Fannin County School System

Fannin County High School Handbook

2026-2027

The Fannin County School System is committed to graduating all students on time with the skills they need to be successful. We believe this can best be accomplished in a high performing learning environment focused on continuous improvement.

Vision

We are Fannin: Empowering Excellence.

Mission

We are Fannin. We are Family. As a community, we will build a stronger future, one student at a time.

FANNIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

360 Rebel Circle
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-2081 – 706-632-6908 Fax
www.fannin.k12.ga.us

Principal – Scott Ramsey, EdD

Assistant Principal Curriculum – Mandy Housley

Assistant Principal Administration – Mathew Price

Assistant Principal Student Services- Andrea Crump

Assistant Principal & CTAE Supervisor – David Henson

Athletic Director – Jeremy King

Fannin County High School is accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission and is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The Fannin County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, creed, or disability in admission to its programs, services, and activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations to also include but not be limited to additions, modifications, or alterations to the physical plan of any school facility.

For additional information or referral to the appropriate system coordinator, contact the system superintendent's office at 6145 Old Highway 76, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513 or 706-632-3771

CONTACT INFORMATION

District Office Contact Information

Board of Education	706-632-3771
Transportation Department	706-632-7802
Nutrition Office	706-258-2619
Technology Department	706-258-2791

School Contact Information

Fannin County High School	706-632-2081
Fannin County HIgh School CTAE	706-632-2013
School Fax	706-632-6908
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Table of Contents

Welcome to Fannin County High School **12**
"Learn today; achieve for life" 12
Artificial Intelligence 12
Attendance Protocol 12
Administrative Rule 12
Return to School 12
Make Up Work 13
AST Protocol 13
Mandatory Attendance 13
Tardy Protocol 14
Discipline 14
Leaving School Early 14
Discipline 14
Academic Dishonesty/Cheating 15
Discipline 15
After School Activities 16
Athletic Eligibility 16
Grades 16
Place of Residence 17
Eight Semester Rule 17
Age 17
Cafeteria 17
Cafeteria Charges 18
Cafeteria-Competitive Foods/Wellness Program (Policy EEE) 19
Career and Counseling Office 21

Discipline 21
Cell Phones 21
Discipline 22
Clubs and Organizations 22
Student Activities 23
New Clubs and Organizations 24
College Days 24
Communications from the School 24
Course Credit 25
Dress Code/Grooming (FCBOE Admin Regulation) 26
Definitions 27
Discipline 27
Dual Enrollment 27
Electronic Device Use 29
Electronic Inhalant Devices 29
Discipline 29
Field Trips 29
Final Assessment Days 30
Fire Drills/Tornado/Safety Drills 30
Food 30
Fund Raising 30
Gang Activity 31
Georgia Milestones (End Of Course Tests) 31
Gifted Program 31
Grading System 31
Principal's List 31
Honor Roll 32
Grade Computation 32
Grade Level Assignment 32
Subject Area Carnegie Units 32

Graduation Ceremony 32
Graduation Requirements 33
Impact Center 33
Early Graduation 34
Graduation Support Services 36
HB 907 36
Support Services 36
Hall Passes 36
Honor Graduates 37
Honor Societies and Graduation Cords 37
HOPE Scholarship and GPA Points 38
Hospital/Homebound Services 38
House Bill 1176 38
Insurance/Student Accidents 38
Internet Acceptable Use Agreement 39
Internet Safety and Education 39
Individual Responsibility of Parents and User 39
Personal Safety 39
"Hacking" and Other Illegal Activities 39
Active Restriction Measures 40
Privacy 40
Failure to Follow Guidelines 40
Laboratory and Career Technical Shops 40
Media Center 40
Overdues and Fines 41
Discipline 41
Nuisance/Personal Items 42
Nurse 42
Nurse: Head Lice 42
Nurse: Illness Or Accident At School 43

Nurse: Immunization & Health Records 43
Nurse: Medication (Policy JGCD) 44
Parent Resource Room 46
Parking on Campus 47
Physical Education Dress Requirements 47
Restricted Areas 47
Student Complaint and Grievance Process 48
Students with Cognitive Disabilities 48
Suspensions 49
In-School-Suspension 49
Out-of-School Suspension 49
Parental Suspension 49
Telephone Messages 50
Textbooks/Chromebooks 50
Theft and Vandalism 50
Tobacco Use 50
Discipline 51
Tornado Drills 51
Transfer Credit/Letter Grade to Numeric Grade Guidelines 51
Non-Accredited Schools 52
Non EOC Exam 52
EOC Exam 52
EOC Grade Adjustments 52
Letter to Numeric 52
Additional Grading Guidelines 53
Dual Enrollment grades will receive 5 points in weight. 53
Visitors at School 53
Withdrawal from School 53
STUDENT HANDBOOK STATEMENTS 54
Asbestos Statement 54

