with the highest GPA based on guidelines from the academic awards committee. Listed below are the numeric requirements for honor graduates.

HONORS SCALE
Seniors will be recognized for Highest Honors, Honors, and IHL Honors based on the following criteria:

Highest Honors – calculated GPA of 93-100

Honors – calculated GPA of 85-92
IHL – any student who meets the minimum IHL/CPC curriculum guidelines outlined by MDE.

CLASS RANK
The academic class rank for diploma bound students will be determined on the basis of **required subjects determined by the State of Mississippi plus specific accelerated, advanced, dual enrollment/dual credit, or second level foreign language courses,** attempted from the date of entry into the eighth grade through the end of the fall semester of the senior year and the middle of the spring semester of the senior year. Beginning with the freshman class of 2020-2021, Class Rank will be determined by GPA calculations.

FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS
(COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM)
The high school course requirements set forth below are applicable to students graduating from high school and entering a public institution of higher learning. The most up to date copy of the CPC can be found:
(http://www.mississippi.edu/admissions/downloads/freshman_admission_requirements.pdf)

OPERATING A VEHICLE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Any vehicle parked on school property by a Perry County School System employee or a student is required to be in compliance with the laws governing vehicles in the State of Mississippi. They must have a valid driver's license, a valid tag, and have liability insurance. Any vehicle is subject to be searched and towed at the request of the administration when rules and regulations have been violated; in addition, the loss of driving privileges may be revoked. **Willful disregard for the traffic rules and safety for oneself and of others will result in the loss of driving privileges and/or contacting law officials.**

VIOLATION OF USE OF A VEHICLE
1st Offense - Warning/Loss of driving privileges for one week, parent notification.
2nd Offense - Loss of driving privileges for one month, parent notification.
3rd Offense - Loss of driving privileges for remainder of the school year, parent notification.

STUDENT DRIVERS AND PARKING
1. All parking and driving rules and signs are to be followed at all times
2. Through traffic is not allowed on driveway nearest the main school building
3. Through traffic is not allowed when buses are loading and unloading
4. Violations of rules may result in contacting local and state traffic officers and/or loss of driving privileges.
5. All students are required to park in the designated student parking area in front of the main school during regular school hours.
6. Students are not permitted to sit in or loiter around parked cars
7. Students must have permission to return to their cars during school hours.
8. Students are required to purchase a parking decal for $ 10.00. The following documents must be presented to school administration:
   A.) A valid driver's license B.) A valid tag number C.) Proof of insurance

9. If a replacement vehicle is driven and parked on campus by a student, they must get a daily pass from the office by presenting the same documentation required as listed above.
10. **Students are required to purchase a parking decal within the first two weeks of the start of the school year, or their privilege of driving on campus will be revoked.**
11. If a student must drive to school for a special reason, a temporary parking permit and temporary decal will be issued on a daily basis if the student has a valid license, current sticker, valid tag, and proof of insurance on the temporary vehicle.
12. A replacement decal can be purchased for $5.00.
13. Students are not allowed to park in the grass in front of the field house.
14. Students are not allowed to park in the Vo-Tech parking lot unless authorized by Vo-tech administration.
15. A third unexcused tardy in a student's first period on-campus class will result in the revocation of driving privileges. These violations are subject to handbook policy on driving offenses.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students participating in extra-curricular activities (sports, band, cheerleading) must have completed a proof of insurance form, signed parent consent form, signed release of liability and have a current physical on file.

The Mississippi High School Activities Association governs academic rules for students participating in activities. Students must meet all requirements by MHSAA. In order to be eligible for try-outs or for election(s), the student must meet all requirements established under the policies specifically related to each activity's area.

A. To be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities or election(s), eligibility will be determined at the end of each nine weeks. Students must have a cumulative average of 70 (core subjects averaged together). Students cannot have more than one failing grade. This means that more than one subject below 65 makes a student ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students who are failing one or more state tested courses **MUST** attend one hour per week of **MANDATORY** tutoring (during athletic block) for each failing course until his or her grade has improved to passing. This policy must be monitored by the athletic director and respective coach(s).
B. A student who fails to meet the requirements at progress report time will be placed on WARNING for the remainder of the nine weeks. (Participation may continue during the warning period.) If by the end of the nine weeks the requirements have not been met, the student would be ineligible. Students may become eligible if they meet requirements at the next progress report.
C. An accrual of 3 or more office referrals will result in a student being disqualified from any or all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year.
D. Athletes are required to remain in school 66% of the day on the day of a scheduled activity.
E. Student-athletes who are suspended, either in-school or out-of-school, will not be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities during the period of suspension.

F. Student-athletes will be required to follow team rules as set by the coaches of their respective teams. A student may be dismissed from a team without prior warning if the student-athlete's actions warrant immediate removal from the team.
G. Any student who stops participating in a sport during that season may not participate in any other sport until that season ends. If a student stops participating due to a medical condition, the principal may allow the student to participate in another sport. The principal must receive documentation from a doctor that permits the student to participate in one sport but excludes them from others due to medical reasons.

PERRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT DRUG TESTING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Perry County School District School Board, in an effort to protect the health and safety of its students from illegal and/or performance enhancing drug use and abuse, thereby setting an example for all other students of this school district, has adopted the following policy for drug testing of students participating in extracurricular activities. Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities is a privilege. Illegal drug use of any kind is incompatible with participation in any extracurricular activities on behalf of the school district. This policy is intended to complement all other policies, rules, and regulations of the Perry County School District regarding possession or use of illegal drugs. This policy is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. The sanctions of this policy relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student found to be in violation of the policy to participate in any extracurricular activities. There will be no academic sanction for violation of this policy. This policy shall apply to all participant students in Grades 9-12 or any student participating in varsity sports at Perry Central High School.

PROCEDURES

The drug-testing program shall be implemented in accordance with the established Perry County School Board Policy, and with the advice and assistance of representatives from the medical profession. The contracting biomedical laboratory shall be approved by the Perry County Board of Education and conduct testing according to national accepted standards and procedures. The testing shall be implemented only after written consent from the student and the parent legal guardian. If any student and/or parent/legal guardian refuses to sign the drug testing informational release form or permission for the student to take the drug test, the student will immediately be suspended from participation in the extracurricular activity.

1. Each semester the school principal will present an information session to students to educate them about the sample collection process, privacy arrangements, and drug testing procedures. The students will also be informed of consequences of positive drug tests and related procedures and practices.
2. **Consent Form.** Any student who participates in extracurricular activities shall be provided with a copy of this policy and an "extracurricular activities student drug testing program consent form." This form shall provide consent for a sample of urine from the extracurricular participant to be tested for illegal or performance- enhancing drugs. The consent form must be read, signed, and dated by the student, parent or custodial guardian, and coach/sponsor before a participant student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity. If any student, parent or guardian refuses to

sign the consent to test and authorization to release form, the student will immediately be withdrawn from the extracurricular activity.

3. Each participant may be tested prior to the start of his/her season or extracurricular activity. Extracurricular participants who move into the district after the school year begins will be required to have a drug use test before being eligible to participate.
4. Random tests will be conducted on 10% of the selection pool at a various time during the school year. Students will be assigned a confidential number for the purpose of random selection.
5. **Drug Use Testing:** Any drug use test required by the school district under this policy will be administered by or at the direction of a professional laboratory chosen by the school district that uses scientifically validated toxicological methods.
    a. The participant will be required to present proper identification at the collection site.
    b. Each participant will be interviewed by the person collecting the sample to document relevant information to ensure proper identification of the specimen.
    c. The participant will be asked to remove any coat or outer garments that might conceal materials that could be used to alter the specimen.
    d. The specimen will be collected in a single use container that is sealed until given to the participant just prior to entering the collection room. The person collecting the sample will ensure that the participant does not have access to water or other substances that might alter the specimen.
    e. The participant will enter the collection room and fill the container with the appropriate amount of urine.
    f. The person collecting the specimen will follow processes that will ensure that no specimen is altered before transportation to the lab.
6. **Testing Monitor:** All aspects of the drug use testing program, including the taking of specimens, will be conducted to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of students to the maximum degree possible. If at any time during the testing procedure the collector has reason to believe or suspect that a student is tampering with the specimen, the collector may stop the procedure and inform the athletic director/sponsor who will then determine if a new sample should be obtained.
7. **Test Results:** If the initial drug use test is positive, the initial test result will be subject to confirmation by a second test of the same specimen. The second test will use the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry technique. The unused portion of a specimen that tested positive shall be preserved by the laboratory for six months or to the end of the school year, whichever comes first. Student records will be retained until the end of the school year.

CONFIDENTIALITY

If the drug use test for any student has a positive result, the medical review officer will contact the school principal with the results. Procedures for maintaining confidentiality will be practiced. The school principal will then contact the parent or guardian of the student with instructions to contact the medical review officer to submit additional information. The medical review officer will review the additional information provided by the student, and/or the parent

or guardian and determine if the positive test result occurred as a result of consumption of an illegal or performance-enhancing drug.

If it is determined that the positive test occurred as a result of the presence of an illegal or performance enhancing drug in the student's urine sample, the medical review officer will contact the school principal who will schedule a conference with the parent/guardian, the student, and the sponsor or coach of the extracurricular activity in which the student is involved. At the conference, the student and parent/guardian will be informed of which controlled substances were discovered as a result of the tests. The school district will rely on the opinion of the medical review officer in determining whether the positive test result was produced by other than consumption of an illegal drug or performance enhancing drug. Records of test results and referral to counseling or treatment are kept confidential and will never be part of a student's educational record, nor will they be forwarded to another school. Under no circumstances will results from a drug use test under this policy be turned over to any law enforcement officer or agency.

Appeal

A student who has been determined by the testing laboratory to test positive after two separate drug tests on the same urine sample, and who then has been determined to be in violation of this policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to a District Review Committee. Such appeal must be filed within five business days of notice of the initial report of the offense as stated in this policy, during which time the student will remain eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities.

