



OCCASIONALLY, GEORGIA LAW MAY REQUIRE SOME CHANGES IN THE POLICIES/REGULATIONS (LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES) AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT. THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL BE REVISING ITS POLICY WHENEVER THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS NEW POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL BOARDS. PARENTS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT GEORGIA LAW AND STATE BOARD POLICY ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER BOARD POLICY, AND THE LAW AND/OR STATE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. WE ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO USE THE QR CODE PROVIDED TO EASILY ACCESS THE MOST UP- TO- DATE VERSION OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S HANDBOOK. BY SCANNING THE CODE, YOU'LL HAVE QUICK AND CONVENIENT ACCESS TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION, UPDATES, AND GUIDELINES RIGHT FROM OUR WEBSITE. STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED WITH JUST A SIMPLE SCAN.



JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM

Student and Parent Handbook – District Section

2026-2027

Our Mission Statement

The Jasper County Charter System will provide superior and innovative learning experiences to prepare every student for life beyond school.

Vision

The vision of the Jasper County Charter System is to provide dedicated staff and supportive learning environments to inspire and motivate every student to achieve individual success.

Jasper County Board of Education

Ms. Towonder Dennis	Board Chair
Ms. Michelle Coward	Vice Chair
Mr. Bubba Wilson	Board Member
Ms. Michele Celani	Board Member
Mr. Matt Kelly	Board Member
Mr. Kenny Garland	Superintendent

Information about the Jasper County Board of Education is located on the school district's website:

<https://www.jasper.k12.ga.us>

Our Core Beliefs

All students can learn.

Students should be challenged with a rigorous and relevant curriculum.

Visionary leadership is essential to continuous improvement.

Employing and retaining quality personnel and providing opportunities for their professional growth is essential to system effectiveness.

Decision-making is data driven.

Creating a caring culture is key to engaging all learners.

Everyone takes personal responsibility for achieving targeted results.

It is the responsibility of the system to engage all stakeholders in the educational process.

It is the responsibility of the system to be a good steward of resources.

**JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM
SCHOOL INFORMATION PAGE**

Jasper County PK Program
Ms. Jessica Ravenel, Director
495 Highway 212 W.
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-4972

School Start Time: 8:05 am
Students are Tardy: 8:06 am
School End Time: 2:30 pm

Jasper County Primary School
Dr. Holly Harvil, Principal
495 Highway 212 W
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-4968

School Start Time: 8:05 am
Students are Tardy: 8:06 am
School End Time: 2:35 pm

Washington Park Elementary School

721 Highway 212 W
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-6284

School Start Time: 8:00 am
Students are Tardy: 8:05 am
School End Time: 2:50 pm

Jasper County Middle School
Mrs. Dionka Jackson, Principal
1289 College St
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-2227

School Start Time: 8:05 am
Students are Tardy: 8:06 am
School End Time: 3:15 pm

Jasper County High School
Mr. Kamwanya Belle, Principal
14477 State Hwy 11
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-5016

School Start Time: 8:15 am
Students are Tardy: 8:20 am
School End Time: 3:35 pm

****Note: School Schedules are subject to change.**

ATTENDANCE

One of the most important ways to help a child succeed in school is to make sure that he or she attends school regularly and is on time every day. We know that things come up for families during the school year and we are committed to discussing any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance. Please stay in communication with your child's school regarding your child's school attendance. Punctual and regular attendance is important and expected. Regular attendance in school is the joint responsibility of the student and his/her parents/guardian. Consistent school attendance is one of the building blocks for student success.

Georgia Law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1, requires any person in this state who has control or charge of a child between the ages of six and sixteen to enroll in and send that child to public, private, or home school.

Attendance Protocol

(State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.10 governs student attendance.)

DEFINITIONS:

Unexcused Absences: Occur when the student fails to attend school, with or without the knowledge of the parent/legal guardian, for reasons other than those specifically outlined as excused absences.

Truant: Any child who is subject to compulsory attendance who has 5 or more unexcused absences during a calendar school year. Criminal charges may be filed against the parent(s) or guardian if the child accrues 10 or more unexcused absences.

Excused Absences: May occur under the following circumstances:

- Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others.
- A serious illness or death in the student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
- Court order/or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
- The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school. Parents should speak with the school administration prior to the absence.
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
- Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
- A student whose parent/guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his/her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
- A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or has previously served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or in the Reserves or National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of 5 school days per school year, not to exceed 2 school years, for the days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to the absence. The documentation must come from a care provider at or sponsored by a U.S. Veterans Affairs medical facility or from an official of an event sponsored by a veteran's organization that qualifies as a 501 (c) (19) tax exempt corporation under the IRS Code. In determining whether to grant or deny a request for absence under this provision, the principal or designee may consider the student's attendance record.

Any emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of a building administrator, constitutes just and sufficient case for an excused absence from school. An administrator or designee may require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school to validate that absences are excused. School days missed as a result of out of school suspension shall not be counted as unexcused for the purpose of determining student truancy but shall be counted as unexcused for all other purposes.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR EXCUSING ABSENCES

Parents may submit written documentation to excuse a school absence for any of the reasons listed in this document as an "Excused" absence for up to 5 school days per school year. Parent notes submitted for reasons not included in the list of "Excused" absences will NOT be accepted. Once the school has excused 5 school days based upon a parent note, documentation from a

medical provider must be submitted for any additional absences to be documented as excused due to the child's illness. Each school has a specific procedure for sending written documentation of absences. Please adhere to the procedures, as listed below, for your child's school:

- JCPK Submit written attendance notes/documentation in the agenda. Doctor excuses may be sent in the child's agenda, faxed (706-468-4975), emailed to pkoffice@jasper.k12.ga.us or child's weekly folder.
- JCPS Submit written attendance notes/documentation in the agenda or child's weekly folder. Doctor excuses may be sent in the child's agenda or folder; faxed (706-468-4985); emailed to psoffice@jasper.k12.ga.us or given to the student's teacher.
- WPES Submit written attendance notes/documentation in the agenda. Doctor excuses may be sent in the child's agenda, faxed (706-468- 4984), or emailed to wpattendance@jaspser.k12.ga.us or child's weekly folder.
- JCMS Submit written attendance notes/documentation that the student can turn in to their teacher. Doctor excuses may be faxed (706-468-1847), emailed to jcmsattendance@jasper.k12.ga.us or given to the student's teacher.
- JCHS Submit written attendance notes/documentation to the front office staff when the student returns from their absence. Doctor Excuses may be faxed (706-468-5021), emailed to jchsattendance@jasper.k12.ga.us or given to the front office staff.

Students shall be counted present when:

- They are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
- A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to his or her foster care shall be counted present and shall not be counted absent, either excused or unexcused, for any day or portion of a day missed from school.
- A student who successfully participates in the Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program shall be counted present and given full credit for the school day in which he/she served as a volunteer poll worker, up to 2 school days per school year.

Tardy (Late Check-Ins): This occurs when a student arrives late (tardy) for school/class. A student who arrives late for school/class without a valid reason may receive NO credit for missing work and/or may be subject to disciplinary action (as determined by principal and/or designee).

Early Checkouts: Occur when a student is removed from class and leaves school with a parent or guardian prior to the official end of the school day. IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CHECKOUTS! Students who need to leave campus can only do so with an adult listed on their Emergency Contact List. It is the parent's responsibility to verify that this information is current and accurate. Early checkouts and late check-ins without proper documentation count as absences from the classes missed and may result in the loss of credit for a course. A student who leaves school early without a valid reason may receive NO credit for work missed and/or may be subject to disciplinary action (as determined by principal and/or designee).

Perfect Attendance recognition: WILL NOT be given if the student is absent for any reason OR has any combination of more than 4 tardies or early checkouts.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR EXCUSING ABSENCES: Parents may submit written documentation to excuse a school absence for any of the reasons listed in this document as an "Excused" absence for up to 5 school days per school year. Parent notes submitted for reasons not included in the list of "Excused" absences will NOT be accepted. Once the school has excused 5 school days based upon a parent note, necessary documentation must be submitted for any additional absences to be documented as excused.

GRADES AND ABSENCES: Final course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:

- Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
- Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PERMIT (TADRA - students 14 and older): Certificate of Enrollment: Is required when a student applies for a driver's license or permit. This form must be completed by a school official to satisfy the relevant enrollment requirements.

MAKE-UP WORK AFTER AN ABSENCE

Students with excused absences have 5 days to make-up work from the day of return unless the teacher grants an extension for extenuating circumstances. Students with unexcused absences can make up work up to the days the student is out (ie. 2 days out, 2 days to makeup work) unless the teacher grants an extension for extenuating circumstances. Tests and quizzes will not be sent home for make-up. Students with missing work not completed in a timely manner will be required to attend a class for completing make-up work on club days. Privileges and special activities such as field trips, assemblies, parties, field day, etc. may be withheld when the student has missing work. There may also be an after-school class required for students with missing work due to unexcused absence (under 10 days) from 3:00-4:30 pm when the missing work is not completed in a timely manner. School transportation is not provided for pick-up from an after-school work session.

ACTION TAKEN DUE TO EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- **At three (3) unexcused absences:** The school social worker, counselor, or designated school staff member will contact the parents of the student to inquire about the reason for the absences and offer support/encouragement as well as remind the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge/control of the student of the possible consequences for excessive absences.
- **At five (5) unexcused absences:** After two (2) reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control of a student who has five (5) unexcused absences without response, the school shall send a notice to such parent, legal guardian or other person by certified mail, return receipt requested and first class mail. The letter shall advise the parent/guardian of the child's unexcused absences as well as the penalties that could be imposed and include a copy of the Compulsory Attendance Law. A copy of the potential consequences should be signed by both the parent and child, if they are over 10 years old to become a part of the file showing the efforts of the school once a truancy issue has been identified.
- **At seven (7) unexcused absences:** The school shall refer the case to a Multidisciplinary Team made up of members of the agencies designated by O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.2. It is suggested that the meeting correspond with the counties Local Interagency Planning Team meeting as many of the same agencies are involved. The Team will meet with the parents to explore the needs of the family and offer community supports. The team will meet monthly and the school should refer any student who has been identified as truant.
The school social worker, school counselor, or designated school staff member shall notify any student who is 14 years or older that he/she has only three (3) unexcused absences remaining prior to violating the attendance requirements contained in OCGA 40-5-22 (a)(l) for student's eligibility to obtain or retain an instruction permit or the driver's license may be seriously impacted.
- **At ten (10) unexcused absences:** When administrative actions taken to correct the student's truancy have proven ineffective, the school superintendent, school social worker or designated school personnel shall contact the school resource officer or county sheriffs office for the purpose of filing a complaint with the Juvenile Court alleging the child is a child in need of services as directed in O.C.G.A. 15-11-390 for unruly/truancy or educational neglect. The referral shall contain copies of all relevant correspondence and documentation concerning the student's truancy.
A letter will also be sent from the school administrator, via certified mail return receipt requested and first class mail to the parent(s), guardian(s) or other person(s) who have control or charge of the student, regarding the student's attendance record. The letter should advise that legal action has commenced by the filing of a juvenile complaint and that other legal action may be brought against the parent(s), guardian(s), or other person(s), which could subject them to being found guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of OCGA Section 20-2-690.1, after the school system has notified the parent(s), guardian(s) or other person(s) who have control or charge of the student with five (5) unexcused days of absence shall constitute a separate offense.
- Students who have been absent (excused or unexcused), tardy, or checked out early from school more than five percent of the time and who are behind in completing work may be required to attend study hall for completing make-up work during a designated time. Likewise, students who have less than five percent absence, but who are failing to make up work in a timely manner may also be required to attend the class for make-up work during a designated time. Privileges and special activities such as field trips, assemblies, parties, field day, etc. may be withheld when the student has excessive absences and / or missing work. There may be an after-school study hall required for students with missing work due to unexcused absence (under 10 days) from 3:00-4:30 pm. School transportation is not provided for pick-up from an after school work session.
- PreK attendance will be addressed as outlined in the JCCS PreK Handbook.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students in grades PK-12 are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school premises during school hours, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. School hours include, but are not limited to, lunch periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or unstructured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. **Students are never permitted to use electronic devices in the restrooms or locker rooms.** Any student found in violation of this policy and/or its procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

FIELD TRIPS

Georgia law and State Board of Education policy allow students to be excused from classroom activities for school-sponsored, off-campus activities ten (10) days per year per class. These events do not count against the student as absences provided they are part of an extracurricular program of a school organization or an extension of an instructional class. To attend any activity/trip planned by a teacher as an extension of an instructional class or as a club initiative (non-competition), the students attending must be passing all classes in order to attend. It is the student's responsibility to provide this documentation to the teacher planning the trip. **Teachers will provide forms to students in a timely manner to enable ALL teachers on campus to plan for the absence accordingly.** Teachers will be provided with a list of students who are absent because of a field trip. School work missed may be due on the first day the student returns to class following the activity if the work was assigned prior to the activity. The student is responsible for contacting the teachers regarding assignments due. Field trips are a privilege, not a right. Students are required to ride JCCS transportation to and from event sites unless previous approval in writing to the school administration is received no later than 3 days prior to the event. Only students will ride buses, no exceptions.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Each student enrolled in the Jasper County Charter System shall be afforded the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Those students who wish to recite the Pledge will stand, salute the flag and recite the Pledge in unison. Those who do not wish to recite the Pledge will stand and remain silent. Each student in JCCS shall be afforded the opportunity for a moment of silent reflection.