Congressional Requirements 54
Senate Bill 289 54
House Bill 147 54
House Bill 175 54
Directory Information Notice 56
ESSA Right to Know 57
Homeless Students / McKinney Vento Act 57
Mindset Program 58
Nondiscrimination 58
Sports Equity Nondiscrimination Notice 58
Statements of Nondiscrimination 59
Parent/Eligible Student Data Privacy Complaints Policy 59
Protection Of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) 63
Right to Review Instructional Materials § 20-2-1017 64
Section 504 65
School Board 65
Bullying (Policy JCDAG) 66
Definition 66
Consequences: Grades 6-12 67
School Choice 67
Definition 67
Falsifying Reports of Alleged Inappropriate Behavior by Other Students 68
Retaliation Prohibited 68
Bus Regulations/Protocol (Bus Conduct) 68
Bus Driver 68
Principal 69
Note 70
Rules 70
Note 71

Student Code of Conduct Fannin County Schools 71
Authority of the Principal 72
Authority of the Teacher 72
Progressive Discipline Procedures 73
Disciplinary Action 73
Behaviors which will Result in Disciplinary Procedures 75
Disruptive Presence 81
Definitions 81
Assault 82
Battery 82
Bullying 82
Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student 83
Corporal Punishment 83
Detention 83
Disciplinary Tribunal 83
Dress Code 83
Drug 84
Expulsion 84
Extortion 84
Fireworks 84
Gambling 84
Hazing 84
In-School Suspension 85
Physical Violence 85
Suspension 85
System's Early Intervention Program for Student/Parent 85
Theft 85
Truant 85
Waiver 85
Weapon 85

Unsafe Schools 86
Student Support Processes 86
Parental Involvement 87
Sexual Harassment (Policy JCAC) 88
State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 89
    Earning Units of Course Credit by Testing Out 89
Student Drug Testing Policy (JCABB) 90
    Opt-in Option 90
    Testing Program 91
    Sanctions 91
        First Positive Test Result 91
        Second Positive Test Result 91
        Third Positive Test Result 92
Student Support Processes 92
Surveys & Screenings 93
    Georgia Student Health 2.0 Survey Consent 93
    Hearing & Vision Screening 93
Testing Information 93
Weapons Notification 93
School-Parent Compact 94

Welcome to Fannin County High School

"Learn today; achieve for life"

Artificial Intelligence

Students must use AI tools solely for educational purposes as directed by teachers or school authorities. Using AI for non-educational activities or submitting AI work as original student work within the school context is prohibited. Improper use of artificial intelligence will be dealt with as academic dishonesty, and the same consequences will apply.

Attendance Protocol

–All students are expected to be in attendance at school except for situations where absence is absolutely necessary. If your child has a fever (100 or higher), then your child must stay at home until there is no fever without using fever-reducing medications for 24 hours. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, then your child must stay at home until he or she is symptom free without using medications for 24 hours.

–Parents/guardians can ensure their child has an excused absence for illness by providing a doctor's excuse or sending a written/signed note to the school within three days of the absence. Absences for illness are excused, if the school receives this written notice *within three days*.

Administrative Rule

Any student who is not present for at least half the period or block will be counted absent for that period or block.

Return to School

Upon returning to school, students are to submit a note to the main office or an email to *fchsnotes@fannin.k12.ga.us* containing the following information:the student's first and last name, the reason the student was absent, the number of days and dates of the absence, a valid phone number to contact the parent/guardian or medical office. The student has a maximum of 3 days to provide this note to change an unexcused absence to an excused absence.

Make Up Work

Students will be allowed to make up all work missed during an absence. It is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements for make-up work, either before or immediately following the absence. The number of days a student has to complete make-up work will be *equal to the number of days absent, plus one day*. If a student is absent on a test day, and misses no further instruction on the test material, then the student is expected to take the test upon returning to school. Students who have been suspended from school will be allowed to make up the work missed as outlined above.

AST Protocol

The FCSS notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of the student by letter and phone call when such student has 5 unexcused absences and again when a student has 7 unexcused absences. At the seventh unexcused absence, the parent will be asked to meet with the Attendance Support Team.

If a student reaches ten unexcused absences; FCSS will send written notice via certified mail with return receipt requested, to inform them that they are being referred to Juvenile Court pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-735 and State Board Rule 160-5-1-.10.