The District Review committee shall review the findings of the laboratory and hear the recommendation of the school principal in accordance with this policy and then determine whether the original finding was justified. There is no further appeal right from the District Review Committee's Decision. The decision shall be conclusive in all respects. Any necessary interpretation or application of this policy shall be in the sole and exclusive judgment and discretion of the superintendent, which shall be final and not subject to appeal.

CONSEQUENCES

1. **First positive test:** The student will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities for 30 days. The student and parent/guardian are responsible for providing and attending mandatory drug abuse counseling by a qualified drug counselor two times during the suspension period as well as one follow-up session. Proof of completion will be required. The participant must submit to retest 30 days from the notification of the positive result. If the activity that the participant is associated with has ended its season or activity, the suspension will carry over to the next season.
2. **Second positive test**: The student will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity for 90 days. The student and parent/guardian are responsible for providing and attending mandatory drug abuse counseling by a qualified drug counselor six times during the suspension as well as three follow-up sessions. Proof of completion will be required. The participant will submit to a retest 30 day from the notification of the positive result. If the activity that the participant is associated with has ended its season or activity, the suspension will carry over to the next season.

3. **Third positive test**: The student will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of his/her time in the Perry County School District.
4. **Self-referral**: A student who self-refers to the athletic director, principal, coach or sponsor before being notified to submit a drug use test will be allowed to remain active in all extracurricular activities. However, the student will be considered to have committed his/her first offense under this policy and will be required to retest as would a student who has tested positive.
5. **Refusal to submit to a drug use test**: If a participant student refuses to submit to a drug use test under this policy, such student shall not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity, including all meetings, practices, performances, and competition for 180 school days, upon completion of which the participating student shall again be subject to this policy.

CHEERLEADER-MASCOT

Participation in the above listed activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who are selected are expected to demonstrate qualities that reflect favorably upon the Perry County School System. All Students of Perry Central High School are eligible to try out for these positions. For a copy of these requirements students should contact the sponsor of the group for more information. All students must meet eligibility requirements set forth by the extra-curricular activities policy and the constitutional by-laws of the activity.

Selections for these positions will be made by an unbiased committee composed of people who live outside the Perry County School District and will be based on the qualifications set forth in the constitution for these activities. Continuation of participation in these activities will be dependent on the student maintaining the high standards set forth in the constitution and by-laws. Any acts of misconduct that reflect adversely on the Perry County School System may result in the dismissal of participation from the team. The Administration will have the final authority in such dismissals.

SCHOOL COLORS/MASCOT

School Colors are Cardinal and Gold. The Mascot is the Bulldog.

BAND

There is a marching band and a concert band. It performs for many community and school events. Members are selected by the band director and most provide their own instruments. The school provides some instruments for student band members.

DRUM MAJOR

Candidates for drum major must be current band members that have been in the marching band 2 or more years with one of those years being part of the Perry Central Band of Gold. The drum major is selected through audition.

CHOIR

Members are selected by audition. The choir presents several performances throughout the year.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Government Association will be responsible for all elections that occur at Perry Central High School, with guidance from sponsors. All elections are governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Government Association. Copies of the guidelines are located in the Office at Perry Central High School.

STUDENT ELECTIONS

For all student elections, the following procedures MUST be followed:

- Nominations will be taken. Nominees will be screened for eligibility and approved by the administration. Only the top four nominees will be placed on the ballot.
- No students will be allowed to count ballots
- At least two teachers/staff members will count ballots at all times and verify results with their signatures.
- Instructional class time WILL NOT be interrupted for voting. Votes will be cast either before classes begin, at break or during lunch.

CLASS FAVORITES

Class favorites must be passing all subjects through the last grading period. Person selected must win by a majority of votes cast. Nominations will be taken. Students must not have more than one office referral.

HALL OF FAME

Students must have minimum of a 3.5 ranked GPA to be considered for Hall of Fame. Students must have met the attendance requirements for the current year. Students must have attended PCHS the entire previous year. In order to be placed on the ballot, eligible students must submit a resume which includes extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and leadership positions held for grades 9-12.

Teachers should consider grades, extracurricular involvement, citizenship, volunteer work, and leadership when selecting students for Hall of Fame. The school's top ten will automatically be selected into the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is selected from the senior class each year. The number selected will be based on ten percent of the number of seniors plus the valedictorian and salutatorian.

WHO'S WHO

Nominations will be taken. Students from grades 9-12 will be selected in the following categories:

Best All Around	Best Dressed	Best Personality
Best School Spirit	Most Intellectual	Most Athletic
Most Courteous	Most Likely to Succeed (Sr)	Wittiest
Friendliest Freshman	Silliest Sophomore	Jolliest Junior
Sassiest Senior	Most Christian Spirit	

All students running for Who's Who must be passing all subjects through the last grading period. Students in grades 9-12 vote on these. Students must win by a majority vote. All nominees must meet satisfactory attendance requirements as determined by administration on a case-by-case basis. Students must not have more than one office referral. ***NOTE: The annual staff sponsor will be in charge of Class Favorite and Who's Who Elections.***

BETA CLUB

The qualifications for membership on the part of the student shall be: (a) worthy, moral, and ethical character; (b) exemplary achievement, and (c) commendable attitude.