DRESS CODE – JCPK, JCPS, WPES

Students are expected to dress appropriately while in attendance at school. The general appearance of students should be reasonable and not distracting to others. Students are expected and required to show proper attention to personal cleanliness, neatness and workplace standards of dress and appearance. When questionable the school administrator will make the final determination of whether a student's attire or appearance is in conflict with the system policy. Students will comply with the following dress code:

- **NO** pants with holes above the knee.
- Students are required to always wear safe and appropriate shoes. **Students may not wear slides, flip-flops, or house shoes/slippers.** Athletic or appropriate shoes for athletic activity, including PE and recess, should be worn to maximize safety. High heels are not allowed.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside. Exceptions can be made by the principal for prescription lenses and special days.
- Hats/hoods shall not be worn in the building or classroom.
- Students are expected to wear clothing in a normal fashion.
- No see-through garments; sheer see-through or mesh see-through garments. Undergarments should not be visible to others.
- Garments that are deemed too tight for the wearer (administrator's discretion) will be deemed inappropriate. Excessively form fitting garments are inappropriate.
- No skin may be shown between the button line and the beltline. No midriff type clothing is allowed.
- Shorts should not be extremely short and must be worn so that the shirt does not completely cover the shorts.
- Clothing such as belts, flaps, etc. must be buttoned or buckled. Overalls should be worn with tabs in place and all hardware fastened. A belt is required for loose-fitting clothes.
- Dresses or tops that are low cut in the front or lower than the shoulder blades in the back are not allowed. No cutout areas in dresses or tops are allowed.
- No clothing, or jewelry bearing advertisements of alcohol or tobacco products, or offensive, obscene, or vulgar language will be allowed.
- Any clothing, jewelry, hair, make-up, fingernails, or any other item which causes a disruption of the school environment may be banned at the discretion of the principal.

DRESS CODE- JCMS, JCHS

It is our intent to provide an environment that is safe, orderly, and without distractions and disruptions that interfere with or undermine the learning process. In keeping with this intent, all students are expected to dress appropriately and exhibit good grooming habits. Students who fail to comply with the dress guidelines given below will be referred to an administrator and will be expected to change into acceptable garments. School attire which is not specifically covered in this section and which the administration believes is disruptive or distracting to the learning environment also may be prohibited with the final decision made by the school administrator. A copy of the school dress code power point is located on the JCMS Web page.

The following attire is INAPPROPRIATE for school and must NOT BE WORN:

- NO pants, shorts, or skirts with holes above the knee.
- Hoodies can only be worn with the hood down while inside the school building. If this is violated the following process will be in place:
 - Violation 1- verbal warning to remove the hood
 - Violation 2-parent contact
 - Violation 3-parent contact and student may no longer wear hoodies to school for the remainder of the year.
 - Violation 4- students could receive ISS, OSS or assignment to alternative setting.
- Leggings MAY NOT be worn with items that do not meet the required length. Leggings must be worn with shorts, dresses, skirts, and/or tunics that are at least fingertip length to ensure all areas above the knee are covered appropriately,
- Sunglasses, caps, hats, and other non-religious head coverings such as bandanas and hoods can not be worn inside the school building.
- Clothing which advertises, suggests or displays any insignia of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco.
- Clothing with obscene, vulgar, or suggestive language or design. Athletic clothing with words or symbols, such as pictures and emblems, which advocate violence and/or terrorism.
- Clothing with signs, symbols, drawings or writing which show allegiance, affiliation or reference to any non-sanctioned group or political ideology.
- Colors, bandannas, articles of clothing or paraphernalia which promote or identify with a non-sanctioned group or political ideology.
- Clothing that exposes or accentuates the torso while standing or sitting, such as spandex pants, see-through garments, uncovered leggings, yoga pants, halter tops, spaghetti straps, backless dresses, tube tops, tank tops, muscle shirts, bare midriff outfits, or shirts or blouses that are tied at, or may rise above the waist, off the shoulder tops.
- Shorts, dresses and skirts must be at least fingertip length when worn properly around the waist and when standing upright with shoulders in a relaxed position
- Sleepwear cannot be worn including, but not limited to, pajamas, gowns, bathrobes, slippers, blankets, etc.

In addition, the following rules apply:

- Clothing such as belts, flaps, etc. must be buttoned or buckled. Overalls should be worn with tabs in place and all hardware fastened. No chained wallets may be worn.
- Trench coats are unacceptable. Hooded coats are acceptable, but hoods are not to be worn while in the buildings.
- Shorts/pants must be worn with the waistband at the waist; "sagging" is unacceptable.
- Chains and chain link or studded belts that could be used as a weapon (as determined by an administrator) will not be permitted.
- **Students may not wear slides, flip-flops, or house shoes/slippers.** Athletic or appropriate shoes for athletic activity, including PE and CTAE and Science labs, should be worn to maximize safety.

Students in violation of the dress code may be asked to:

- turn clothing inside-out to hide inappropriate images/text.
- tie a belt of some type around pants if they fit inappropriately.
- change into alternate clothing provided by the school; or
- contact parents for a change of clothes.
- Assigned to ISS or parents asked to pick up.

Non-compliance with dress code will result in assignment to an alternative learning environment. Chronic violators of the dress code will be handled as indicated in the Code of Conduct. **Administrators shall have the authority to interpret dress code and make case-by-case determinations for appropriateness of dress that is not covered elsewhere in this policy.**

GRADE REPORTS

Progress Reports are issued at 4.5 weeks into each semester. These grades show progress at a single point in time. Grades are cumulative until the end of each semester. Report cards will be issued to students at the end of each 9-week grading period.

GRADING REQUIREMENTS

	<i>Daily/HW</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	<i>Test</i>
JCPK	Standards-based		
JCPS	90%		10%
WPES	90%		10%
JCMS	10%	40%	50%
JCHS	10%	40%	50%
JCVA	SEE HANDBOOK		

Grading Expectations:

WPES - 6-9 per 9 weeks

JCMS - min 1-2 grade per week (9 weeks) - min 2-3 summative assessments

JCHS - min 5 summatives, 8 formatives, unlimited (semester)

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent and district administrative staff to develop procedures or regulations that specify how the state-adopted assessments and what local promotion criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, placement or retention of students. Such procedures or regulations must be approved by the Superintendent or Designee and shall provide for the following:

1. Each teacher shall be responsible for determining through a variety of assessments whether a student appears to be on grade level or achieving at a level which, with accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction or interventions, would allow the student to perform at grade level by the conclusion of the subsequent school year.
2. Where the teacher believes the student is not performing at such level, the teacher must implement remediation efforts as set forth in regulations or procedures.
3. Parents will be informed of promotion and retention requirements in the student handbook or in other information disseminated to parents.
4. A mechanism shall be established whereby a school level team will review a student's performance prior to any decision to retain the student.
5. Prior to a student's retention, the student's parents must be notified of the possibility of retention and given the opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.
6. School level promotion and retention decisions may be appealed to a district level committee whose decision shall be final.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Academic Performance Levels

A. Pre-K GELDS Academic Performance levels

Pre-Kindergarten student progress will be determined by the Work Sampling System across 69 indicators in seven domains of learning. All indicators are aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). Teachers assess children throughout the year and use the data to individualize instruction and provide guidance to families.

Not Yet
In Process
Proficient
Not Applicable
Did Not Observe

B. Kindergarten: GKIDS Academic Performance Levels

Kindergarten student progress will be reported based upon the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). Teachers will communicate the kindergartner's progress on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) during his or her kindergarten year. This rating measures individual concepts and skills in: English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, approaches to learning, motor skills and personal and social development.

EX-Exceeding
DM—Demonstrating
DV—Developing
EM-Emerging
PC-Precursor
NYD—Not Yet Demonstrated
NYA — Not Yet Assessed

Grades 1–8 Academic Performance Grading Scale and Performance Levels and Grade Reporting

Students in Grades 1–8 will receive a numerical grade on the report card in the core subjects of English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students will receive a pass or fail performance level on Beyond the Core courses every nine weeks

Academic Performance Grading Scale	Performance Level	Performance Level Descriptors
90-100 A	Distinguished Learner	Demonstrates advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning as specified by Georgia's content standards. The students are well-prepared for the next grade level or course and are well-prepared for college and career readiness.
80-89 B	Proficient Learner	Demonstrates proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.
70-79 C	Developing Learner	Demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
Below 70- F	Beginning Learner	Do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course or learning as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
I	Incomplete	Incomplete (I) will be changed to a 65 at the end of the semester following the grading period in which the student received the incomplete.

Kindergarten:

At the end of kindergarten, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Meet 85% of standards for ELA and Math as measured by common assessments and GKIDS 2.0 (Math only)
- Obtain a proficient score on a criterion referenced assessment in Reading and Math

First Grade:

At the end of First grade, a student must:

- Meet 85% of standards for ELA and Math as measured by common assessments
- Achieve an annual reading Lexile single score measure (190L or above)
- Obtain a proficient score on a criterion referenced assessment in Reading and Math

Second Grade:

At the end of Second grade, a student must:

- Meet 85% of standards for ELA and Math as measured by common assessments
- Achieve an annual reading Lexile single score measure (420L or above)
- Obtain a proficient score on a criterion referenced assessment in Reading and Math

WPES & JCMS

- Participate in Georgia Milestones End of Grade testing administration.
- Pass 4/5 academic subjects (Math and Reading required)

JCHS

All courses for high school credit subject to end of course Milestones testing shall receive 20% of their final course grade based upon results provided from the final exam (including JCMS students taking Physical Science, Biology, US History, American Literature, Algebra I).

To be classified as a 10th grade student	Must complete the academic year with: 5 Carnegie units - must include 1 Math and 1 English
To be classified as an 11th grade student	Must complete the academic year with 11 Carnegie units - must include 2 Math, 2 English, and 1 Science
To be classified as a 12th grade student	Must complete the academic year with 17 Carnegie units - they must consist of 3 Math, 3 English, 2 Science, 1 Social Studies
To graduate:	Students must have a minimum of 23 Carnegie Units including 4 Math, 4 English, 4 Science, 3 Social Studies

HEALTH

Students who are ill should remain at home until they have been symptom free for at least 24 hours without taking medication to relieve their symptoms (i.e. Tylenol, aspirin, etc.). Children having any contagious or infectious disease should not return to school unless cleared by a licensed medical provider. Students who have live head lice (pediculosis) are to be sent home from school. Before re-entering school, it will be necessary for the school nurse/designee to determine that the student is free of infestation. If the student's head is still suspect, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter school. IF your child has not been cleared to re-enter school on or before the third school day after the date he/she was sent home, additional absences will be marked as "unexcused" and the matter will be referred to the School Social Work Department. Referrals will be made to the School Social Work Department for repeated cases of head lice.

MEDICATIONS

All medications other than the exceptions listed in these guidelines, whether prescription or over the counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of the school. For students in PK – 2nd grade, medication must be taken to the school by the child's parent/guardian. For students in 3rd – 12th grade - all medications must be taken by the student, OR parent/guardian to the school office immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers,

clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing a prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the Code of Conduct.

Certain medical diagnoses might require students to carry inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine for allergic reactions and all necessary supplies and equipment to perform monitoring and treatment functions authorized by the student's diabetes medical management plan. For a student to carry these on his/her person, medical documentation and/or parent/guardian permission is necessary. This permission/documentation must be handed in to the main office. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication. For the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any other reason, parents must provide written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the school district and its employees and agents from civil liability for administering such medication to students, or if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction because of self-administration of such medication. The terms of this paragraph may be met through a student's diabetes medical management plan developed and implemented pursuant to state law. Parents are encouraged to provide to the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school. Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer auto-injectable epinephrine, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer Levalbuterol Sulfate (Xopenex) or Albuterol Sulfate, if available, to a student or faculty member in perceived respiratory distress regardless of whether the student or faculty member has a prescription for Levalbuterol Sulfate (Xopenex) or Albuterol Sulfate. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer such medication to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

FOOD SERVICES MANAGEMENT

The School Nutrition Program shall be viewed as a part of the total educational program through the cooperative efforts of administrators, teachers, and school nutrition personnel. The goal of the School Nutrition Program is to provide acceptable meals that are nutritionally sound to all students, regardless of income or family status. These meals should be delivered with nutrition education so that students are equipped for a lifetime of nutritional wellness.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the operation and administration of the school nutrition program. The system shall employ a School Food Nutrition Director to carry out the system responsibilities of the nutrition program. The Superintendent shall utilize state, federal, and local funds in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations including those promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Georgia State Board of Health.

The primary responsibility of the program is to provide for the child's needs for basic nutrition. Basic nutrition is that which meets the U.S. Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs). Jasper County Charter System participates in the Community Eligibility Provision program which **allows all students, regardless of income, to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch per day.** A la carte items will be available for sale and additional meals may be purchased at full price.

Special Meal Modifications Documented food allergies will be taken into account for students in grades PK-12. Parents/Guardians should contact the school's Nutrition Director for information if there is a need for modifications to be made to the child's meals due to food allergies and/or special health concerns.

EXTRA ITEMS/A LA CARTE

- A La Carte and/or extra items (including milk) may not be charged by any student in grades PK – 12.
- Students wishing to purchase extra items or A La Carte items must pay in cash at the point of purchase or have money in their meal account to cover the cost of the item(s).

ADULT CHARGES

- Visitors are not allowed to charge a meal.
- Substitute teachers/staff are not allowed to charge a meal.
- School employees may charge their meals on a monthly basis. All charges must be paid in full before the last workday of each month. Extensions for payment will not be offered. Failure to pay in full on the given date will result in loss of charging

privileges.

TEXTBOOKS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Textbooks and electronic devices (such as, but not limited to chrome books, laptops, desktops, and iPads) are the property of the local school system. When textbooks and devices are issued to a student they become the student's responsibility; he/she then has the responsibility to take care of these items at all times. If a textbook or device is lost and/or damaged (beyond the usual wear), **restitution must be made to the school; otherwise report cards may be held.**

JCCS Device Fee Schedule

Chromebooks

If for any reason the Chromebook is damaged during the time that it is issued to the student and device insurance is not purchased, the student and student's parent/guardian will be responsible for the following repair fees plus a \$10 labor charge.

***Please note that fees can be adjusted at the district's discretion in response to increased prices of suppliers.**

2026-2027 Chromebook Damage Fees

Battery - up to \$100

Screen (LCD Only) -

Touch - up to \$200

Non Touch - up to \$100

Screen Bezel - up to \$20

**Data/Power Ports (Logic Board) -
up to \$200**

Keyboard - up to \$60

Top/Bottom Case - up to \$75 each

ChromeBook Charger - \$30

Speaker - up to \$50

TrackPad - up to \$50

Webcam - up to \$80

Total Loss - (Damaged beyond repair, stolen, or repair cost exceeds replacement cost.) - up to \$400

If the Chromebook is damaged or destroyed (to the point where it would cost more to repair the Chromebook than to replace the device) during the time it is issued to the student because the student committed or intentionally facilitated a deliberate act of damage or vandalism, the student and the student's parent/guardian will be responsible for the actual cost of the Chromebook.