Mandatory Attendance

Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall be required for children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays. Such mandatory attendance shall not be required where the child has successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma. O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1

Backpack Protocol

Only clear or mesh backpacks are allowed to be carried at Fannin County High School. Sports bags that are not clear must be left in a designated area and not carried throughout the day.

For more information, please click the following link: https://sites.google.com/fannin.k12.ga.us/fchsclearmeshbackpackprotocol?usp=sharing

Weapons Detection System
Fannin County High School uses advanced weapons detection systems to enhance safety on a daily basis and at school events.

Tardy Protocol
A student is tardy to class when he/she is not in the classroom, ready to start class when the bell rings. Tardies are only excused with a note from a medical provider.
Discipline
- *First and second tardy*: warning
- *Third tardy*: one before or after school detention
- *Fourth tardy*: two before or after school detentions
- *Fifth tardy*: one Saturday school
- *Sixth tardy*: one day ISS

*Additional tardies will result in progressive discipline, including but not limited to ISS, OSS, loss of parking privileges.

Leaving School Early
–Once a student arrives on campus, he/she becomes the responsibility of the FCSS. All students must have permission to leave school grounds after arriving regardless of time.
–Students who leave campus without permission and without signing out will be subject to disciplinary action. An exception to this is students who are required to be on campus before school hours for school-based events.
Discipline
- *1st infraction*: 1 Saturday School & parent conference
- *2nd infraction*: 1 day ISS & parent conference
- *3rd infraction*: 3 days ISS & parent conference
- *4th infraction*: 5 days ISS & parent conference

–Should a student find it necessary to leave school before the end of the school day, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. The parent/guardian should contact the office via note, phone call, or in person. Persons allowed to pick up or call out students will only be those listed on the health form/pickup list.
2. The student must sign out in the main office and leave the campus immediately.
3. Students returning to school the same day must check back in at the office.
4. Students may not check out during the 3rd block and return to school without a doctor's excuse or prior permission from the principal or administrator.

–Should an emergency (such as sickness) arise, the student should report to the main office. The parent will be contacted for the student and arrangements made for leaving school if it is deemed necessary.

–Students who drive to school and leave school without permission will be suspended and may have driving privileges revoked.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

Students will be disciplined as follows for any form of academic dishonesty to include but not be limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on any assignment, turning in work that is not the student's original work, plagiarism, use of artificial intelligence, etc.. This can include but not be limited to peers, cell phones, earbuds, chromebooks, etc… This protocol applies to any assignment or assessment including but not limited to daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, etc…

<u>Discipline</u>

- *First Offense*: 1 day ISS
- *Second Offense*: 3 days ISS

*Teacher may allow the student to do the assignment again, correctly, for partial credit.

After School Activities

Students who remain at school after 3:10 p.m. are expected to be under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach or sponsor.

Students are not allowed to stay at school in the afternoon unless they are staying for an extracurricular activity. When the extra-curricular activity has been concluded, students are expected to promptly leave campus. They are not allowed access to the entire campus. If students must wait for a ride, they must stay in the area designated by the coach or sponsor.

Athletic Eligibility

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) governs eligibility of students to participate in interscholastic competition. A student must be determined as eligible to participate in any competitive interscholastic activity such as sports, cheerleading, literary events, etc. Eligibility rules are quite complex and students should talk with coaches or sponsors about specifics, but the four stipulations usually causing a student to be ruled ineligible are:

Grades

Students must be "On Track" for graduation according to the following criteria:

1. First-year students (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically.
2. Second semester first-year students must have passed at least three (2.5) courses the previous semester in order to participate in competitive athletic activities.
3. All extracurricular activities including all athletics and all clubs not previously under academic guidelines will follow the Georgia High School Association Guidelines as they exist; every student in grade 9-12 involved in such extracurricular activities must have passed three subjects the previous semester.
4. The following Carnegie units must be accumulated at the end of each year.
    a. Freshmen: 5 credits
    b. Sophomore: 11 credits
    c. Junior: 17 credits
    d. Graduate: 28 credits

Place of Residence
A student cannot transfer to another school without a corresponding move of parents/guardian, and have continuing eligibility.
Eight Semester Rule
A student has eight consecutive semesters of possible eligibility from the date or entry into the ninth grade.
Age
A student whose 19th birthday was prior to May 1st of the preceding school year is not eligible to participate.

Cafeteria
The Fannin County School System is excited to announce that all enrolled students will be provided breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2025-2026 school year. The District will participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture service. CEP eliminates the need for household meal applications for free and reduced meals. All enrolled students receive meals at no cost; however, a second meal has the following price: Breakfast $3.00/Lunch $5.75.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers

the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: **https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf**, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: 1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or 2. fax:(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

–No delivery services for food will be permitted; such as, DoorDash, Uber Eats, etc.