At Perry Central High School, we define worthy, moral, and ethical character as students who have no major discipline infractions. Character references based on Honesty, Citizenship, Readiness to Learn, Integrity, Trustworthiness, Leadership, Responsibility, Grit, and Resilience.

At Perry Central High School, we define exemplary achievement as students who meet the following criteria:

- Only scholars who hold an 85 average or above in each subject area for the 1st nine weeks' report card of the current school year will be considered for membership.
- Students who drop below an 85 average in each subject will be put on Academic Probation. Students have **1 term** (or 9 weeks to redeem themselves). Students on probation **CANNOT** participate in Beta Club activities (i.e. State or National Conventions).
- PER NATIONAL STANDARDS: All students MUST perform at or above grade level to be eligible for membership.
- Students will be required to complete an approved service project (25 hours) for each year of your high school career.
- Teacher recommendations could be considered in the decision-making process.

HOMECOMING KING, QUEEN & COURT

Students selected for Homecoming King, Queen, and Court are expected to represent Perry Central High School with excellence in academics, attendance, and behavior. All candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a current student in grades 9-12 enrolled at PCHS
- Must have no core course failures at the time of nomination and voting
- Must not be chronically absent
- Must have no Out-Of-School Suspensions (OSS) within the last two school years to present
- Must have successfully completed and satisfied all End-of-Course (EOC) assessment requirements, if applicable

A student is considered chronically absent if they have missed 10% or more of the school year.

- Example: In a 180-day school year, this equals 18 or more total absences
- For Homecoming purposes, this will be determined based on the number of days missed up to the date of Homecoming.

At the time of voting:

- Must have no more than 2 unexcused absences
- Must have no more than 3 total absences

Behavior Requirements:

- Must have no more than two (2) office referrals from the previous school year
    - All referrals must be no higher than a Level 2 offense

    - Any student with a Level 3 or higher office referral is ineligible to run
- Must have zero office referrals for the current school year at the time of voting

Additional Requirements for Homecoming King and Queen

- Must be a senior
- Must have attended PCHS during both junior and senior years

Nominations will be taken for all Homecoming Court positions. Candidates must receive a majority of votes cast to be selected.

MR. AND MISS PCHS

This will be a senior boy and girl who have attended PCHS their junior and senior years. Candidates must:

- No core course failures.
- Must have successfully completed and satisfied the requirements for each End Of course Assessment (English II, Biology I, Algebra I, & U. S. History)
- No excessive absences as described in the attendance policy
- No Out of School Suspensions - freshman through senior years.

Nominations will be taken. Candidates must win by a majority of votes cast.

MIDDLE SCHOOL POLICIES

COURSE OF STUDY

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Language Arts++	Language Arts++	Language Arts++
Math++	Math++	Math++**
Science/Social Studies	Science/Social Studies	Science++
Cyber Foundations I	Cyber Foundations II	Computer Science & Engineering**
		MS Studies/World Geography**

**Classes receive high school credit
++Classes have end of year state assessment

REPORT CARDS—ACADEMIC CREDIT

The Perry County School District will be responsible for issuing report cards, progress reports, and other necessary reports only to the custodial parent, defined as the parent with whom the student resides during the school year. All legal documentation of custodial rights must be on file in the office.

Report cards will be issued following the end of each nine-week term. Grades will be recorded for academic work. Grades will be awarded on the basis of student performance.

A. The Perry County Schools will accept transfer students and award credit for grades earned during the school year if the student is enrolled in the Perry County School District for at least twenty (20) school days. A student enrolled in a Perry County School District for less than twenty (20) school days will receive an incomplete grade, except for those students transferring into Perry County School District whose grades in progress

at a previous school are sent to the principal's office. Grades in progress will be averaged with grades received while in attendance in Perry County School District.

B. Students with excessive absences who do not pass administrative review will not receive credit for courses failed in which excessive absences occurred.
C. Examinations will not be administered prior to the regularly scheduled time.
D. In order for students to receive term, semester, or yearly grades, all course or grade level requirements must be met.
E. Parents should be aware of dates when report cards will be issued. Parents should expect students to have their report cards on dates as noted in the calendar.

PROGRESS REPORTS

At mid-term during each nine-week term, the teacher or team will inform the parents of work that is unsatisfactory or below standard for the student. This is done by way of a progress report. In addition, if a student is later identified as a possible or probable failure, the parent will be informed through a second progress report at least one week prior to term test. Students in all schools will sign receipts for the progress reports and it will be their responsibility to discuss the report with their parents.

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic credit for courses taken by students in the Perry County School District shall be awarded upon successful completion of courses.

The following guidelines must be adhered to:

a) If a student has a yearly average of 65 or above, he/she can pass the course.
b) A student will not be eligible to receive yearly average if either semester is failed due to excessive absences, subject to administrative review, if granted.