Payment of Damages

It is the responsibility of the student or parent/guardian to reimburse the district for any costs to repair or replace a district assigned device. Failure to submit payment due for damages will result in loss of take-home privilege for school devices as well as exclusion from participation in the certain school events including, but not limited to:

- Prom
- Homecoming dance
- Graduation ceremony
- Athletics events (as a spectator)
- Driving privileges (if applicable)
- School Festivals and other public events/extracurricular activities outside of school hours

The parent or responsible party may set up a payment plan with the following stipulations:

1. The total due is collected before May 15 of the current school year.
2. At any time during the payment plan, the parent may pay off the balance due.

3. The student will use a loaned device that must remain at school.

Please note any unpaid balances will roll up to the following school year and accumulate on the student's account. If you have any questions, concerns or complaints regarding this process, you may contact your school's principal. For more information regarding technology use, please refer to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

As an added benefit, parents and guardians may choose to purchase device insurance through School Device Coverage for an annual premium at this link, <https://schooldevicecoverage.com/jasper>. Please note that this is an optional agreement strictly between the parent/guardian and School Device Coverage.

ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

This agreement outlines the acceptable use of the Jasper County Charter System's internet, network, and social media resources by all staff and students. These resources are provided for educational and administrative purposes. Responsible and ethical use is essential to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.

General Guidelines:

Purpose: Internet and network access is for educational activities, approved administrative tasks, and school-related communication. Personal use should be minimal and not interfere with school operations.

1. **Respect and Responsibility:** Users must treat all individuals with respect, both online and offline. This includes avoiding harassment, cyberbullying, discrimination, and the dissemination of offensive or inappropriate content.
2. **Privacy:** Users should respect the privacy of others and refrain from sharing personal information without consent. Do not access or attempt to access another user's files or accounts.
3. **Security:** Users are responsible for maintaining the security of their accounts and passwords. Do not share passwords or attempt to bypass security measures.
4. **Copyright and Intellectual Property:** Respect copyright laws and intellectual property rights. Do not download, distribute, or use copyrighted material without permission.
5. **Legality:** Users must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. Illegal activities, including hacking, distributing viruses, and accessing inappropriate content, are strictly prohibited.
6. **School Device Usage:** School-issued devices are for educational purposes. Personal software installations require approval.
7. **Monitoring:** The school reserves the right to monitor internet and network activity to ensure compliance with this agreement and to protect the safety of students and staff.
8. **Reporting:** Users are responsible for reporting any instances of inappropriate or illegal online activity to a teacher, administrator, or IT staff member.
9. **Consequences:** Violations of this agreement may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, loss of network privileges, suspension, or expulsion.

Social Media Guidelines:

1. **Representing the School:** When representing the school on social media (e.g., school clubs, and sports teams), users must adhere to the school's social media policy and maintain a professional image.
2. **Personal Social Media:** Users should be mindful that their online presence can impact their reputation and the school's image. Avoid posting content that is offensive, defamatory, or that violates school policies.
3. **Student-Teacher Interactions:** Staff members should maintain professional boundaries when interacting with students on social media. Avoid private messaging or friending students on personal accounts. Approved school platforms for student-teacher communication are acceptable.
4. **Cyberbullying and Harassment:** Cyberbullying, harassment, and the spreading of rumors or false information are strictly prohibited. Report any instances of such behavior to a teacher or administrator.
5. **Privacy Settings:** Users should utilize privacy settings to control who can view their social media content. Be aware that even with privacy settings, content can be shared or copied.
6. **Image and Video Sharing:** Do not share images or videos of students or staff without their consent. Be respectful of others' privacy and avoid posting content that could be embarrassing or harmful.
7. **School Events and Activities:** When posting about school events or activities, ensure that the information is accurate and appropriate. Avoid sharing sensitive or confidential information.
8. **No Impersonation:** Do not impersonate another student, staff member, or anyone else on social media.
9. **No sharing of personal information:** Do not share your, or other people's, phone numbers, addresses, or other personal information on social media.

10. **Think before you post:** Once something is posted online, it can be very difficult to remove.

Staff Specific Guidelines:

- Staff are expected to model responsible digital citizenship.
- Staff are responsible for supervising student internet use during instructional time.
- Staff should use school-approved communication platforms for communication with students and parents.
- Staff are expected to complete annual training on online safety and digital citizenship.

Student Specific Guidelines:

- Students must obtain permission before using personal devices on the school network.
- Students should use school-provided resources for educational purposes only.
- Students should seek assistance from teachers or IT staff if they encounter inappropriate content or technical issues.
- Students are responsible for their online actions, even if they are using a personal device.

Students Under 13 and COPPA:

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) places specific restrictions on the collection of personal information from children under 13. To comply with COPPA, certain online services and websites may require parental consent before allowing access for students under 13. The school will make reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent for services that require it. If a parent or guardian wishes to opt their child under 13 out of specific online services or the use of online services in general, they must provide written notification to the school administration. This notification should clearly state the parent/guardian's desire to restrict their child's access to specific or all online services. The school will then work with the parent/guardian to find alternative educational resources, if necessary.

Acknowledgement:

As a condition of enrollment, parent(s) and guardian(s) understand that students are opted-in to internet access. They further agree that they have read and understand the Acceptable Internet and Social Media Use Agreement and acknowledge that violations may result in disciplinary action. This agreement is subject to change at the discretion of the school administration.

SCHOOL VISITATION

Parents are welcome visitors at JCCS during school sponsored events and specified activities. Due to student/school safety, unscheduled classroom visits are no longer permitted. In the event an individual visit (including classroom visits) is needed, parents/guardians must contact an administrator of the school and make an official request. **Parents and/or guardians are the only visitors allowed with the student unless otherwise previously approved by the administration.**

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers must undergo an annual approval process. All volunteers must complete a VOLUNTEER REQUEST FORM and submit it to the Principal. A clear criminal background check is required. Volunteer request forms are available in the Human Resources department at the Board office.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of the Jasper County Board of Education to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will promote the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a Code of Conduct which sets standards for student behavior.

The District's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school or district as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by the regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct. Jasper County will implement the best practices of Leader in Me (LiM) in all schools within the district. Leader in Me is an evidence-based, comprehensive school improvement model - developed in partnership with educators - that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive.

The Code of Conduct sets the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. This includes but is not limited to showing respect for each other and school district employees, following guidelines and policies related to behavior that are adopted by the Jasper County Board of Education, and obeying rules established by individual schools and classrooms.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time.
- Off school grounds, any school-related activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events.
- On school buses and at school bus stops.

Also, students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapons offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16, Unsafe School Choice Option.

The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this Code of Conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Jasper County Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

Authority of the Principal

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policies or procedures.

Teacher Authority

The Superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737, which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such a report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior.

The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee.

The principal or designee shall notify in writing the teacher and the student's parents or guardian of the discipline or student support services which have occurred as a result of the teacher's report within one school day from the imposition of discipline or the utilization of the support services. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm that the student's parents or guardian has received the written notification, including information as to how the parents or guardian may contact the principal or designee.

Parental Involvement

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contacts is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments. Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Progressive Discipline Procedures as Related to the Code of Conduct

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior and will consider the student's discipline history, the age of that student, and other related factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by possible consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are appropriate. There are a few specific situations that are of such severity that referral to a Disciplinary Tribunal and law enforcement would be automatic. Depending on the severity of the situation, school officials may apply stricter measures up to and including notification of law enforcement. An administrator has the discretion to determine the offense and the appropriateness of the disposition assigned.

Students who repeatedly violate the various rules and regulations may be subject to disciplinary action more severe than the disposition specified for the individual offenses committed, up to and including suspension to a disciplinary tribunal and possible long-term suspension or expulsion. Students under suspension or expulsion are not permitted to attend or participate in athletic/extracurricular activities (which includes graduation ceremonies) during the period of the suspension or expulsion.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS (DISPOSITIONS) THAT MAY BE IMPOSED FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

WARNING AND/OR CONFERENCE

Students may receive a verbal or written warning, and/or may be required to meet with school administrator, counselor, or social worker.

CLASSROOM CONSEQUENCES

Consequences that are established at the classroom level to address minor misconduct in the classroom.

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

The behavior contract is a simple positive-reinforcement intervention that is widely used by teachers to change student behavior. The behavior contract spells out in detail the expectations of student and teacher, and sometimes parents, in carrying out the intervention plan, making it a useful planning document. Also, because the student usually has input into the conditions that are established within the contract for earning rewards, the student is more likely to be motivated to abide by the terms of the behavior contract than if those terms had been imposed by someone else.

LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

Examples include silent lunch, loss of recess, loss of driving and/or parking on campus, etc.

TIME OUT

Students may receive time out in an alternative learning environment, modified educational environment, etc.

REMOVAL FROM CLASS

An administrator may restrict attendance or remove a student from a class(es) for a specified length of time. Make note that events such as field trips, etc., may also be restricted as deemed necessary.

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS / PARENT CONFERENCE

Parents may be notified via telephone, text, email, note in agenda, mail, or face-to-face conference. NOTE: Each parent/guardian is responsible for providing the school with his/her up to date contact information including: telephone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact names and telephone numbers.

REFERRAL TO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Students may be referred to a school counselor, counselor, social worker, MTSS, etc. Parents/Guardians should note that a referral to the school counselor, social worker, or to the MTSS team does not require parental/guardian's consent.

CONFISCATION OF ITEMS THAT ARE PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

Possession of personal property that is prohibited is a violation of the Code of Conduct and confiscation of banned items by teachers and/or the administration is permissible. When possible, the administrator will return the item to parent/guardian.

RESTITUTION

The student is responsible for payment or repair of damages and/or replacement(s) of school system property.

RESTRICTION FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL EVENTS

Examples include restrictions from field days, field trips, prom, dances, graduation ceremony, etc.

DETENTION

A requirement that the student report to a specific school location and to a designated teacher or school official. Detention may require the student's attendance before school, during lunch or after school. Students who are assigned to detention before or after school will be given a one day advanced notice so the parent/guardian can make arrangements for transportation.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is the removal of students from their regular classes to be isolated in a supervised area, with a limited number of students. Students have the opportunity to continue their regular classroom assignments during ISS. Parents will be notified when their child is assigned to ISS. Students may not attend any school function, practice, or participate in any activity during the period of ISS. The alternative to ISS is out of school suspension (OSS) and/or alternative setting.

SUSPENSION FOR A PARENT CONFERENCE

As a consequence, for violating school rules/regulations, an administrator, at his/her discretion, may suspend a student from school until a parent conference (face-to-face conference, telephone, virtual meeting) is held as specified by the administrator. NOTE: It is not necessary for students to miss any school time provided a parent/guardian complies with the conference request.

SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive days. During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from attending or participating in all school-sponsored activities including practices, competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

LONG-TERM SUSPENSION (referral to a disciplinary tribunal)

Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period greater than 10 consecutive days, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal. During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

PLACEMENT IN AN ALTERNATIVE SETTING

In an effort to keep all students in school, the JCCS is providing an alternative placement in lieu of long-term OSS and expulsion. During that time, students will not be allowed to have access to the school campus unless under the direct supervision of the alternative setting staff. Misbehavior while in an alternative setting will result in the student being placed on virtual instruction. **Students that are returning to school from adjudication will be placed in the alternative setting as a transitional process back into the regular school program. The parents must schedule a meeting with the school prior to a child returning to school once processed through the court system. A student who has been formally charged with a violation of the criminal law off campus and whose presence on the school campus may endanger the safety of other students and/or cause substantial disruption to school operations will be assigned to an alternative setting.

WAIVERS - ALTERNATIVE SETTING

Waivers utilized to place students in an alternative setting **require approval from the District Discipline Team.**

SEARCHES

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules or is in possession of evidence that the student broke the law or violated school rules. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Cell phones/multimedia/electronic

devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detection devices and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities that occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE SCHOOL BUS

Transportation is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked.

EXPULSION

Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal in accordance with Code Section 20-2-754.

REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR JUVENILE COURT OFFICIALS

Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials as required by law or when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include:

- long-term suspension (suspended greater than 10 days)
- expulsion (expelled beyond the end of the current school semester)
- permanent expulsion (expelled from school district, may be given the option to attend an alternative program)

Those punishments will be determined by a disciplinary tribunal panel as outlined in Code Section 20-2-754.

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents will be notified. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

With regard to State Rule 160-4-8-.15, K-3 students will not be suspended or expelled for more than 5 school days per year without the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) process being in place. An exception is made for students bringing weapons or drugs to school or who present a threat to the safety and security of the school.

BEHAVIOR THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The degree of consequence (disposition) imposed will be in accordance with the progressive discipline process unless otherwise stated below.

1. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

This offense includes, but is not limited to, CHEATING (intentional receiving or providing of unauthorized assistance on projects, assignments, or assessments); PLAGIARISM (submitting someone else's work as your own and/or work generated by electronic platforms as your own (AI)); and/or FALSIFYING DOCUMENTS/RECORDS.

2. ALCOHOL

Selling of, attempting to sell, manufacturing, possession of, use of, transportation of, purchase of, attempting to purchase, or under the influence of alcohol on school property, or at a school event is prohibited. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

3. ARSON

Unlawful and attempted damage or intentional damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

4. ASSAULT/BATTERY

Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person, any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm (i.e. threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike or hit), striking another person against his/her will, and/or intentionally causing bodily harm; possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed assault upon another student or person while on school campus, at a school event/function, at designated school bus stops or on a school bus.

5. ATTENDANCE RELATED VIOLATION

This offense includes, but is not limited to, repeated or excessive unexcused absences, tardies to school or class, skipping class, leaving school without permission, or failure to comply with compulsory attendance law.

6. BREAKING AND ENTERING/BURGLARY

Unlawful entry into a building or other structure with intent to commit a crime. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

7. BULLYING

In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as an act that is:

- (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
- (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - a) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Georgia law mandates that upon a tribunal finding that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative setting.