Cafeteria Charges

SP 46-2016 requires all School Food Authorities operating the Federal school meal programs to have in place a written and clearly communicated system to address meal charges. Students will be allowed to charge meals. School Nutrition cashiers/managers will send home charge notices via email on a regular basis. If a family does not have an email address on file, the contact will be made through phone contact. School Nutrition Office will send low balance and negative balance

emails to those accounts where email addresses are imported automatically through the point of sale software and the student information software on a regular basis.

Prepayment for lunches and à la carte items is encouraged. Students may present cash or checks to cashiers at breakfast or lunch. Parents may also pay online at www.myschoolbucks.com. To complete this process, parents will need to know the student identification for their child (it begins with 655 and contains 9 to 11 digits).

Cafeteria-Competitive Foods/Wellness Program (Policy EEE)

The Board of Education recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects student wellness, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

To the extent practicable, all schools in the district shall participate in available federal school meal programs. All foods and beverages made available on campus during the school day shall be consistent with the minimum requirements of federal law and regulations and state requirements. Guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the U.S. Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.

The Superintendent or designee shall convene a wellness committee consisting of school system and community representatives from areas designated in federal law to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review of school wellness policies. Such policies shall contain,

at a minimum: 1. Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness; 2. Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available on campus during the school day that: a. are consistent with federal meal pattern requirements and nutrition standards; b. prohibit the sale to students on the school campus during the school day of competitive foods that do not meet the federal criteria; and, c. adhere to the federal and state requirements regarding exempt fundraisers. 3. Identification of the position of district or school official(s) responsible for the oversight to ensure each school's compliance with the wellness policy; 4. A description of the manner in which parents, students, and representatives of school food service, physical education teachers, school health professions, the school board, school administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the wellness policy; and 5. A description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the wellness policy and for reporting to the public its content and implementation issues.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each participating school complies with the wellness policy; that periodic assessments and progress reports are conducted in accordance with state and federal timelines and other requirements; and, that appropriate updates or modifications are made as needed.

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the wellness program. Contact the Director of Nutrition & Wellness at the District office for more information.

Career and Counseling Office

Students may see the counselors or social workers by appointment. The counselors are available for help with educational and career information, recommendations,

transcripts, scheduling, and personal problems. The procedure for counseling is as follows:
–Students must have permission from their teacher to visit the counseling suite. Teachers should call ahead to check availability of counselors or social workers.
–Requests for schedule changes, recommendations, etc. must go through the counselors. Schedule changes are to be completed as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester. Changes will not be made after the first full week of the semester. Schedules are changed only due to academic reasons.

CBD Product
All CBD products, whether they contain **THC or not,** are a violation of the FCHS code of conduct. Possession, distribution, or use of these products will result in the following progressive disciplinary action:
Discipline

- *First Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and completion of educational program.
- *Second Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve three days of ISS.
- *Third Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve 3 days OSS.
- *Fourth Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents and the student will be recommended for alternative school placement.

Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices

In accordance with Georgia House Bill 1009, students at Fannin County High School are prohibited from possessing or using personal electronic devices during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, headphones, earbuds, and any other personal device capable of wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video or audio recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.

A **distraction-free education** provides a learning environment in which students do not have access to personal electronic devices. This policy is intended to minimize distractions, improve academic achievement, promote student engagement, and encourage meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences.

For the purposes of this policy, the **school day** is defined as the bell-to-bell instructional day while students are on the school campus.

Students may use only electronic devices issued by Fannin County High School for instructional purposes.

Discipline:

- *First Offense*: Phone is confiscated and parent or guardian must pick it up.
- *Second Offense*: Phone is confiscated plus one day of ISS.
- *Third Offense*: Phone is confiscated plus three days of ISS.

Clubs and Organizations

Each student shall be furnished with a list of all clubs and organizations approved by the school. If you have an objection to your student participating in any of the active clubs at Fannin County High School you must notify the principal in writing. Write the name of the club(s) for which you do not want your student to participate, sign and date the letter.

Student Activities

All clubs and organizations must be approved by the Principal to operate within the school and must adhere to the following regulations.