****Students transferring into Perry County School District from a non-accredited school must be given an achievement test and/or special subject test to determine grade and/or subject placement.**

EXEMPTION

Students in grades 6th-8th grade can be exempt from the final examination at the end of the school year. To be exempt, a student must have maintained at least a 90 average in a class/subject during each of the preceding three nine weeks and also have a 90 average in the fourth nine weeks in that class/subject. In addition to the grade average required, the student cannot accumulate more than five (5) absences during the year in that class/subject for any reason except school sponsored activities. The principal, at his/her discretion, can give consideration for bereavement. Students may not be exempt from any exams until all fines (library, cafeteria, or textbooks) have been paid and all books returned.

During testing and review periods attendance will still be counted. Any student who meets the above exemption requirements shall automatically lose his/her right to exemption in all classes if the student reaches Step 4 or above on the District Discipline Ladder during the school year. If a student receives three (3) or more Office Disciplinary Referrals from an individual teacher to the principal, that student shall automatically lose any right to exemption in that teacher's class.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION AND RETENTION

COURSE/CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Successful completion of a course shall be based upon mastery of the exit skills and a grade average of D (65) or higher as the final grade in the course.
2. Student promotion from grade-to-grade shall be determined annually, at the end of the regular school year. School year for this purpose is defined as July to June. The school shall report to the parent via report card or letter whether the student has been promoted to the next grade-level. Parents shall be notified if the student can correct the deficiency (i.e.) by attending and successfully meeting the requirements for grade-level promotion in a summer school program (failure or course/class requirements).

Students are required to master minimum standards of the course curriculum. Student performance of state standards will be measured through the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program.

Students who fail any **one** of the following subjects may be retained: Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, or Computer Science and Engineering.

Exceptions to this policy are made only after consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators through programs approved by the district. The final decision made concerning promotion or retention will reflect the best educational outcomes for the child.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All students participating in athletics will be required to have on file written parent consent, proof of insurance, liability waiver, and medical screening by a licensed physician.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities (sports, band, cheerleading) must have completed a proof of insurance form, signed parent consent form, signed release of liability, and have a current physical on file.

The Mississippi High School Activities Association governs academic rules for students participating in activities. Students must meet all requirements by MHSAA. In order to be eligible for try-outs or for election(s), the student must meet all requirements established under the policies specifically related to each activity's area.

A. To be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, eligibility will be determined at the end of each nine weeks. Students must have a (cumulative) average of 70 in all core subjects and those required by law. Students can not have any grade below 65. For Jr. High you will average the following subjects at the end of each nine weeks:
   - **7th Grade: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Cyber foundations**
   - **8th Grade: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Computer Science and Engineering**

B. A student who fails to meet the requirements at progress report time will be placed on WARNING for the remainder of the nine weeks. Participation may continue during the warning period. If by the end of the nine weeks the requirements have not been met, the student would be ineligible. Students may become eligible if they meet requirements at the next progress report.

C. An accrual of 5 or more office referrals may result in a student being disqualified from any or all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year.
D. Athletes are required to remain in school all day on the day of a scheduled activity.
E. The administration recommends that once a student begins a sport, they should remain until the end of the season. The administration supports finishing what you begin.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

Students who reside in the Perry County School District are eligible to try out for or participate as cheerleader if they meet the requirements of this policy, and tuition students are eligible if they meet requirements of the MHSAA. Cheerleaders must meet the same requirements as outlined in "Athletics" to be eligible for tryouts, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a cheerleader. A parent or legal guardian and the prospective cheerleader must sign the "Cheerleader Qualification and Responsibilities" form before the tryouts. Any student meeting the qualifications will be given the opportunity of signing up with the cheerleading sponsors to have the privilege of trying out before the selection committee.

To be eligible for cheerleading, the student must:

- Accurately complete an application for cheerleading signed by a parent or guardian and return the application by the deadline.
- Be able to pay for all necessary items.
- Follow cheerleading rules and regulations provided with the application.
- Be ruled as eligible under Mississippi High School Activities Association and Perry County Activity requirements.
- Be able to participate in all cheerleading functions and practices.

PCMS HOMECOMING QUEEN AND HOMECOMING MAID

The Homecoming Court candidates must meet the following requirements:

Homecoming Maid

- Will be determined through peer nominations.
- Two highest numbers of nominations from their respective grade level will have a run-off to determine winner.
- Cannot have any discipline referrals for the current school year.
- Cannot exceed 3 total absences (no more than 2 unexcused) for the current school year.

If there is a tie, another vote will be taken between the candidates.

Homecoming Queen

- Must be an 8th grade girl who attended PCMS her 7th and 8th grade years.
- Cannot have any discipline referrals for the current school year.
- Cannot exceed 3 total absences (no more than 2 unexcused) for the current school year.

The person receiving the most number of votes will be homecoming queen.

JUNIOR BETA CLUB

The qualifications for membership on the part of the student shall be: (a) worthy, moral, and ethical character; (b) exemplary achievement, and (c) commendable attitude.

At Perry Central Middle School, we define worthy, moral, and ethical character as students who have no major discipline infractions. Character references based on Honesty, Citizenship, Readiness to Learn, Integrity, Trustworthiness, Leadership, Responsibility, Grit, and Resilience.