8. BUS MISBEHAVIOR

The following specific provisions shall govern student conduct and safety on all school buses:

- (1) All provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply to behavior on the school bus or at a designated bus stop, including but not limited to, acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus or at a designated bus stop, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus or at a designated bus stop, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus or at a designated bus stop, and other unruly behavior;
- (2) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

9. CHRONIC DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM STUDENT

Georgia law, O.C.G.A § 20-2-765, mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan (Chronic Behavior Plan). Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Jasper County defines chronic disciplinary behavior demonstrated by a student as three or more offenses of a similar nature, requiring administrative action, committed during the same school year. Failure to comply with or violation of the Chronic Behavior Plan may result in a Disciplinary Tribunal.

The law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-766.1, allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend the conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

10. COMPUTER TRESPASS

Unauthorized use of computer, computer network, data, intent to hack or damage network, obtaining confidential information, or disclosing protected information as per the school system's acceptable use of the internet/electronic resources policy.

11. CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATION/OFF-CAMPUS MISCONDUCT

A student whose conduct off campus could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension or referral to a disciplinary tribunal.

12. DISOBEDIENCE/INSUBORDINATION

Failure to comply with instructions, use of inappropriate language, acting in a rude, disobedient, disrespectful and/or insubordinate manner, and/or refusing to identify oneself correctly upon request.

13. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Creating a severe disturbance that interrupts normal school operation and poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

14. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Creating a disturbance that interrupts learning opportunities or normal operating procedures of the school but does not pose a threat to a person's health or safety.

15. DRESS CODE VIOLATION

Students shall dress in a manner that is reasonable and not distracting to other students and teachers. The dress of students must be in good taste and appropriate for school activities. School principals have final authority in all judgments related to dress. Regulations, procedures, and directives for appropriate dress will be distributed at the school level.

16. DRIVING OR PARKING VIOLATIONS ON CAMPUS

Driving without a license, recklessly, and/or parking on school property without a permit.

17. DRUGS

Possession, sale, transmission, use in any amount, distribution, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, intoxicant, inhalant, prescription drug not currently prescribed, or substance that creates the same effect of the items listed. Possession, distribution, attempted sale or sale of substances represented as drugs or any of the other items listed above. Sale, attempted sale, distribution, or being under the influence of a prescription or over the counter drug. NOTE: This offense does not include self-administering asthma,

auto-injectable epinephrine for allergic reactions, or diabetes medication that has been approved by the school nurse or designee.

The following are examples of items that violate this policy: Illegal drugs, prescriptions or over-the-counter medication, and/or substances represented to be illegal drugs, caffeine pills, inhalants, and/or drug paraphernalia such as rolling papers, roach clips, pipes, etc. Mere possession of inhalants such as glue, white-out, and/or rubber cement does not constitute violation of this policy. The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement officials regarding illegal drugs or substances thought to be illegal drugs.

18. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students in grades PK-12 are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school premises during school hours, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. School hours include, but are not limited to, lunch periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or unstructured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. **Students are never permitted to use electronic devices in the restrooms or locker rooms.** Any student found in violation of this policy and/or its procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. **School system employees will not search for or conduct an investigation to locate lost or stolen items unless it is necessary to enforce the rules of the school.**

19. EXTORTION/THREATS

Physical, verbal, or electronic threat which creates fear, or obtaining money or goods from another student through the use of threats or misuse of authority.

20. FAILURE TO REPORT MEDICATION

Possession of medication (over the counter or prescription) without distribution or abuse. Students found in possession of prescriptions issued to him/her, and/or possession of over the counter medication (i.e. aspirin, cold medications, etc.) which are not allowed under board policy or have not been reported to and approved by the school nurse or designee are in violation of this policy.

21. FIGHTING/PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Physically assaulting another student where there is no major injury. Note: Does not include verbal confrontation or other minor confrontation. Note: Injury to a school system employee or innocent bystander may result in more severe consequences being administered to a student.

22. GAMBLING

Engaging in a game or contest (face to face or online) in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

23. HARASSMENT

Any behavior based on a student's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or identification or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the student. Such behavior by students and employees is strictly prohibited.

25. INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

Participation in physical contact that is not considered physically threatening.

26. INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Displaying expressions of affection such as kissing, embracing, etc. while on school property, at a school function/event, or on a school bus.

27. INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Making sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, transmitting sexually explicit or suggestive material to other students at school, circulating such material at school through electronic devices or in any other manner, or being involved in sexual conduct of any nature without force or threat of force while on school property, at a school function/event, or on a school bus.

28. INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL COMMENTS

Insensitive, inappropriate, or sexually suggested comments or jokes that may or may not be directed toward a specific person.

29. INCITING, ADVISING, OR COUNSELING

Inciting, advising, or counseling others to engage in prohibited acts or violate provisions of the Code of Conduct.

30. INDECENT EXPOSURE

Removing one's own or another person's clothing or acts which offend against commonly recognized standards of good taste. This offense includes, but is not limited to, removing clothing items, pulling down pants, wearing pants significantly below the waistline, clothing that exposes significant amounts of flesh, etc.

31. KIDNAPPING

Unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will, or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent/legal guardian. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

32. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (on school property)

Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, including but not limited to a car, truck, motorcycle, RV, dune buggy, ATV, or vehicle that is self-propelled. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

33. OTHER DISCIPLINARY EVENT

Discipline event that warrants intervention; however, OSS/ISS/Expulsion are not options as consequences.

34. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST A SCHOOL SYSTEM EMPLOYEE

Committing physical violence against a school system employee as defined in GA Code 20-2-751.6, as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided for in GA Code 16-3-21. Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an act of physical violence against a teacher or other school personnel: Expulsion for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools for acts of physical violence found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or physical harm was in defense of himself or herself, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21; or the Board may authorize the student to attend alternative school for the period of the expulsion; provided, however, that if such student is in kindergarten through grade six, then the Board upon the recommendation of the tribunal may permit the student to re-enroll in regular programs for grades 9 through 12; and provided further that if the Board does not operate an alternative education program for grades kindergarten through grade six, then the Board may permit the student in kindergarten through grade six who commits such an act to re-enroll in the public school system. The student shall be referred to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior. Possible punishments may include expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension for students found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another.

35. POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS

This offense includes any item or piece of equipment that is prohibited, violates classroom protocol, or the student Code of Conduct. Unauthorized items will be confiscated by the school administrator/designee.

36. POSSESSION/USE OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL

Carrying, possessing, or having under such person's control ammunition of any type, fireworks, combustible or explosive composition or any substance of combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound, tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

37. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION

Students may not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student. This offense includes giving false

information to school staff.

38. ROBBERY

Taking or attempting to take anything of value that is owned by another person/organization, by force or threat of force with a weapon. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

39. RUDE/DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR

Using profane, vulgar, and/or obscene words or gestures, improper dress, or possession/creation of pornographic material.

40. SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

Physical contact with another person with the intent to cause bodily harm that dismembers, disfigures, causes loss of limb, loss of organ function, or causes risk of death. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

41. SEXUAL BATTERY

Intentionally making physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person. Depending on the circumstances, the offense may be upgraded to the more serious charge of aggravated sexual battery. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

42. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to define or itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by the School District. Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech that entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demands for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, or physical contact that creates a hostile environment. There may be other speech or conduct which students experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment, all of which is forbidden. Sexual harassment defined in the Federal Regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is defined as follows:

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of a District aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault" - an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

"Dating Violence" - sex-based violence committed by a person-

- (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - (i) The length of the relationship.
 - (ii) The type of relationship.
 - (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship; or

"Domestic Violence" - sex-based violence which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction; or

"Sex-based Stalking" - engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to-

- (A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
- (B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Students, parents or other persons wishing to report alleged sexual harassment of a student should promptly notify the student's school principal, school counselor, or Title IX Coordinator. All reports or complaints regarding alleged sexual harassment of students will be handled in accordance with Board Policies JAA and/or JCAC, as applicable.

43. THEFT/LARCENY

Theft/Larceny/Selling/Purchasing or Possession of Stolen Public or Private Property without threat, violence or bodily harm. A student who violates this rule may be responsible for paying damaged or lost property, and/or receive OSS, and/or referred to the disciplinary tribunal, and/or referred to law enforcement officials.

44. THREATENING A SCHOOL SYSTEM EMPLOYEE

Verbal assault, including threats of violence or bodily harm and/or sexual assault or harassment, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel. This offense includes touching, striking, pushing, or threatening the person, bodily or psychologically, as well as the property of any school system employee through action, verbal, written or electronic means. Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon some teacher or other school personnel.

45. THREATENING/INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOR

Any type of school-wide threat which creates fear. This offense includes making a bomb threat or activating a false fire alarm or making a false call to 911. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

46. TOBACCO/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Intentional possession, use, or distribution of tobacco in any form or electronic cigarettes, or vaping on school property, at a school related function/event, or on a school bus. Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices (paraphernalia) used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; being under the influence of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, or any mind-altering substance or intoxicant (illegal or legal); or medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to the school, specifically including any product with CBD, whether hemp or cannabis and regardless of the amount of THC in the product or the extent to which it is legal or illegal under state law.

47. TRESPASSING

Entering or remaining on school property, at a school function/event, or on a school bus without permission of the administration or refusing to leave school property, school function/event, school bus as directed by school administrator.

48. VANDALISM

Participation in destroying, vandalizing, and/or threatening to destroy/deface public or private property located on school property, at a school related function/event, or on a school bus without the consent of the owner. This offense includes deliberate minor or major destruction or defacement of school property. Students who violate this rule may receive out of school suspension, a referral to the disciplinary tribunal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

49. WEAPON – HANDGUN

50. WEAPON – KNIFE

51. WEAPON – RIFLE/SHOTGUN

52. WEAPON - OTHER

Possession or use of a weapon, as provided for in Code Section 16-11-127.1: A student shall not possess, use, handle, or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.

- (2) Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nunchuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such terms shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one-year expulsion under circumstances where the one-year expulsion appears excessive to the Superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirements on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as determined by the principal to be appropriate based on the seriousness of the offense, the age of the student and other relevant factors.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

When a search of students, lockers, vehicles, book bags or any other type search occurs on school property, the following procedures shall guide the school administration in dealing with any prohibited items that are found that may necessitate action by a law enforcement agency. The administrator in charge of the school facility shall notify the Superintendent's Office immediately that the search has occurred, illegal items found, and that specific students are being detained to complete an investigation. By the end of the business day, the parent of any student suspected of involvement shall be notified that the investigation is in progress and the nature of the child's involvement as best it is known at that time. The administrator in charge of the school facility shall conduct the investigation to discover all students involved and the level of involvement with all due speed. The Superintendent's Office shall be notified when the investigation has produced enough evidence to file charges against the student(s) involved. The administrator in charge of the school facility shall contact the law enforcement agency with the information the investigation has revealed and the evidence gathered. The law enforcement agency shall contact any other agency as may be appropriate. A parent shall be notified that the investigation and evidence supports a report to a law enforcement agency and that the report has been made. This should occur before any agency removes a student from the campus. Parents should have the opportunity to meet with the student and the administrator prior to the removal. A written report shall be filed with the Superintendent, summarizing the findings of the investigation within 24 hours of the completion of the investigation.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

PRIMARY and ELEMENTARY Schools Disciplinary Offenses and Consequences

The Jasper County Charter System wishes to maintain a school environment embracing mental and physical safety and discipline with dignity. To facilitate this, a discipline code enumerating misbehavior and consequences has been developed. It is the desire that all misbehaviors be addressed in a manner which provides for improvement through the development of student self-control. Parental involvement will be encouraged on every level of consequences. It is the goal to keep students in school and in an environment of discipline with dignity.

Classroom/School Level 1 Violations and Consequences

- Minor verbal disrespect towards peers (name calling)
- False information/Dishonesty
- Failure to complete tasks
- Refusal to follow directions
- Minor classroom disturbances (excessive talking, inattentiveness, restlessness, etc.)
- Argumentative with adults
- Academic Dishonesty
- Horseplay
- Inappropriate breakfast, lunch, or restroom behavior
- Dress code violation

- Minor damage to school property
- Possession of nuisance/banned items at school or school function (1st incident)
- Minor inappropriate contact without injury.

Level 1 Consequences include, but are not limited to, parent contact, conference with student, referral to counselor, loss of privileges, restitution (payment or repair of damages), additional assignment, assignment to time out, assignment to an alternative location, loss of privilege to participate in special activities, confiscation of nuisance item(s) and required parent retrieval of item(s). All consequences are at the discretion of the administrator.

Classroom/School Level 2 Violations and Consequences

- Repeated incidents of level 1 violations
- Disrespectful and/or abusive language and/or gestures
- Stealing
- Fighting/Inappropriate physical contact
- Major destruction of school property
- Repeated defiance to authority
- Making verbal threats
- Bullying
- Inappropriate touching/comments
- Misuse of technology (beyond the 2nd incident)
- Academic dishonesty
- Indecent exposure

Level 2 Consequences include, but are not limited to, any level 1 consequences, assignment to alternative location for an extended period, teacher/parent conference, behavior contract, out of school suspension, involvement of law enforcement. All consequences are at the discretion of the administrator.

Level 3 Violations and Consequences include, but are not limited to, out of school suspension, referral to a disciplinary tribunal panel, expulsion from school, referral to appropriate law enforcement. All consequences are at the discretion of the administrator.

Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer to any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishment for an offense includes long-term suspension or permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in Jasper County Board of Education policies.

Students are not permitted to possess contraband items while on school system property or while at attendance at any school-sponsored event. Any contraband item found on a student will be taken from the student and shall not be returned to the student. Any contraband item that is illegal for the student to possess on school system property or at a school-sponsored event will be turned over to the proper law enforcement officials.

These contraband items include, but are not limited to:

- Weapons
- Pornographic materials;
- Materials which advocate violence, the overthrow of the government of the United States, or are otherwise terroristic in nature;
- Gang related materials;
- Materials which if loaded on a computer could disrupt the computer or the computer network;
- Controlled substances, prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications

- Alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco products, vaping devices, or electronic cigarettes
- Pepper Spray, mace, or other dangerous chemicals and irritants

Primary and Elementary Progressive Discipline Plan

All K-5 teachers have proactive, intervention-based, and multi-step systems at the classroom level prior to office referral.