A. Neither the student's race, gender, color, creed, political beliefs nor any other discriminatory basis prohibited by the School Board shall be a factor in selecting members or officers for clubs and organizations.
B. The charter and constitution setting forth the purposes, qualifications for membership, and the rules of conduct of each approved club or organization shall be kept on file and always available to all students and instructional personnel of the school.
C. A student who wishes to represent the school through competitions and/or performances must comply with the following.
    i. A student must maintain a cumulative 2.50 GPA or higher
    ii. A student must earn a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units in the preceding semester.
    iii. A student who is serving an Out of School Suspension or assigned to the Alternative School is not eligible to participate in any school functions
    iv. A student who has ten (10) or more unexcused absences will not be allowed to participate in the club for the remainder of the school year
D. Hazing of members is prohibited.
E. Only approved club insignia or jewelry may be worn by members.
F. Dues shall be reasonable and not prohibitive.
G. All meetings shall be held on school property in school facilities. This may be waived for special meetings and events upon the request of the faculty sponsor and the approval of the principal.

H. A faculty sponsor shall be present at all meetings and all social events shall be adequately chaperoned.
I. All monies accruing to any school club or organizations shall be accounted for through the school's internal fund.
J. Students failing to maintain requirements for membership shall be suspended from membership until the requirements have been achieved.
K. No club or organization shall engage in any activity or act that violates Board policies.

New Clubs and Organizations

All requests to form clubs must be student initiated. A request does not guarantee that a club will be approved.

–New clubs may only start at the beginning of each school year.

–Students are required to provide information on the club/organization requested, including its sponsor(s) name(s), purpose, proposed constitution, dues if applicable, list of students interested in forming the group (minimum of 10 members) and proposed activities for the group.

College Days

Juniors and seniors have a total of three college days, not to exceed two per year. Any junior or senior wishing to participate in a post-secondary visitation day must make an appointment with the institution before visiting, and upon returning to school, bring a letter of confirmation from the institution verifying the visit. The letter of confirmation is to be turned into the main office. No post-secondary visits will be allowed after May 1st of each school year. Any exception must have the prior approval of the principal.

Communications from the School

FCHS believes in informing families about school activities and their students. Parents and Guardians may call the office between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to make appointments, or to speak with administrators, counselors or teachers when available.

–Important information is reviewed with students in the classroom and posted in common areas of the school, and classrooms.
–Parents and guardians may learn of school activities in the following way:

- SCHOOL WEBSITE (*www.fchs.fannin.k12.ga.us*)
- SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA (Facebook, Instagram)
- SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWSLETTER (contact parent liaison for more information)
- INFINITE CAMPUS, a web-based resource allows parents/guardians to track a student's grades, attendance, and discipline.
- IC MESSENGER is an electronic telephone program that calls automatically to inform families of school closings and other information. This program can also send information via text, when requested.
- STUDENTS receive progress reports and report cards every 4.5 weeks.
- PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS are planned to help monitor student progress.
- FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES are posted on the Fannin County School system website (*www.fannin.k12.ga.us*).
- REBEL RADIO – WXFC 92.7 FM
- YOUTUBE FANNIN REBEL TV

Weather Emergency Closings:

Closures will be announced through our automated phone system, social media (Facebook & Instagram), the Fannin County call-in hotline 706-946-FCSS (3277), as well as local radio stations.

Course Credit

Unit credit shall be awarded only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for grades 9-12 or those approved by the SBOE. Unit credit may be awarded for courses offered in the

middle grades that meet 9-12 GSE requirements. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) shall specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core unit credit. No course credit may be awarded for courses in which instruction is based on the GSE curriculum for grades K-8. Completion of diploma requirements does not necessarily qualify students for the HOPE Scholarship Program.

Dress Code/Grooming (FCBOE Admin Regulation)
Students are expected to observe a standard of dress and grooming consistent with the level of formality appropriate for a high school classroom. Students should conform to these minimum expectations:

1. Clothing that creates a distraction for other students or causes a disruption in class is not permitted.
2. Students are to wear clothing that does not expose any skin or undergarments from mid-thigh to the chest-line while standing. This includes shear, lace, and see-through garments.
3. Oversized clothing, such as long trench coats, is not permissible.
4. Clothing that displays alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or weapons is not permissible.
5. Clothing with gang related symbols is not permissible.
6. Clothing with derogatory, sexual, terroristic, violent, or insulting messages is not permissible.
7. Hats, bandanas, and other head coverings are permissible in common areas of the school. Teachers have discretion in their classroom, as stated in each syllabus.
8. Students cannot wear masks that cover the face, except masks worn over the nose and mouth for health reasons.
9. Sunglasses are not permitted inside school buildings but can be worn outside.
10. Shoes are required at all times.
11. Blankets are not permitted.
12. No earbuds permitted.

Definitions

Mid-thigh is the midpoint from the knee to the bend at the hip.
Chest-line is a horizontal line observed when the student is standing in an upright position and holding his/her arms out to his/her side parallel to the ground.