At Perry Central Middle School, we define exemplary achievement as students who meet the following criteria:

- Only scholars who hold an 85 average or above in each subject area for the 1st nine weeks' report card of the current school year will be considered for membership.
- Students who drop below an 85 average in each subject will be put on Academic Probation. Students have **1 term** (or 9 weeks to redeem themselves). Students on probation **CANNOT** participate in Jr. Beta Club activities (i.e. State or National Conventions).
- PER NATIONAL STANDARDS: All students MUST perform at or above grade level to be eligible for membership.
- Students will be required to complete service hours. (To be determined by your club.)
- Teacher recommendations could be considered in the decision-making process.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Each grade will elect ten student council members. A student must be enrolled in the Perry County School District one semester prior to elections. To qualify for nomination and to remain on the Student Council the student must meet the following criteria:

To run:	Behavior:	No office referrals from the previous semester
	Grades:	No grade below a C for the previous semester in any class
To remain:	Behavior:	No office referrals for behavioral infractions Any referral will result in immediately removal
	Grades:	No grade below a C average in any class on report card Any grade below C average will result in immediately removal

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POLICIES

CURRICULUM

The basic curriculum for the elementary schools, as defined in the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards and the Perry County School District consists of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and physical education which may be taught by regular classroom teacher.

****Students transferring into Perry County School District from a non-accredited school must be given an achievement test and/or special subject test to determine grade and/or subject placement.**

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic credit for courses taken by students in the Perry County School District shall be awarded upon successful completion of courses.

The following guidelines must be adhered to:

a. If a student has a yearly average of 65 or above, he/she can pass the course.
b. A student will not be eligible to receive yearly average if either semester is failed due to excessive absences, subject to administrative review, if granted.

****Students transferring into Perry County School District from a non-accredited school must be given an achievement test and/or special subject test to determine grade and/or subject placement.**

PROGRESS REPORTS

At mid-term during each nine-week term, the teacher or team will inform the parents of work that is unsatisfactory or below standard for the student. This is done by way of a progress report. In addition, if a student is later identified as a possible or probable failure, the parent will be informed through a second progress report at least one week prior to term test. Students in all schools will discuss the progress report with their parents and have them signed.

EXEMPTION

Students in grades 2nd -5th may be exempt from the final examination at the end of the school year. To be exempt, a student must have maintained at least a 90 average in a class/subject during each of the preceding three nine weeks and also have a 90 average in the fourth nine weeks in that class/subject. In addition to the grade average required, the student cannot accumulate more than five (5) absences during the year in that class/subject for any reason except school sponsored activities. The principal, at his/her discretion, can give consideration for bereavement. Students may not be exempt from any exams until all fines (library, cafeteria or textbooks) have been paid and all books returned.

During testing and review periods attendance will still be counted. If a student receives three (3) or more Office Disciplinary Referrals from an individual teacher to the principal, that student shall automatically lose any right to exemption in that teacher's class.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Superior performance in both academic and non-academic areas for students in Perry County School District shall be recognized. To accomplish this, the following honors and awards will be given to deserving students:

1. Honor rolls are published at the end of each nine weeks. Honor rolls will be designated as all A's Honor Roll and all A & B Honor Roll.
2. Scholastic Awards will be awarded each year to students in grades 1-5.
3. Student of the Month, must have good class attendance, must show conscientiousness in class work, have all assignments completed, and must display overall good citizenship toward teachers and fellow students.
4. Attendance awards will be given based on the following:
   Perfect Attendance = no absences, no tardies, and no check-outs.

ELEMENTARY BETA CLUB

The Junior Beta Club is a prestigious organization committed to promoting the highest standards of academic excellence, leadership, and community service. There are three core values of the Junior Beta Club.

1. **Worthy**: Members should demonstrate integrity and honesty in all their endeavors.
2. **Moral**: Uphold a strong sense of right and wrong, acting with fairness and justice.

3. **Ethical**: Make decisions based on ethical principles, showing respect for others and the community.

Below are the guidelines and requirements for maintaining active membership in the Junior Beta Club.

- Members must maintain an **academic record of at least 80%**, qualifying for the A/B honor roll. This reflects a commitment to scholastic achievement and intellectual growth. Grades below 80% will be placed on probation until the next term.
- Demonstrate an **exemplary attitude** by being respectful, responsible, and positive. Your attitude should inspire and uplift those around you, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.
- Members are expected to attend all regular meetings. **Absence from two consecutive meetings without a justifiable reason** may result in a review of your membership status. Consistent participation is crucial for the success and cohesion of the club.
- Contribute to your community by completing at least **10 service hours** each semester. Failure to meet this requirement without a justifiable reason will be subject to evaluation. Service is at the heart of our mission, reflecting our commitment to making a positive impact on the world.
- Maintaining a commendable attitude also means avoiding disciplinary issues. **Receiving a single discipline referral** may lead to reconsideration of your membership. It is vital to uphold the club's standards of conduct and serve as a role model to peers.