The administrative staff reserves the right to assign consequences to behavior that interferes with the order and discipline in the school even though such behavior is not specified in this code.

1st Violation: Verbal Warning; Parent Contact, loss of privilege, referral to counselor

2nd Violation: Parent Contact, loss of privilege, MTSS Behavior Plan development/revision, placement in alternative learning environment, Out of School Suspension (OSS)

3rd Violation: placement in alternative learning environment, OSS

4th Violation: placement in alternative learning environment, OSS

5th Violation & Subsequent violations: placement in alternative learning environment, OSS

Middle and High School Disciplinary Offenses and Consequences

*When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by school officials will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior and the student's discipline history. **The Administrative staff reserves the right to assign consequences to behavior that interferes with the order and discipline in the school even though such behavior is not specified in this code.***

<u>Level One Offenses</u>	
<u>Level 1A Offenses</u>	<u>Level 1A Consequence Guidance</u>
• Cheating • Tardiness • Disorderly Conduct • Plagiarism • Inappropriate Display of Affection including but not limited to kissing and holding hands • In an unauthorized area • Insubordination • Lying/Misrepresenting • Misconduct outside of the classroom • Possession of a nuisance item: including, but not limited to: speakers, laser pointers, playing card, noise makers, toys, etc. • Safety violation • Use of profanity or vulgar words, gestures, or materials • Violation of cafeteria rules • Violation of classroom rules • Violation of dress code	1st Offense: • Verbal warning, parent conference, administrative conference, referral to counselor, teacher discretion for grade with cheating, administrative time out or detention, In School Suspension (ISS) (contact parents/guardians) 2nd Offense: • May include consequences from 1st Offenses, Parent Conference and ISS (contact parents/guardians) 3rd Offense and Subsequent occurrences: • Parent Conference, ISS, Out of School Suspension (OSS) (contact parents/guardians)
<u>Level 1B Offenses</u>	<u>Level 1B Consequence Guidance</u>
• Vehicular/moving violation on campus/parking lot	1st Offense: • Warning based on severity 2nd Offense:

	• Suspension of parking privileges for 1-5 days 3rd Offense: • Extended loss of parking privileges <i>Continued misbehavior may result in a disciplinary hearing and revocation of all parking privileges.</i>
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<u>Level Two Offenses</u>	
<u>Level 2A Offenses</u>	<u>Level 2A Consequence Guidance</u>
• Repeated incidents of level 1 violations • Classroom disruption • Destruction of school property • Display of a gang sign or symbol or any gang activity • Disrespect towards others • Computer/Internet violation • Leaving campus without permission • Loitering • Harassment • Student confrontation • Threat or intimidation • Vandalism • Willful disobedience • Possession of or distribution/transmission of pornographic material • Sexual offense • Skipping class • Unauthorized filming/photographing of unsanctioned school events • Unauthorized use of personal electronic communication and/or gaming devices	1st Offense: • 1-3 days ISS, contact law enforcement as appropriate (contact parents/guardians) 2nd Offense: • 1-6 days ISS, contact law enforcement as appropriate (contact parents/guardians) 3rd Offense: • Extended ISS or Out of School Suspension (OSS) (contact parents/guardians) 4th Offense: • Up to 10 days OSS (a disciplinary hearing may be called, contact parents/guardians)
<u>Level 2B Offenses</u>	<u>Level 2B Consequence Guidance</u>
• Fight/Physical Altercation • Bullying* • Bogus 911 calls • False fire alarm activation • Profane, vulgar language or gesture toward staff • Theft • Trespassing • Tobacco products, vaping devices, or electronic cigarettes - possession or use • Unwanted/uninvited contact and/or touching of a sexual nature	<i>Behavior Contract in addition to the following:</i> 1st Offense: • 1-5 days out of school suspension (contact parents/guardians) 2nd Offense: • 1-10 days out of school suspension (contact parents/guardians) 3rd Offense: • 10 days out of school suspension and a disciplinary hearing will be called (contact parents/guardians) <i>*See O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4</i> • 3rd offense of bullying requires automatic

	alternative setting placement
<u>Level 2C Offenses</u>	<u>Level 2C Consequence Guidance</u>
• Verbal/physical altercation related to inciting, advising and counseling activities • Knife (under 2 in. blade)	<i>Behavior Contract in addition to the following:</i> 1st Offense: • 1-5 days suspension (contact parents/guardians) 2nd Offense: • 10 days suspension and a disciplinary tribunal (contact parents/guardians)

<u>Level Three Offenses</u>	
<u>Level 3 Offenses</u>	<u>Level 3 Consequence Guidance</u>
• Alcohol possession: use or under influence of • Arson • Assault or Battery on a school system employee • Assault or Battery of a student or any person on school property that results in severe injuries. • Breaking and entering school property • Bomb threat • Burglary • Computer trespass • Disturbing the orderly conduct of the school • Drug or drug paraphernalia possession, use, under the influence of, or possession with intent to distribute • Explosives possession including combustible liquids • Fireworks • Homicide • Kidnapping • Motor vehicle theft • Robbery • Threats/Intimidation towards Staff • Terroristic Threats • Sexual battery • Sexual battery or harassment • Inciting student disorder • Weapon possession – firearm • Weapon possession – knife (over 2 in blade) • Weapon possession – other	A discipline tribunal will hear the offense(s) after initial investigation is completed, and school administrators assign initial consequences – 10 day OSS. Students engaging in felonious behavior that would be referred to the Judicial System will be suspended for ten days and referred to a disciplinary tribunal. A fight resulting in significant bodily harm will result in 10 Days OSS and a referral to a disciplinary tribunal. Level Three Offenses are so serious in nature that offenses will be cumulative in grades 6-12 or 12 years old or older. All Level Three Offenses shall be grounds for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Tobacco Products, Vaping Devices & Electronic Cigarettes (ALL SCHOOLS)	
• Tobacco products, vaping devices, or electronic cigarettes - possession or use	All Tobacco Products, Vaping Devices, Electronic Cigarettes, confiscated by school administration and faculty will be subject to THC/CBD testing by Jasper County Sheriff's Department. If the confiscated item(s) are found to contain THC/CBD with testing, then the following procedures shall be implemented:

	10 days out of school suspension (contact parents/guardians) and referral to a disciplinary tribunal.
Cell Phone, Electronic Device Policy Violation(s)	
Consequences for violating Electronic Device Policy grades PK-8	- First offense: Student conference, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device. - Second offense: Student Timeout, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device. - Third offense: 1-3 days ISS, parent/guardian conference, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick up the electronic device, electronic devices banned from campus for 30 days. - Fourth offense: 3-5 days ISS, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick up the electronic device, electronic devices banned from campus for 60 days. - Fifth offense and each offense after: 1-3 days OSS, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick up the electronic device, electronic devices banned from campus for the remainder of the school year. Students in grades 7 and 8 may face suspension 10 days pending tribunal for repeated violations of the schools electronic device policy, parents/guardians must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device.
Consequences for violating Electronic Device Policy grades 9-12	- First offense: parent/guardian contact, electronic devices will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. - Second offense: 1 day ISS, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device, electronic devices banned from campus for 30 days. - Third offense: 3 days ISS, parent contact, parent/guardian conference, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device, Electronic devices banned from campus for 60 days. - Fourth Offense: 3 days OSS, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device, electronic devices banned from campus for the remainder of the school year. - Fifth offense: Suspension 10 days pending tribunal for repeated violations of the schools electronic device policy, parent/guardian must come to the school to pick-up the electronic device.

SCHOOL BUS PROCEDURES

SCHOOL BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

The violation of the following rules on the school bus are prohibited and may result in up to 10 days initially being immediately suspended from the school bus or from school:

1. Rude and Disrespectfulness

2. Unsafe school bus procedures

3. Being removed from the school bus for discipline problems, during the route by designated school officials. (Automatic move to Step 3 = 10 day school bus suspension)

4. Fighting (Automatic move to Step 3= 10 day school bus suspension in addition to school discipline procedures)

5. Vandalism of school bus property (paying restitution and appropriate discipline)

In addition, the following behavior taking place on the school bus must be dealt with according to Senate Bill 291.

1. The use of any electronic devices or reflective devices during the operation of a school bus.
2. Bullying or physical assault/battery of another person. (parent meeting for discipline and develop a behavior contract)
3. Alleged acts of physical violence against school employee, including the Bus Driver.
 - Suspend student pending hearing by tribunal
 - If found guilty of physical contact of insulting or provoking nature (expulsion, long-term suspension or short term suspension)
 - If found guilty of physical contact which causes physical harm, the student could face an expulsion (possibly being permitted to attend an Alternate School by the local board, or be referred to juvenile court, requesting petition alleging delinquent behavior)
4. Verbal assault of another person on the school bus, including the Bus Driver.
5. Physical assault of another person on the school bus, including the Bus Driver.
6. Disrespectful toward the Bus Driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior

The School Administrator and the School Social Worker will be notified of any student that is suspended for school bus discipline. The Transportation Director will consult the School Administration before making the final discipline decision.

****Any of the above, or any illegal and /or unlawful acts taking place on a school bus could mean the student will receive a long-term suspension from riding the school bus, an expulsion from school and/or referral to the court system.**

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Students will follow the directions of the Bus Driver/Monitor at all times
2. Students will safely wait for, board, and exit the bus at the assigned bus stops only.
3. Students will look for traffic (from the bottom step) before exiting the bus and crossing the road only:
 - a. in front of the bus, after the front tires have stopped move.
 - b. after the red lights are flashing, the stop sign and crossing gate is extended
 - c. after the student has eye contact and the directions of the bus driver.
4. Students will not talk between school buses when loading.
5. Students will remain properly seated in their assigned seat at all times. (Back to back, bottom to bottom, book bags in lap).
6. Students will keep all body parts to themselves, away from windows, and confined to their own assigned seat. Bullying/Physical assault will be disciplined.
7. Students will talk quietly. Profanity or obscene words/gestures are not allowed.
8. Students will not chew, eat, drink, or bring tobacco products, illegal drugs, or weapons on the school bus.
9. Students will not bring pets, glass objects, objects too large to hold, **no electronic devices**, reflective items or any device that might interfere with the driver's safe operation of the bus.
10. Students will not spray deodorant, hairspray, perfume, air fresheners or anything of the sort while on the school bus.
11. Students will not throw anything.
12. Students will help the Bus Driver keep their school bus clean and in a good, safe, presentable condition at all times.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROCEDURES

1. Be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before pick up time.
2. Wait quietly on the side of the road at your assigned bus stop.
3. Stand back from the moving traffic. (12-15 Feet from roadway)

4. **Cross only in front of the bus. Never get close enough to touch any part of the bus, except for the entrance steps/handrails.**
5. **Look in both directions for traffic before crossing the road,** (left, right, left) Unloading the bus- stop at centerline of roadway and look left, right, left again before crossing the road.
6. All students use the handrail going up and down the bus steps. **(Look left and especially to the right before stepping off the bus step)**
7. Sit the safe way, back against the back of the seat, bottom against the bottom of the seat, feet on the floor in front of the student. Book bags must be in the student's lap.
8. Stay seated until time to get off the bus. The opened door is the signal to get up at your destination from **your assigned seat.**
9. Be totally silent at all railroad crossings. **NO TALKING.**
10. All students must load and unload at their assigned bus stop. If a student does not have an Official Bus Pass he or she cannot ride a different school bus or go to a different location.

STUDENT INTERVENTIONS

The following method will be used to change inappropriate, unsafe, or distracting student behavior on the school bus. Any student in violation of the School Bus Safety Procedures and Guidelines will be subject to be disciplined by the school bus intervention plan.

Step 1. The Bus Driver/Bus Monitor verbally warns students in order to accomplish a change in the behavior observed.

Bus Driver will give the student Courtesy Note #1 as the student is exiting the bus at the end of the day to take-to parents for their signature. Signed notes will be returned to the Bus Driver. Seat changes may be necessary.

Step 2a. The bus driver/bus monitor will have a conference with the student to discuss the situation and the behavior observed. Bus driver will give the student Courtesy Note #2 as the student is exiting the bus at the end of the day to to parents for their signature. Signed notes will be returned to the Bus Driver. Seat changes may be necessary.

Step 2b. For Primary and Elementary Students only: (Middle/ High school students advance to Step 3)

The Bus Driver will meet with the Transportation Director concerning the problem with a student. The Bus Driver will bring documentation of steps 1 and 2. The Transportation Director will review the video, if needed. The Bus Driver will document the situation and log that they met with the Transportation Director.

For Primary Students only: The Transportation Director will inform an Administrator at the Primary School of the steps already taken to correct the student's behavior on the school bus. The school will be provided documentation for each step that has already been taken. After such, all bus discipline will be handled by the Primary School. All school bus discipline referrals will be hand delivered to the Primary School by the Transportation Director

For Elementary Students only: (verbal warning) The Transportation Director will contact the student at school to discuss the school bus situation, review the school bus rules, demonstrate the school bus safety procedures, review the video, if needed and explain the results of the next school bus referral to the student. The parent will be notified by the Transportation Director of the school bus situation and the results of the next bus referral. The next school bus referral will begin at step #3. The parent is invited for a conference, if needed. ·

Step 3. The bus driver will turn in a written bus discipline referral to the Transportation Director, along with any additional documentation indicating the prior steps taken and the video, if needed. The Transportation Director will contact the student at school and the consequences will be identified on a written referral.

- **1st offense: Warning:** The Transportation Director will discuss the 1st referral, discuss the precautions steps taken before this referral, review the video if needed, review the school bus rules, explain the consequences of the next written referral and contact the parent or guardian.
- **2nd offense: 5-day suspension:** The Transportation Director will discuss the 2nd referral with the student, before issuing a 5 day suspension from riding the bus-. Contact will be made with the parent or guardian to explain the consequences of the next written referral to the student and the parent or guardian. Invite the parent to come in for a conference with the Transportation Director, if needed.
- **3rd offense: 10-day suspension:** The Transportation Director will discuss the 3rd referral with the student, before issuing a **10-day suspension** from riding the school bus. Contact will be made with the parent or guardian to explain the situation and the results of the next written referral to the student and parent.