Discipline

The administration has the authority to determine inappropriate dress not considered by the above-mentioned guidelines. Students in violation of the dress code will be asked to change immediately or will be picked up for an early dismissal. Alternative clothing will be provided to students by the school system, if possible. Penalty for violation of the dress code may include the following.

- *1st infraction*: warning and change/remove/correct infraction
- *2nd infraction*: one before or after school detention and change/remove/correct infraction
- *3rd infraction*: two before or after school detentions and change/remove/correct infraction

*Other infractions could include but are not limited to in-school suspension or out of school suspension.

Dual Enrollment

Georgia's DE program provides opportunities for eligible students in grades 11-12 to enroll part- or full-time in postsecondary institutions and take college courses to earn both high school and college credit.

–Dual enrollment classes attended on the college campus follow the college calendar.

–Students participating in dual enrollment college courses should do so with the knowledge that the course work may be more rigorous and challenging than high school courses.

–Students are held to a higher degree of independent responsibility and accountability than in regular high school classes.

–The letter grade assigned by the college will be converted to a numerical grade.

A=95, B=85, C=75, D=70, F=50
Beginning with the graduating class of 2030, five additional points will be added to dual enrollment grades. Previous years will be grandfathered in under the 8 points.
–Dual enrollment grades earned in the second semester of the senior year will not be used in the calculation for valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor graduate due to final grades being posted after calculations are made. Dual enrollment grades earned in the first semester which satisfy the academic core requirements will count in the calculation. *See the counselor's office for more detailed information.*
–All high school students are required to take the End of Course tests. The EOC exemption will apply to US History only. If enrolled in a college course that articulates into one of the courses listed below, the student must take the EOC at the high school, unless the student has already taken the exam.
English: Literature and Composition II
Math: Algebra I
Science: Biology
–Each dual enrollment student is required to have a mid-term conference with the high school dual enrollment coordinator to review progress.
–Fannin County High School reserves the right to make scheduling choices in the student's best interest to ensure a successful high school graduation. FCHS will work with the parent, student, and college in determining the type and number of courses taken in a semester. Our practice is to align the college schedule with the high school block schedule (4 courses); however, if there is an interest in an additional course, please arrange a meeting with the dual enrollment coordinator to discuss this option.
–Any student who withdraws from a dual enrollment course and does not immediately enroll in a high school equivalent course, will be given an "F" on his/her high school transcript.

Electronic Device Use
During the instructional day personal electronic devices should remain on silent or may be used only at the discretion of administration or designee.
–Students using electronic devices must abide by the Internet Acceptable Use Agreement signed upon enrollment.
–Students are prohibited from using electronic devices on school buses in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver's safe operation of the school bus.
–Any use of electronic devices during the instructional school day without permission of the administrative staff shall be considered a disciplinary violation and will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in the student code of conduct.

Electronic Inhalant Devices
This includes but is not limited to vapes, e-cigarettes, and juul pods and paraphernalia. The use of and/or the possession of such items will result in the following disciplinary actions.
Discipline

- *First Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and completion of educational program.
- *Second Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve three days of ISS.
- *Third Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve 3 days OSS.
- *Fourth Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents and the student will be recommended for alternative school placement.

Field Trips
Parents must submit permission in writing for a student to take a field trip with his/her class by the deadline provided by the teacher. Under state guidelines a student must be counted as absent from classes missed unless the field trip experience meets the competencies addressed in the class missed. The

teacher whose classes are missed must coordinate this in advance.
–Students may be denied the privilege of participating on field trips for any of the following reasons: excessive tardies, excessive absences, classroom misconduct, suspensions, and/or poor academic performance.

Final Assessment Days
Assessment days will be the final two days of each semester.
–Teachers may assess students in various formats to include but not be limited to final exams, projects, etc…
–The assessment grade will be weighted 15%* of the final average.
–Students will be required to attend assessment days if they are failing a course, or have absences exceeding the following:
Five absences: 90 or above average
Four absences: 80 or above average
Three absence: 70 or above average
*Three tardies to any one class equal one absence; three early dismissals from any one class equal one absence. (Students must be in class for 60 minutes to be counted present.)

Medical notes and administratively excused absences will be exempt from the above absence counts.

Fire Drills/Tornado/Safety Drills
Fire drills are held at unexpected intervals monthly during the year so that the student body will be trained to act properly in an emergency. Specific plans and procedures are posted in each classroom.

Food
Food will not be allowed in any area of the building except the cafeteria without approval. Any drinks that are shared by students will be confiscated immediately.