HOMECOMING MAID

The Homecoming Court candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Will be determined through peer nominations.
- Two highest numbers of nominations from their respective grade level will have a run-off to determine winner.
- Cannot have any discipline referrals for the current school year.
- Cannot exceed 3 total absences (no more than 2 unexcused) for the current school year.

If there is a tie, another vote will be taken between the candidates.

SCREENING

DYSLEXIA SCREENER

A dyslexia screener is administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year and the fall of their first grade year. If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener.

SPEECH LANGUAGE SCREENER

The Perry County School District ensures that all first grade students are screened for articulation, language, voice, and fluency disorders. If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY
GRADES K-5

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring below the established score in reading on the established state assessment for third grade will not be promoted to fourth grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion. (See Literacy Based Promotion Act Policy below)

In an effort to better determine academic progress of students in kindergarten and first grade, Perry County School District will utilize a standards-based checklist to indicate students' mastery of skills. The checklist of skills will be used instead of numerical or letter grades. In the classroom, teachers will use checklists, rubrics, student observation, detailed notes, and written assessments to determine student mastery. The Perry County Standards-based Checklist includes the skills expected to be mastered at each grade level in reading, language arts, and math, and the essential skills are highlighted. Mastery of skill is defined as being able to use 80% of the skill appropriately in each subject. Kindergarten students must be able to identify all letters with 100% accuracy. The goal is for all students to gain mastery of the skills, so students will be given multiple opportunities to learn skills and to show mastery.

Kindergarten retention will be recommended for any student who fails to meet minimum requirements on benchmark and state Kindergarten Readiness Assessments.

Grades 1-5

1. To be promoted, students in Grades 1-3 must pass Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Science, and Social Studies.
2. To be promoted, students in Grades 4-5 must pass Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Science, and Social Studies.
3. Exceptions to this policy are made only after consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators based on student performance data.

LITERACY BASED PROMOTION ACT (SB 2347)
Amended 2016 (SB 2157)

PURPOSE AND INTENT (Section 37-177-1)
The 2013 legislation mandates that third graders must score at an acceptable level on a state assessment in order to be promoted to the fourth grade. The Literacy-Based Promotion Act places an emphasis on grade-level reading skills for public school students, particularly as they progress through kindergarten and grades 1 through 3. The purpose of this legislature is to improve reading skills of all kindergarten and first through third grade students enrolled in public schools, to prohibit student promotion based on age or other social factors, and to ensure parents or legal guardians are informed of students' academic progress.

Intensive Reading Instruction and Intervention
Each student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the State Department of Education or through locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 or through statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, shall be given intensive reading instruction

and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. The intensive reading instruction and intervention must be documented for each student in an individual reading plan, which includes, at a minimum, the following:

(a) The student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined (or identified) by diagnostic assessment data;
(b) The goals and benchmarks for growth;
(c) How progress will be monitored and evaluated;
(d) The type of additional instructional services and interventions the student will receive;
(e) The research-based reading instructional programming the teacher will use to provide reading instruction, addressing the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension;
(f) The strategies the student's parent is encouraged to use in assisting the student to achieve reading competency; and
(g) Any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development.

The universal reading screener or locally determined reading assessment may be given in the first thirty (30) days of the school year and repeated, if indicated, at midyear and at the end of the school year to determine student progression in reading in kindergarten through third grade. If it is determined that the student continues to have a reading deficiency, the student shall be provided with continued intensive reading instruction and intervention by the school district until the reading deficiency is remedied. A student exhibiting continued reading deficiency with continued intensive interventions should be considered for exceptional criteria (special education) evaluation.

A kindergarten or first-, second-, or third-grade student identified with a deficiency in reading shall be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific reading deficiency, as identified by a valid and reliable diagnostic assessment. The intensive intervention shall include effective instructional strategies and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade. A kindergarten-, first-, second- or third-grade student identified with a reading deficiency or not promoted may be placed in a transition class.

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF READING DEFICIENCY (Section 37-177-3)

Immediately upon the determination of a reading deficiency, and subsequently with each quarterly progress report, until the deficiency is remediated, the parent or legal guardian of a kindergarten- or first-, second-, or third-grade student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading shall be notified in writing by the student's teacher of the following:

1. That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;
2. A description of the services that the school district currently is providing to the student;
3. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency which the school district plans to provide the student, as outlined in the student's individual reading plan;

4. That if the student's reading deficiency is not remediated before the end of the student's third-grade year, the student will not be promoted to fourth grade unless a good cause exemption specified under Section 37-177-11 is met;
5. Strategies for parents and guardians to use in helping the student to succeed in reading proficiency; and
6. That while the state annual accountability assessment for reading in third grade is the initial determinant, it is not the sole determiner of promotion and that approved alternative standardized assessments are available to assist the school district in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and ready for promotion to the next grade.