- **4th offense: 20-day suspension:** The Transportation Director will discuss the 4th referral with the student before issuing a **20-day suspension** from riding the school bus. Contact will be made with the parent or guardian to explain the situation and the consequences of the next written referral.
- **5th offense: Loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year:** The Transportation Director will discuss all the referrals and precautions taken previously. The student is suspended from riding the school bus for the remainder of the school year. **The parents are immediately notified of the loss of school bus riding privileges.**

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Please carefully read through this 2026-2027 Athletic Handbook. There are changes that will affect YOU.

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose of Handbook

Jasper County Charter System is committed to providing a diversified, participatory, and successful athletic program that is available to all sports students. Our school believes that such a program is a vital and integral part of the total school environment as well as playing a key role in the overall development of each student who is involved in the athletic program. It is our belief that the athletic program should assist students in developing positive self-esteem and the qualities of good citizenship as well as promoting school spirit, fellowship and pride in serving and positively representing the institution.

It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents and athletic staff. It is designed as a reference source that will facilitate the process of seeking and clarifying information concerning administrative and athletic policies and procedures as well as promote a framework that will lead to the effective and efficient application of those policies and procedures.

Objectives of Participation

The athletic program will provide each participating student adequate opportunities for: · Physical, mental, emotional growth and development.

The acquisition and development of special skills in the activities of each student's choice · Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence and the ideals of good sportsmanship exemplified through winning and losing graciously · Being a part of a unified team composed of the student body, faculty, and community · The achievement of goals established by the individual student, the team and the school · The development of skills and an appreciation of sports that may be used throughout life as a participant and/or spectator

The Goal for each Student-Athlete

The overall goal for the athletic program is for each student-athlete to become a better overall person through his or her participation in athletics. The major points of emphasis throughout the program will be teamwork, maximum effort, dedication, commitment, respect for authority and discipline.

Requirements for Athlete Participation

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation - Students must have a certificate of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic tryouts, practices, voluntary workouts or games that indicate the student is physically approved for participation. The physical must be completed by a medical doctor and submitted to the athletic director prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for one calendar year. The form will be kept on file in the high school athletic office.

Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next GHSA school year. The recommended pre-participation physical evaluation form is the form which was adopted by the GHSA. It consists of an athlete's personal, and family medical history and an athlete's physical examination completed by a medical physician.

Parental Consent for Athletic Participation and Transportation – All athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must realize the risk of serious injury which may be a result of athletic participation. Jasper County Charter System requires that a Parental Consent for Athletic Participation and Transportation Form is signed by the athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may not alter or change this form. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that they have read and understood the "Athlete/Parent/Guardian Handbook for Sanctioned Athletics Interscholastic Activities" when they sign this form.

Emergency Medical Authorization – Each student-athletes' parent(s)/guardian(s) shall complete and Emergency Medical Authorization Form giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s)/guardian(s) are not available. The form will be kept by the school's athletic department for use as need during the emergency. (See Appendix) **Each sport should have an emergency action plan for every sport and this plan should be accessible by the head coaches and assistants at all times.**

Student/Parent Concussion Form – Each student and parent/guardian shall complete the Concussion Awareness Form. Please list all sports that the student-athlete will compete in during the school year.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form- Each student and parent/guardian shall complete the Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form. Please list all sports that the student-athlete will compete in during the school year.

Insurance – It is strongly recommended that Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have medical insurance for their student athlete. If a student athlete does not have insurance coverage, the school district provides an opportunity to purchase insurance to cover student athletic injuries. Where possible, a scholarship fund should be set up to assist students who are in financial need as determined by the principal or his/her designee. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should contact the athletic director if they need financial assistance acquiring insurance.

GHS A Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible with the Georgia High School Association, student-athletes must meet certain basic academic requirements. All students must pass a minimum of 2.5 credits per semester to maintain eligibility. In other words, a student must pass 5 out of 7 classes that they are taking to be eligible. In addition, to earning 2.5 credits per semester, a student-athlete must also be on-track academically. To maintain eligibility students must possess the following number of credits:

9th Grade: All entering 9th graders are eligible.

10th Grade: All second-year students must have a minimum of 5 credits.

11th Grade: All third-year students must have a minimum of 11 credits.

12th Grade: All fourth-year students must have a minimum of 17 credits.

Students have 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning at the date of entry into the 9th grade. Eligibility can only be gained and lost on the last day of the semester. For example, if you are ineligible for the fall semester, you will not regain your eligibility until the first day of the second semester. If you are ineligible in the spring, you will regain eligibility on the first day of fall semester or on the first practice date for a fall sport, whichever comes first. Credit Recovery courses taken during the course of a semester apply to the next eligibility period, not the current eligibility period.

The GHSA requires that all student-athletes have a physical on file at the school. The physical must show that the student is clear to participate. Physicals are valid for a period of one year. A full copy of all of the GHSA Eligibility requirements can be found here. <https://www.ghsa.net/constitution>

Middle School Athletic Eligibility

A student is eligible to participate one year in the 6th grade, one year in the 7th grade, and one year in the 8th grade. This applies to the first year a student enters that grade. Participation means as a player or manager.

A player must not reach his/her 16th birthday prior to May 1st preceding the year of participation of his 8th grade year.

A student may have no more than one failing grade for the semester that precedes the sport. Each subject must be passed with a minimum grade of 70.

All student-athletes are required to have a physical on file at the school. The physical must show that the student is cleared to participate. Physicals are valid for a period of one year.

Introductions to the Parent/Guardian/Student-Athlete

Parent/Guardian/Student-Athlete Awareness of Athletic Policies and Procedures – All student athletes/parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have access to this handbook through the Jasper County Charter System website. A hard copy of this handbook will be made available at student-athlete/parent/guardian who requests a copy. Each parent(s)/guardian(s)/student athlete shall be expected to read all of the enclosed material and complete all required forms including but not limited to athletic participation

and transportation, health insurance, and physical examination. This handbook is designed as minimum standards for the Jasper County Charter System Board of Education schools that are members of and participate in Georgia High School Association Interscholastic Athletic Association and Piedmont Athletic Association sanctioned athletic events.

To the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) – This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in athletic activities. The Jasper County School System believes that participation in interscholastic athletic activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which will assist students in personal growth and development.

We believe that a properly controlled, well-organized interscholastic athletic activity program meets with students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and that will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in the interscholastic athletic activity program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct may mean exclusion from participation. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team or activity. Staff will strive to:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities;
2. To provide well-trained coaches; and

It is the role of the school system to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the schools. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent/guardian. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this publication.

Why should it be any different now that your child is an athlete? A parent's job is not to be the coach or the certified expert even if you are retired from a professional sports team. Parents are there so that they can share "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" – together. In fact, each athlete needs parental support more in defeat than in victory. Did you ever notice that strangers feel free to come out of the stands and congratulate the winner? But, in defeat, sometimes the athlete's own teammates and coaches ignore him/her and the fans do not come out to console or congratulate him/her on a good game or match. As a parent/guardian you have to be there to cushion setbacks with a positive "We'll get them next time!" Let the three "B's" be your guide:

- **Be There!** Parents can never hope to be an All-Star parent unless they show up at games. Regardless of the skill level of the athletes or the success of the team – go to the games. Be supportive. Do not be a fickle, fair-weather fan or an absent, too busy parent.
- **Be Positive!** On the sidelines or in the stands, if parents can't say anything positive, don't say anything at all. Nothing good comes from negative statements and nothing negative comes from positive ones. If parents can't say something positive and supportive during the contest at least be silent.
- **Be Seated!** Even though it's good to be positive, it is not good to overdo it. Do not stick out. Be an admirer, not a cheerleader. Players should not confuse their parent's voice from the home stands with that of the public-address system's announcers.

Sportsmanship

The following statement has been adopted by the Georgia High School Athletic Association and will provide guidance participants in athletics:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted.

Schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while

the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at all of our schools' athletic events.

Grievances and Complaints – Athletics involvement is highly emotional and very time-consuming. Sometimes conflicts arise between athletes, coaches, and occasionally parents. When conflicts or issues arise, it is important that they are addressed, as soon as possible so that it can be resolved promptly. Parents/Guardians should use the following process as a guideline when seeking resolution to conflicts or issues between athlete and coach:

- **The First Step: Contacting the Coach** – The parent(s)/guardian(s) should present the conflict/issue to the coach as soon as possible. In order for the contact to be as productive as possible, times that should be avoided are: prior to, during or immediately following a contest; during an active practice session when other athletes or parents are present or when it would be readily visible to others that the discussion is taking place or when it is apparent that there is not sufficient time to allow for complete discussion. This includes the time immediately before leaving for an away contest. Perhaps the best solution is to ask the coach, either over the phone or in person, if an appointment could be made to discuss the issue. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also leave a note for the coach in the athletic office.
- **The Second Step: Contacting the Athletic Director** – If a satisfactory solution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact the school's Athletic Director. The coach should be informed that this contact is going to be made. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled involving all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. Since athletic seasons are relatively short, there should be no delay in airing any and all concerns. It is important for all parent(s)/guardian(s) to know that any comments, concerns or issues raised to the Athletic Coordinator will be addressed and communicated to the coach. Parents(s)/Guardian(s) may also expect to hear from the Athletic Director as to the disposition of their concerns. Although there can be no guarantee that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, a thorough, respectful airing of different perceptions and experiences can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understandings in the future.
- **The Third Step: Contacting the Principal** – If there is still not a satisfactory resolution, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may contact the high school Principal. The school's Athletic Director should be informed that this contact is going to be made. The grievances and complaints involved Title IX compliance, which is investigated according to the procedures outlined in Board Policy.

To the Student-Athlete – Being a member of the Jasper County Charter System interscholastic athletic activity is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great competitive tradition is not built overnight; it takes hard work from many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic activity team, you will be faced with either the task of maintaining an already successful tradition or the task of establishing a successful tradition. It is not easy to build a great tradition in interscholastic athletic activity competition. When you represent your school, we assume that you not only understand your school's goals and traditions but also that you are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

Interscholastic sports and athletic activities are exciting and often involve forceful contact with the ground, playing surface, or another player. Because of these conditions inherent to the sport of activity, participation in a school's interscholastic athletic activity program exposes an athlete to many risks or injury. In an effort to make the sports and athletic activities as safe as they can, the coaching staff will instruct players in the rules and correct mechanics of skills. It is vital that athletes follow the coach's skill instruction, training rules, and team rules to decrease the possibility of serious injury. The athletes should: (1) participate in proper warm-up and stretching before strenuous activity takes place either during practice or at a contest; (2) check his/her equipment before use for each practice and contest; (3) perform only those skills and techniques instructed and/or supervised by his/her coach; (4) be aware of his/her surrounding, taking no unnecessary risks on either home or away playing surfaces; (5) contact his/her coach immediately if an injury occurs, no matter how slight injury might be. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Conditioning and tryouts for programs in and out of season are open to all JCCS students providing they meet the standards of academic eligibility, parental permission, basic physical/health qualifications, and medical/health insurance.

DEAD WEEK: NO PRACTICES, WORK OUT SESSIONS, OR MEETINGS. During the summer (i.e., between the ending of one school year and the beginning of the next) the only restrictions on practices are that all activities must be strictly voluntary, and the "Dead Week" must be observed, as follows: Schools are prohibited from participating in voluntary workouts, camps and/or clinics, weight training or competitions during the week in which the Fourth of July falls each year. The GHSA has also added an

additional Dead Week for this year. While athletes may work out on their own, they cannot do so at their school or any other Jasper County school site under the supervision of a coach or at any non-school site under the supervision of a coach.

- Dead Week ONE - May 29-June 4 (Monday-Sunday)
- Dead Week TWO -July 3rd-July 9th (Monday-Sunday)

Summer Conditioning Rule: No student is allowed to participate in any activity with the school or team during the summer months unless they are an enrolled student in that school or a rising 9th grader from a feeder school. This includes summer conditioning and weight room sessions. Once the student is officially enrolled at the high school, the student can start participating in any and all activities. **The student must have a current physical packet on file with the school.**

Participation in athletics is a privilege; athletes try out voluntarily and, for some of our teams, risk being cut. During the tryout period, the coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the athlete's responsibility to demonstrate to the coach that he/she can meet these expectations. **No athlete is guaranteed a place on a team simply because of his or her grade level or past participation.** Athletes cut from a team are encouraged to try out for another team if there is space on that team and the final cuts have not been made. The athlete cut from a team may request a meeting with the coach during which the athlete will be informed as to the reason for the cut. Decisions made by the coaches will be explained to athletes at an appropriate time and an appropriate setting, usually in an athlete-requested meeting with the coach.

Athlete Playing Time – There are many factors that determine athletes playing time, such as practice attendance, attitude, commitment, effort, and athletic ability. There are many decisions made on a regular basis by the coaching staff. It is the coach's responsibility to decide which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play what position, and how long each athlete should play. These decisions, often difficult to make, are made only by the coaching staff and are approached very seriously after having observed the athlete in practice sessions, scrimmages and, at times, games.

Varsity Teams – The emphasis at the varsity level shifts towards fielding competitive teams. Our teams will compete against opponents at the highest level of execution and the goal is to win as many games as possible while constantly emphasizing fair play and sportsmanship. This emphasis may result in the major burden of the contest being carried by the most competitive, skilled team members and uneven playing time among the athletes, with some athletes not playing in every game. Once again, it is the coach who makes the decision on who starts, plays and for how long. However, teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes. These players should be ready at all times to step up and take on the burden of competition when called upon. It is the hard work in practice each day that prepares the whole team for upcoming games.

Athlete Codes of Conduct – A firm and fair policy of enforcement are necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the county and school. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the athlete is our major consideration. Any conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated. Notwithstanding the consequences discussed in this handbook, any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration; or any act at school or away from school which, in the opinion of the Principal reflects in a negative manner on the school, athletic program, or activity may result in removal from the team or event or lessened participation opportunities. Behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular season, and on or off school grounds. In addition to the Jasper County Code of Conduct.

Ethics Rule: Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to disruption of school, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated. Due to the serious nature of violation to the Ethics Rule, the appropriate coach, the athletic director, and the principal shall establish procedures to determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction.

Bullying and Hazing: The Jasper County School District expressly prohibits the bullying of any person by any means or method, at school, on school property, or at school-related functions.