Fund Raising
All school-related fund raising activities involving students must have the prior approval of the principal and the School Governance Team. Students are not to be involved in selling merchandise for the benefit of individuals or outside-school organizations while on campus or on the bus.

Gang Activity
Participation or association with gangs or gang activities of any kind will not be tolerated at Fannin County High School. Students found to be in violation of this rule will be subject to immediate suspension, tribunal hearing, and possible expulsion from the Fannin County School System.

Georgia Milestones (End Of Course Tests)
With educator input, and State Board approval, the EOC testing program is therefore administered in the following four core content area assessments.
English/Language Arts: Literature and Composition II
Mathematics: Algebra I
Science: Biology
Social Studies: US History

Gifted Program
The Fannin County Board of Education recognizes the need to provide gifted education services to students who have the potential for exceptional academic achievement in grades K-12. Students in grades 9-12 at FCHS are served through advanced content and Advanced Placement Courses. Placement decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Grading System
A = 108-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, Failure = 69-0
FCHS uses a traditional grading system where course grades cannot exceed 100. Grades exceeding 100 are awarded only in AP, dual enrollment, and honor classes. Students at FCHS may

receive one full unit for each course taken in which the student earns a minimum grade of 70.

Principal's List

All grades 93 or above

Honor Roll

Overall average of 90 and above

Grade Computation

No teacher shall use any method other than the uniform grading system for officially reporting the progress of a student to parents.

State given EOC exams count 15%* of the semester grade as deemed by the State Board of Education.

Grade Level Assignment

Students are assigned to grade level for the year on the basis of the number of units earned prior to the beginning of each fall semester. Promotion requirements for each grade level are as follows.

9th grade: must pass 8th grade

10th grade: 5 credit

11th grade: 12 credits

12th grade: 20 credits

Subject Area	Carnegie Units
English/Language Arts*	4
Mathematics *	4
Science*	4
4th science may be used to meet both the science & elective requirement	
Social Studies*	4
CTAE and/or Modern Language/Fine Arts	3
Health/Physical Education*	1
Electives (can be academic courses)	8
Total	28 Units

*Required Courses and/or Core Courses

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony is a privilege that honors the accomplishments of the senior class. Only seniors who have met all Carnegie unit graduation requirements, and have met all other requirements of FCHS and the Fannin County Board of

Education will be allowed to participate in the graduation exercises and ceremony. Exceptions may be made for students with an IEP. Discipline issues can result in a loss of participation in the graduation exercises and ceremony.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are based on local and state policies. Students and parents should communicate with the school counselors regarding information and assistance.

–To earn a Diploma, students must satisfy attendance requirements and earn 28 Carnegie Units.

–To be eligible for graduation with a secondary school, students must successfully complete selected courses specified in the SBOE rules and satisfy additional requirements specified.

–According to state guidelines, the Fannin County Board of Education shall provide secondary school curriculum and instructional and support services that reflect the high school graduation and state assessment requirements and assist all students in developing their unique potential to function in society.

Impact Center

Students who are not on track to graduate with 28 credits, will have the opportunity to graduate with 24 credits if selected for the program. Students selected for the program must participate in a conference with their parent(s)/guardian(s) and the principal. In addition, a student/parent compact must be completed. Principal discretion will be used to determine entry.

Evening Impact

Evening Impact is a flexible, student-centered educational program designed to support learners with extenuating circumstances who need an alternative path to graduation. Offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:30 PM, this program provides an opportunity for students to complete their coursework online and at their own pace, while still working toward their academic goals.

Admission to Evening Impact is by application only and students are accepted on a case-by-case basis based on individual

needs and circumstances. Once enrolled, students will work closely with staff to set personalized academic goals, and progress and attendance will be measured by their ability to meet those targets consistently. If a student does not consistently meet his/her goals, the student will be placed back in the traditional Impact program.

All students accepted into the Evening Impact program must meet the 24-credit graduation requirement.

Students are expected to attend regularly, follow the student code of conduct, and commit to academic excellence. This program is designed for motivated individuals who are ready to overcome challenges and earn every credit needed to graduate.