ALTERNATIVE STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS (Section 37-177-5)

The State Department of Education shall establish a Mississippi Reading Panel to collaborate with the State Department of Education in recommending appropriate equitable alternative standardized assessments and cut scores to be used to determine promotion to the fourth grade of those third-grade students who did not score at the required achievement level on the state annual accountability assessment, as outlined in Section 37-177-9, or who, for unforeseen circumstances, were unable to take the assessment. The panel should have knowledge and input in the adoption or development of a universal screener for required use only in select schools most in need for the reading intervention program to identify reading deficiencies and determine progress. A suggestive list of no less than four (4) screening assessments should be available to schools not selected for the critical reading intervention program taking into consideration those screening assessments already being used satisfactorily in Mississippi elementary schools. An approved alternative standardized reading assessment may be used in years when the state is transitioning to a new state annual accountability assessment.

NO SOCIAL PROMOTION (Section 37-177-9)

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, if a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's third-grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring the established achievement level in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for third grade, the student shall not be promoted to fourth grade.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, if a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's third-grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring above the lowest two (2) achievement levels in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for third grade, the student shall not be promoted to fourth grade.

GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTION (Section 37-177-11)

1. A third grade student who does not meet the academic requirements for promotion to the fourth grade may be promoted by the school district only for good cause. Good Cause Exemptions for promotion are limited to the following students:
   (a) Limited English proficient students who have had (2) years of instruction in an English Language Learner program;
   (b) Students with disabilities whose individual education plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment program is not appropriate, as authorized under state law;

(c) Students with a disability who participate in the state annual accountability assessment and who have an IEP or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the individual student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading or previously was retained in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade;
(d) Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative
standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Education; and
(e) Students who have received intensive intervention in reading for two (2) or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who previously were retained in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade for a total of two (2) years and have not met exceptional education criteria.

A student who is promoted to fourth grade with a good cause exemption shall be provided an individual reading plan as described in Section 37-177-1(2), which outlines intensive reading instruction and intervention informed by specialized diagnostic information and delivered through specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so promoted. The school district shall assist schools and teachers in implementing reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students with persistent reading difficulties.

Good Cause Request

A request for good cause exemptions for a third-grade student from the academic requirements established for promotion to fourth grade must be made consistent with the following:

(a) Documentation must be submitted from the student's teacher to the school principal which indicates that the promotion of the student is appropriate and is based upon the student's record. The documentation must consist of the good cause exemption being requested and must clearly prove that the student is covered by one (1) of the good cause exemptions listed in subsection 1 (a) through (e) of this section.
(b) The principal shall review and discuss the recommendations with the teacher and parents and make a determination as to whether or not the student should be promoted based on requirements set forth in this act. If the principal determines that the student should be promoted, based on the documentation provided, the principal must make the recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent, who, in writing, may accept or reject the principal's recommendation.

The parent of any student promoted may choose that the student be retained for one (1) year, even if the principal and district superintendent determines otherwise.

THIRD GRADE RETENTION (Section 37-177-13)

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, each school district shall take the following actions for retained third grade students:

1. Provide third grade students who are not promoted with intensive instructional services, progress monitoring measures, and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, as outlined in the student’s individual reading plan, including a

minimum of ninety (90) minutes during regular school hours of daily, scientifically research-based reading instruction that includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, and other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:

   i. Small group instruction;
   ii. Reduced teacher - student ratios;
   iii. Tutoring in scientifically research-based reading services in addition to the regular school day;
   iv. The option of transition classes;
   v. Extended school day, week or year; and
   vi. Summer reading camps

2. Provide written notification to the parent or legal guardian of any third-grade student who is retained that the student has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption. This notification must include a description of proposed interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, as outlined in the student's individual reading plan. This notification must be provided to the parent or legal guardian in writing, in a format adopted by the State Board of Education in addition to report cards given by the teacher.
3. Third grade students who are retained shall be provided with a high-performing teacher, as determined by student performance data, particularly related to student growth in reading, above-satisfactory performance appraisals, and/or specific training relevant to implementation of this act.
4. Provide parents and legal guardians of third grade students with a "Read at Home" plan outlined in a parental contract, including participation in regular parent-guided home reading.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP PROCEDURES

It is critical for the safety of your children that the directions of the drop-off/pick-up area are followed. Students are to unload and load only where the adults are supervising can easily observe them. Parents are asked to please not block or delay traffic in the area.

Parents are urged to use extreme caution when children unload from vehicles. Dangerous situations exist when students get out of cars with clothing or straps from book bags getting near doors as they are closed. Parents should avoid distractions such as cell phones or pets. Please be sure your child has cleared the vehicle before pulling away. Students must move quickly without running to the loading area at dismissal time, pay attention to the loading supervisors and watch for his/her ride.

PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THE SCHOOL ISSUED CAR RIDER TAG IN ORDER TO PICK UP A STUDENT. If a tag is not visible, the driver MUST come inside, be confirmed as an approved contact, and show a valid ID in order to pick up a student. Parents who are picking up children may not arrive on campus any earlier than 2:15 p.m. Morning car line will begin at 7:00 a.m. and afternoon car line will begin at 2:30 p.m. All students should be picked up no later than 3:00 p.m.

Students who are habitually left at school may be referred to the appropriate youth services.