Training Rules/Regulations: The athlete who uses tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any type of mood altering substance found in legal over the counter products jeopardizes team morale, team reputation, and team success and does physical harm to himself/herself.

1. Use of Tobacco – Student-athletes shall not use tobacco at any time, during the season and/or off-season

2. Use of Alcoholic Beverages – Student-athletes shall not consume alcoholic beverages at any time, during the season and/or off-season.
3. Use of Illegal Drugs or Mood-Altering Substances – Student-athletes shall not use illegal drugs or mood-altering substances at any time, during the season and/or off-season.

Chemical Use and Penalties for Violation of Training Rules with Alcohol or Drugs (Non-Felony)

A. Chemical Use

1. An athlete, regardless of quantity, shall not:
 - Buy, be in possession of, or use a beverage containing alcohol at any time;
 - Be in possession of, or use tobacco at any time;
 - Use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or distribute any controlled or other illegal or mood-altering substance at any time.
2. Athletes are responsible for their off-season and out of school behavior. These rules apply to an athlete's entire high school career (365 days/24 hours).
3. It is not a violation for an athlete to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's personal use by his/her doctor.
4. Athlete possession of substances containing alcohol under parent supervision for religious purposes will not be considered a violation of this policy.

B. Penalties for violation include:

Alcohol/Drugs:

1. First Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will be suspended a minimum of 20- percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of a season, the athletes may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.

2. Second Violation:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will lose a minimum of 50-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to a season starting, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.

3. Third Violation:

If a third violation occurs, the athlete will be suspended from all practices/competitions for one calendar year, and the athlete may be prohibited from ever representing his/her school in interscholastic activities at any time in the future.

4. Fourth Violation:

The athlete will lose the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities for their remaining time in high school.

- Scrimmages are not counted as games; they are considered practices. When assessing a suspension, only regular season and playoff games count.
- If a student is suspended, playoff games count towards the suspension. For example, a football player is caught with alcohol after the 9th football game of the season. The football team has qualified for the state playoffs. The student-athlete must serve 20-percent, in this case, 2 games. The student-athlete will be suspended for the 10th game and the 1st playoff game. If the team wins in the playoffs, the athlete is eligible to play in the 2nd playoff game.
- Suspensions for multi-sport athletes – A suspension can carry over from one sport to another sport. If an athlete cannot fulfill all of the 20% suspension in their current sport, the remainder of the suspension will occur during the season of the next sport they play. For this to be the case, the athlete must have played the 2nd sport the previous year (the exception is a 9th grader). An athlete cannot play a second sport just to avoid a suspension in their main sport. The athletic director will make the final determination in these cases.

- Suspensions for one sport athletes – If a suspension occurs at the end of the season, the athlete will serve their suspension the following year.

Tobacco:

1. First Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will lose a minimum of 10-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be assessed to the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of the season, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport and then will immediately serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practice during the suspension will be a local decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to any competitions.

2. Second Violation:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will lose a minimum of 50-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be assessed in the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of the season, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport and then will immediately serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practice during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspensions to any competitions.

3. Third Violation:

After confirmation of the third violation, the student is suspended for a minimum of one calendar year from extracurricular activities.

These rules and consequences are in addition to any other school discipline under the Code of Conduct. Because rules are consistently applied in all Jasper County Schools, an athlete may not regain eligibility by transferring to another school.

Criminal Activity

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and/or students must report any arrest of a student or behavior in which law enforcement involved, to their high school administrators or coach within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the arrest or behavior. The two-week time frame includes weekend, school holidays, and summer vacation.

Felonies

A student who is arrested for, or charged with a felony or charged with an act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult shall be automatically suspended from interscholastic activities. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities. The student shall remain suspended until: (1) The charges are completely dismissed; (2) The charges are reduced to a misdemeanor in which case the student may be subject to penalties outlined for misdemeanors or alcohol/drugs; (3) The student is found not guilty; or (4) The student successfully completes the consequences assigned by the judge or agreed to by the student, including probation or diversion. Evidence that the probation period has expired, fines have been paid and/or community service has been completed as required.

If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (nolle prosequi), the student should present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

Any student-athlete this is disciplined by assignment to In-School Suspension (ISS) is suspended from athletic competition until his or her assigned time is completed in ISS. Any further punishment will be determined by the coach.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

If a student-athlete is disciplined by suspension from school, then he or she is suspended from being present at any athletic practice or competition. Once the suspension has been completed then the student athlete can return to athletic practice and competition. Any further punishment will be determined by the head coach.

Dismissal

An athlete that is dismissed from a team may only return to that team with the permission of the head coach. The head coach must have a legitimate reason for dismissing an athlete (ex. Breaking rules, drug use, etc.). Before any athlete is dismissed from a team it must be reported to the athletic director.

Absences

Jasper County Charter System policy prohibits participation in any extracurricular activity if a student is not present at school for at least one-half of the school day unless there is a clear and justifiable reason for the absence. Any student who is absent for more than one-half of a school day and wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity, including practices, on that day must receive approval to do so by **school administrators before the absence occurs**.

Practices: In-Season

Although practice schedules differ from sport to sport, it is our philosophy that our student-athletes are **students first and athletes second**. We strongly encourage our coaching staff to take this philosophy into consideration when developing practice and game schedules. There may not be any mandatory practices on Sundays and any Sunday practices are highly discouraged by the administration of Jasper County Charter System. Any attendance at Sunday practices must be strictly voluntary and non-attendance by a student-athlete may not be used as a reason to disallow a student-athlete from any game participation time nor can a student-athlete be disciplined in any way for non-attendance of a Sunday practice.

Practices: Off-Season

Practices held during the off-season may not be mandatory nor may they be a prerequisite for participation or membership on a team. This means that a coach cannot require a student-athlete to make up a practice he or she misses out of season. While rewards and incentives may be used to encourage attendance, participation may not be made mandatory.

Consequences for Quitting a Sport During the Season

Student-Athletes are expected to complete the season of the sport in which they are participating in its' entirety. However, we recognize conflicts do arise and that there may be no other satisfactory solution than for a student-athlete to leave the team. If such a situation occurs, it is requested that the student athlete and his or her parent(s) meet with the Head Coach, the school Athletic Director, and/or the Principal to discuss the reason(s) for quitting the sport. If a resolution cannot be reached that would allow for continued participation, then all parties will agree that this is the best course of action.

If a student-athlete quits one sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport until that sport is out of season. Strong consideration will be given as to whether or not the student-athlete will be able to try-out and compete in another sport that year. In this case, the determination will be made by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the head coach of the sport that the athlete quit, the head coach of the sport the student-athlete will be trying out for, and the parents of the student-athlete.

Conflicts Among Extracurricular Activities

Jasper County Charter System encourages students to become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities according to their individual interests and skills. The faculty and staff at Jasper County Charter System are committed to working together to allow maximum student involvement. We recognize that this philosophy will result in conflicts between many extracurricular activities from time to time. Head Coaches and/or Sponsors, the school Athletic Director, and/or Academics Events Coordinator, along with the student and parent(s) will meet together to work out a satisfactory solution based on the following considerations:

- A. Best interests of the school
- B. Best interests of the student
- C. Best interests of the team/activity as a whole

A key component in reaching an agreement on the best course of action will be a priority statement by the student-athlete and his or her parent(s) identifying which activity takes priority over another in the case where conflicts occur among activities.

Fundraising

Student-athletes may be expected to assume some of the responsibility for fundraising (cookie, donut, or other commodity sales, car washes, and other revenue-generating activities) for their respective sports so that a concerted effort (school, community, coach, and student-athlete) can be directed toward funding programs and toward providing a quality experience. Individual coaches and supporters of programs should not begin any activities or approach area merchants for donations without permission from the Athletic Director and Principal.

Parental Support

Parental Support is essential to providing a quality athletic program. We encourage all parent(s), community members, and businesses in the community to support our athletic programs so that Jasper County Charter System can provide the best opportunities for student-athletes to attain success through quality equipment and facilities.

JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM Transportation Policy for Athletics

Students involved in all extracurricular activities at Jasper County Charter System will be provided transportation to and from all away games/meets/matches as needed. However, there will be instances where a student-athlete will be required to drive to a different location for practice. In these cases, a release for this travel must be on file with the Head Coach of that sport before participation is granted. A student-athlete may NOT transport another student-athlete unless he or she is a member of the same immediate family. The student-athletes at Jasper County Charter System will have a bus provided by the Jasper County School Board of Education and a trained driver to drive this bus to all away games/meets/matches as needed. Parents may request permission in writing for the student athlete to be released to a parent/ guardian following a sporting event prior to the event taking place.

JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM Extra-Curricular Transportation Release Form

I understand that my child _____, age _____, will be a passenger in a personally owned vehicle neither owned nor operated by Jasper County Charter System. This personal vehicle will be used to transport my child from _____ for extra-curricular activities related to _____. I request that my son/daughter be allowed to travel in this fashion. The undersigned agrees to release, discharge, defend, hold harmless, and indemnify Jasper County Charter System, its agents, employees, officers, trustees, representatives, insurers and others acting on behalf of Jasper County Charter System, of and from all claims, demands, causes of actions and legal liabilities for injuries or death to my child. I agree not to bring any claims, demands, legal actions and causes of action for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, or property damage sustained by my child while in the aforementioned privately owned vehicle.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

: O.C.G.A20-2-167

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Students, teachers, and district employees will participate in emergency drills. Drills are held to develop safety practices and promote speedy evacuation to assigned safety areas during an emergency. During an actual emergency or drill, personal safety depends on the way instructions are followed. Inappropriate student behavior during drills constitutes a violation of the code of conduct.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

All employees of the Board of Education, including all teachers, administrators, guidance counselors and visiting teachers, as well as all school social workers and school psychologists employed by the Board and volunteers who work in the school system, who having reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred shall report that abuse immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, in accordance with Georgia law and the protocol for handling child abuse cases for Jasper County, Georgia. Under no circumstances shall the principal or designee to whom a report of child abuse has been made exercise any control, restraint, modification or make other change to the information provided by a mandated reporter, although the reporter may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide any additional, relevant and necessary information when making the report. Call Centralized Intake at 1-855-422-4453 to make a report.

FERPA

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

FERPA affords parents and eligible students (over 18 years of age or attending a postsecondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. To request amendment of a student record, parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request, specifying the part of the record they want changed and why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. If the school decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that disclosure without prior written consent is authorized by FERPA and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.31. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including school nurses and school resource officers); a member of the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or online educational services provider); a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school district has outsourced services, such as electronic data storage; or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. The district allows school officials to access only student records in which they have a legitimate educational interest. School officials remain under the district's control with regard to the use and maintenance of PII, which may be used only for the purpose for which disclosure was made and cannot be released to other parties without authorization.

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

(4) FERPA requires the school district, with certain exceptions, to obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, the district may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications, such as the annual yearbook, graduation or sports activity programs, honor roll or other recognition lists, or on websites or social media sites affiliated with the school or school district.

The School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- (a) Student's name, address and telephone number;

- (b) Student's date and place of birth;
- (c) Student's email address;
- (d) Student's participation in official school activities and sports;
- (e) Weight and height of members of an athletic team;
- (f) Dates of attendance at schools within the district;
- (g) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in district schools;
- (h) Photograph; and
- (i) Grade level.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters, upon request, with students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. **NOTE: You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing, as dictated by the deadlines listed above, or within 10 school days after officially enrolling in school.**

(5) You are also notified that from time-to-time students may be photographed, videoed, or interviewed by the news media at school or at some school activity or event. The principal will take reasonable steps to control access to students by the media or other individuals not affiliated with the school or district. However, your submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that your student will not be photographed, videoed, or interviewed, or that such information will not be posted on websites or social media sites not affiliated with the school or district or in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

(6) You have the right to file with the U. S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. Complaints may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

(7) The Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act affords parents and eligible students the right to file a complaint with the school district regarding a possible violation of rights under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-667 or under other federal or state student data privacy and security laws. Such complaints may be filed with:

Director of Technology
 1411 College Street
 Monticello, GA 31064
 706-468-6350 ext. 113

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPILS RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and eligible students (18 or older or emancipated minors) certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)--
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of—

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use—
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parents and eligible students will be notified at the beginning of the school year if the school district has identified the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the activities listed above are expected to be scheduled. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. The Board of Education has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The district will also directly notify parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation in the specific activity or survey.

The school is required by federal law to give this notice to parents. However, the school does not have scheduled any such activities as are described above at this time. If any such activities are initiated during the school year, parents will be notified accordingly and will be afforded all the rights described herein.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-8520.

FLOWERS/GIFTS/DELIVERIES

Schools DO NOT accept deliveries for students. Students cannot carry any gifts (balloons, flowers, stuffed animals, etc.) with them around campus that could disrupt the classroom.

FUND RAISING

Any school-based fund-raising project must be submitted through the principal and approved by the Board of Education. Fund-raising activities shall not interfere with instructional time. Fundraising items in a student's possession during the school day may be confiscated and not returned.

CHILD FIND

Public Notice - In Accordance with federal regulations and State Board Rule 160-4-7.03 the Jasper County Charter System assumes the responsibility for the location, identification, and evaluation of all children birth through age 21 that require special education and related services. All children who are suspected of having a disability and who are in need of special education are part of the child find process, regardless of age. This includes children who are:

- Birth through three who may or may not be referred to and served by the State's early intervention program, Babies Can't Wait.
- Preschool children, ages three through five, who may not be enrolled in Georgia funded prekindergarten program and kindergarten including children who are parentally placed in private preschools or daycare centers outside the school system.
- Children who are enrolled in a public school in Jasper County.
- Children who are parentally placed in private and home schools; or
- Highly mobile children, including migrant children.
- Children served in community programs such as a rehabilitation center, daycare center, etc., or other municipalities and

- Any other children suspected of having a disability.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

MTSS is a preventive framework and tiered system of support for students that integrates assessment and intervention within a school-wide, multi-level prevention system, designed to maximize student achievement and reduce behavioral problems. It promotes systems alignment to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of resources. *Adopted from the National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI), 2010. What does MTSS do?* MTSS is a multi-level framework aimed at **improving outcomes** for **ALL students**. It is **preventative** and provides **immediate support** to students who are at risk for poor learning and/or behavior outcomes. It includes **RTI** (Response to Intervention) and **Leader in Me (LiM)**, the academic and behavioral systems in schools. It incorporates 5 essential components; 1) it is data driven; 2) it includes a team approach; 3) it supports ALL students in learning; and 5) it is considered best practice for teaching and learning.

Early Intervention Program (EIP)

Children start school at a designated chronological age but differ greatly in their intellectual development and experience base. The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is designed to serve students (K-5) who are at risk of not reaching or maintaining academic grade level. The purpose of the Early Intervention Program is to provide additional instructional resources to help students who are performing below grade level obtain the necessary academic skills to reach grade level performance in the shortest possible time. The Early Intervention Program Placement and Exit Criteria are based on documented student achievement/performance in ELA/reading and mathematics. EIP is aligned with Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework (MTSS). Each school in our district can choose from five delivery models, therefore, the program will differ slightly from school to school.

LEADER IN ME

The Jasper County Charter System is a proud Leader in Me (LiM) district. Leader in Me is an evidence-based, comprehensive school improvement model - developed in partnership with educators - that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive. Leader in Me incorporates world-renowned Stephen Covey's 7-Habits of Highly Effective People. JCCS scholars (PK-12) incorporate the 7-Habits into their expectations and daily routines.

IDEA PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS/PARENT RIGHTS

160-4-7-.09 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS/PARENT RIGHTS. (1) GENERAL. (a) The term "Procedural Safeguards Notice" also refers to the document commonly identified as "Parent Rights" which, must be given to parents only one time per school year, except that a copy shall also be given to parents in the following circumstances -

1. Upon initial referral or parent request for evaluation;
 2. Upon receipt of the first state complaint in a school year;
 3. Upon receipt of the first request for a due process hearing in a school year;
 4. Upon notification by the LEA to the parent of the decision to remove the child from his or her current placement and the removal constitutes a change of placement under the discipline provisions of IDEA and state rules because of a violation of a code of student conduct;
 5. Prior to accessing a child's or parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time; and
 6. Upon request by the parent. [34 C.F.R. § 300.504(a)(1) – (4)]
 7. The parent may elect to receive the Procedural Safeguard/Parent Rights notice by electronic mail, if the LEA makes that option available. [34 C.F.R. § 300.505]
- (b) The State and each LEA may place a copy of the Procedural Safeguards/Parent Rights on its web site. [34 C.F.R. § 300.504(b)]
- (c) The content of the notice must include a full explanation of all the procedural safeguards available relating to:
1. Independent educational evaluations;
 2. Prior written notice;
 3. Parental consent;
 4. Access to education records;
 5. Opportunity to present and resolve complaints through the State complaint procedures and a due process hearing including:
 - (i) The time period in which to file a complaint or due process hearing;
 - (ii) The opportunity for the agency to resolve the complaint; and
 - (iii) The difference between the due process hearing and the state complaint process, including the jurisdiction of each procedure, what issues may be raised, filing and decisional timelines, and relevant procedures;

6. The availability of mediation;
7. The child's placement during the pendency of any due process hearing;
8. Procedures for children who are subject to placement in an interim alternative educational setting;
9. Requirements for unilateral placement by parents of children in private school at public expense;
10. Due process hearings, including requirements for disclosure of evaluation results and recommendations;
11. Appeals of due process hearings, including the time period in which to file those actions;
12. Attorneys' fees; [34 C.F.R. § 300.504(c)(1) - (13)] and
13. Notice provided in a language understandable to the parents. [34 C.F.R. § 300.504(d)]
 - (d) Each LEA shall establish and maintain procedures to provide an opportunity for the parents of a child with a disability to:
 1. Inspect and review all education records relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement and provision of FAPE to the child. [34 C.F.R. § 300.501(a)(1) – (2)]
 2. Participate in meetings with respect to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of the child and the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to such child. [34 C.F.R. § 300.501(b)(1)(i) – (ii)]
 3. Obtain an independent educational evaluation of the child. [34 C.F.R. § 300.502]
 - (e) Each LEA shall establish and maintain procedures to provide to ensure that parents:
 1. Receive notice before the school initiates or changes (or refuses to initiate or change) the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the child, or the provision of FAPE to the child. [34 C.F.R. § 300.503(a)(1) – (2)]
 2. Receive notice of places to contact for assistance in understanding the procedural safeguards/parents' rights. [34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b)(5)]
 3. Receive procedural safeguards notice and a full explanation of the procedural safeguards. [34 C.F.R. § 300.504(c)]

Special Education Services

JCCS recognizes the direct and relevant relationship between a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), Student Support Team (SST), and the individual evaluation requirements of the IDEA. Once problem-solving teams determine that a child is suspected of having a disability, a comprehensive evaluation shall be provided to the child being considered for special education eligibility. However, an eligibility determination cannot occur until the existing data are reviewed to determine whether one or more of the exclusionary factors is the determinant factor(s) for the determination that the child is a child with a disability and the child does not otherwise meet the specific eligibility criteria.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (the Act): The Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act ensures the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. It provides legal protections for these children and youth to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs. In accordance with the Act, every child of a homeless individual and every homeless child or youth shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other students. The District shall assign and admit a child or youth who is homeless to a District school regardless of residence or whether the parent/guardian or student is able to produce records normally required for enrollment. Unaccompanied youths must be afforded specific protections, including immediate enrollment in school without proof of guardianship. The Superintendent shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless children and youths. The liaison shall be responsible for identifying homeless children and youths, compiling data collected on children and youth in transition, determining and arranging for needed services, monitoring academic achievement, facilitating enrollment, and settling disputes.

Definition: The term "homeless children and youths" is defined as provided in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (the Act). Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children or youth who experience one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship, or a similar reason;
2. Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Are abandoned in hospitals; have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

5. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings;
6. Are migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples; unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Attendance: The School District will work with homeless children and youths and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children or youths not currently attending school in a manner that will not stigmatize or segregate them on the basis of their status as homeless. The Superintendent or designee will review and revise as necessary regulations or procedures that may be barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such regulations or procedures, the District will consider issues of transportation, immunization, residence, birth certificates, transfer of school records and other documents required for enrollment.

Dispute Resolution: Anyone having a concern or complaint regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment of a homeless child or youth should first present it orally and informally to the District homeless liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as defined in the state plan for the education of homeless children and youths.

Services: Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including transportation services, Head Start and comparable preschool programs, Title I and similar state or local programs, educational programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, career and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, school nutrition programs, summer learning opportunities, online learning, and magnet and/or charter schools. Appropriate secondary education and support services will be provided to ensure that homeless youths receive appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school. Homeless children or youth must be provided transportation to or from a student's school of origin, at the request of a parent, guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, or the local liaison.

Collaboration and Policy Revision: The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The district's liaison will also review and seek revisions to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

SECTION 504 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NOTICE

Any student or parent or guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system's central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or any of the school offices. 504 Coordinator for JCCS:

Director of Instructional Services

1411 College Street
Monticello, GA 31064
706-468-6350 ext. 113

HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Any student who has a medically diagnosed physical condition that restricts him/her to home or hospital for a period of time may be eligible for hospital/homebound instructional services. For all students receiving hospital/homebound instruction, a medical referral form signed by a licensed physician must be on file stating that the student will be absent for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive school days and is physically able to participate in educational instruction at home. If a student is officially on homebound, the student is considered "present" for attendance purposes. For more information about this service, please contact your child's school counselor.

HB 402 EDNA MAE MCGOVERN ACT

Swim lessons are available at the Covington Family YMCA and Morgan County Aquatic Center. Information can be found at the links

below:

Covington Family YMCA - <https://ymcaatlanta.org/locations/covington-family-ymca>

Morgan County Aquatic Center - <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/470/Aquatics>

Lifeguard Training:

Lifeguard training is available at Morgan County Aquatic Center.

Morgan County Aquatic Center - <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/470/Aquatics>

ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is the state-funded language instruction educational program for eligible English learners (ELs) in grades K-12. The purpose of the ESOL language program is to provide English language development instruction and language support services to identified K-12 English Learners for the purpose of increasing their English language proficiency and academic achievement. The responsibility for educating the whole English Learning child, both in language development and academic content, is shared by regular classroom teachers and English language specialist teachers.

GIFTED SERVICES

Jasper County Charter System is dedicated to providing gifted and potentially gifted students the opportunity to become independent learners and decision-makers who recognize their potential and responsibilities in a changing global society. The school system is committed to providing a rigorous and innovative instructional program that fosters the highest level of excellence and recognizes the right of each student to receive intellectual challenges appropriate for his/her capabilities. JCCS follows GaDOE guidelines in the identification and placement of gifted students.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE/ COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (Title VI), disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act) or sex (Title IX) in its educational programs and activities. Any student, parent or other individual who believes he or she or any student (or parent/friend of student) who believes a student has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school, student has been subjected to discrimination or harassment by other students or employees of the School District based upon any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or to the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the Board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report discrimination or harassment to their school counselor.

Title VI Coordinator:

Name or Title: ***Executive Director of Teaching and Learning***

Office Address: ***1411 College Street, Monticello, GA 31064***

Telephone Number: ***(706) 468-6350***

Title IX Coordinator:

Name or Title: ***Executive Director of Teaching and Learning***

Office Address: ***1411 College Street, Monticello, GA 31064***

Telephone Number: ***(706) 468-6350***

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

Section 504 Coordinator:

Name or Title: ***Director of Instructional Support Services***

Office Address: ***1411 College Street, Monticello, GA 31064***

Telephone Number: ***(706) 468-6350***

Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator:

Name or Title: ***Director of Instructional Support Services***

Office Address: ***1411 College Street, Monticello, GA 31064***

Telephone Number: ***(706) 468-6350***

Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such discrimination or harassment. A copy of the

discriminatory complaints procedure under Policy JAA (Equal Educational Opportunities) and under Policy JCAC-Sexual Harassment of Students is located in the District policy manual, which is available in the school office, central office, and on the District website.

HARASSMENT

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit any act of harassment of students by other students or employees based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any such act by a student or employee shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including the possible termination of employment or suspension or expulsion of the student. See Behaviors 23 and 42.

Any student, parent, employee, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the School District should promptly report the situation to the principal OR counselor of their school or to:

Director of Student Services
1411 College Street
Monticello, GA 31064
706-468-6350

Violations of Policy JCAC, Harassment of Students, by an employee will result in disciplinary action as determined appropriate up to and including possible termination. Students violating this policy may be disciplined up to and including exclusion from school.

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF ONLINE OPTIONS

On-Line Options: State law requires schools to allow student opportunities to take online courses. Online courses are not required to graduate but provide an online learning option should your student or you choose this option. In addition, House Bill 175 passed establishing a clearinghouse for stakeholders to find online courses and online course providers in the state of Georgia. This notice is to inform you about the key components of legislation and how to find online opportunities for your student. **Accessing Georgia's Online Clearinghouse:** The Georgia Online Clearinghouse provides students and parents with information and access to high-quality academic and career-oriented courses, aligned to state and national standards, through a variety of online providers. To access the information found in the clearinghouse go to: http://www.gadoe.org/_layouts/GADOEPublic.SPApp/Clearinghouse.aspx

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

In compliance with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), the Jasper County Charter System informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- (1) Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- (2) Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- (3) Whether the teacher is teaching under the field of discipline of the teacher's certification;
- (4) Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TEAM

The School Governance Team's (SGT) purpose is to help steer the school towards achieving its mission and to ensure the school's effort and resources are properly focused toward that goal. SGT meetings will be held monthly; the agenda and minutes will be posted on eBOARD. The SGT will be composed of parents, students, business/community representatives, teachers and school administration. The SGT will hold a measure of decision-making authority by working collaboratively with school leaders in specific areas of personnel, finances, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, school operations, and the monitoring of student achievement. Members that serve on the team are provided extensive training. Schools will be able to better meet the targeted needs of their students with the flexibility allowed through a charter school status. **The local school board remains intact and its authority is not diminished under the Charter System status.**

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS TO REPORT INAPPROPRIATE EMPLOYEE BEHAVIOR

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.7(a) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student which shall not prohibit the ability of a student to report the incident to law enforcement authorities. Each local school system shall be required to implement and follow such state mandated process and shall include the mandated process in student handbooks and in employee handbooks or policies.

Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct:

(a) Any student (*or parent or friend of a student*) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

(b) Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*

(c) Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney. Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

TITLE I

A Parent's Guide to Title I

All schools in the Jasper County Charter System provide instruction to students through a Title Schoolwide Program. The information that follows is intended to assist parents and the community in understanding what it means for our school to have a Title I Schoolwide Program.

What is Title I?

Title I is a part of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Act provides financial assistance to state and local education agencies to meet the educational needs of children who may be at risk of failing the state's challenging academic standards.

What are the benefits of a Schoolwide Program?

The benefits that our school receives by having a Title I School-Wide Program include:

- Flexibility in having personnel provide instruction to students
- ALL students can have their academic needs met
- ALL staff can participate in professional development
- ALL of our resources are directed toward helping every student in our charter system meet and exceed the challenging state academic standards.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM

Our schools and faculty understand the importance of involving parents as partners in the education of their children. As a Title I district, we encourage parent support of student instruction through activities and school level volunteer opportunities. Additional focal points for parent involvement include development of parenting skills, communication styles, and community collaboration. JCCS invites and encourages parents to be actively involved at their child's school by the following:

- Increasing Parent Awareness by providing each parent with a copy of the district and school parent and family engagement policies
- Encouraging each parent to sign and fulfill the responsibilities listed in the School-Parent Compact
- Providing a voice for parents by participating in parent surveys and input meetings
- Building school and community support by hosting parent meetings and workshops
- Providing parents with Rights to Know information concerning Teacher Certification status

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Parent Resource Centers are available to parents during regular business office hours Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-4:00 pm at each school. Additional times to visit may be scheduled. If resources are needed after hours, Parents/Families are encouraged to visit the Family Engagement Website and newsletters that provide 24 hr. access to resources online. Resources are also available at each school.

Resources that you may check-out:

- Educational Resources
- Academic/Community Brochures/Pamphlets
- Content Materials
- Leveled Reading Books
- Manipulatives And much more!

For more information about the resources available, please contact your school Family Engagement Coordinator.