Early Graduation

The Fannin County Board of Education considers the curriculum of Fannin County High School to be a four-year program. As such, the curriculum should have adequate courses for all students. Our accelerated students are encouraged by their advisors and/or counselor(s) to pursue courses that lead to an enriched curriculum rather than shorten the time spent in high school. However, under certain conditions, the Board of Education will consider requests for graduating early with less than four year attendance. Students need to fill an “Early Graduation Request Form” through the guidance office. The form must then be approved and signed by the Fannin County High School Principal. The Board may grant early graduation from high school under the following conditions:

1. That the parents/guardians of the student will, at least two semesters in advance of the requested graduation date, make a written application through the guidance office, for early graduation, and provide justification for early graduation
2. That the student shall meet the minimum number of credits and required courses for graduation by date requested for early graduation. (28 required credits to graduate)

3. That the student has completed at least 1 AP or Dual Enrollment course
4. That the student has a 95% average attendance rate each year
5. That the student completes at least one of the offered Pathways
6. That the student shall have a minimum of a 3.0 Core GPA at the date set for early graduation
7. That the student may participate in the Spring graduation ceremony
8. That the student can be eligible to receive the designation as an honor graduate; however, the student is not eligible for valedictorian, salutatorian, or top ten designation
9. That the high school principal shall approve the request
10. That the student has attended high school for a minimum of seven (7) semesters
11. That the Superintendent or designee could waive any of the above criteria on a case-by-case basis in the instance of extenuating circumstances

*If your request for early graduation is approved, you forfeit the right to participate in any school related activities after semester seven (7) is completed, other than graduation exercises.

Accelerated Diploma

Georgia's Accelerated Career (ACD) Program, often called Option B, allows public high school students (10th-12th grade) to graduate early or on time while earning a technical diploma, associate degree, or two technical certificates (TCCs) in high-demand fields through the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). The ACE Grant covers tuition, fees, and books, allowing for a debt-free, fast-tracked career start.

Participants take a specialized, reduced set of high school courses (2 English, 2 Math, 2 Science, 2 Social Studies, plus Health/PE) while focusing on their career pathway.

Graduation Support Services

The Board shall provide instructional, support and delivery services that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A continuous guidance component beginning with the eighth grade. The purpose of the guidance component is to familiarize students with graduation requirements, to help them identify the likely impact of individual career objectives on the program of work studies they plan to follow and to provide annual advisement sessions to report progress and offer alternatives in meeting graduation requirements and career objectives.
2. Record keeping and reporting services that document student progress toward graduation and include information for the school, parents and students.
3. Diagnostic and continuous evaluation services that measure individual student progress in meeting competency expectations for graduation.
4. Instructional programs, curriculum and course guides and remedial opportunities to assist each student in meeting graduation requirements.
5. Appropriate curriculum and assessment procedures for students who have been identified as having disabilities that prevent them from meeting the prescribed competency performance requirements.

HB 907

Your child may be eligible for a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship to attend private school or another public school if your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Information may be found at *www.specialedoptions.com* relating to eligibility requirements.

Support Services

FCHS has a Graduation Coach, Dual Enrollment/Testing Coordinator, Academic Coach, MTSS Coordinator, Parent Liaison available to students and parents as needed.

Hall Passes
Students must have an approved electronic hall pass. Passes should not be permitted during the first 15 or final 15 minutes of class.

Honor Graduates
FCHS Honor Graduates will be designated as outlined below:

- Cumulative average of 93 or above on every course which has a prefix that is one of the four core: (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) which satisfies a core graduation requirement.
- Grades that will be averaged will be taken through the fall semester (7th semester) of the senior year.
- Students, who are completing courses through Dual Enrollment, will have their grades from the first semester of their senior year used in the calculation.
- The cumulative average must be equal to or above a 93 without any rounding.
- In case of a tie for valedictorian or salutatorian, the average of the EOC exams will be used.
- The cumulative averages shall be ranked from the highest descending to the lowest.
- The senior with the highest average will have earned the honor of valedictorian.
- The senior with the second highest average will have earned the honor of salutatorian.
- The ten seniors with the highest average from the top in descending order will have earned the honor of “Top Ten of the Graduating Class.

Honor Societies and Graduation Cords
FCHS recognizes official honor cords/stoles for school organizations that have national/state requirements to be worn at graduation by those who have completed national/state requirements to earn the honor cord/stoles. Military cords/stoles will also be allowed. Administration will determine which organizations meet the above requirements.

HOPE Scholarship and GPA Points
The HOPE Scholarship Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and may differ from the GPA reported by Fannin County High School.

Eligible courses, including Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment, receive an additional 0.5 quality point in the HOPE GPA calculation. This weighting is applied automatically by GSFC and is not reflected in the student's local high school GPA.

Hospital/Homebound Services
If a student has a medical condition that prohibits him/her from attending school for 5 days or more, the student may be eligible for homebound services. The parent/guardian should contact Fannin County High School to schedule a meeting to review the process for eligibility.
House Bill 1176
Child Abuse Reporting Revisions: O.C.G.A 19-7-5, which now holds volunteers in schools, hospitals, social agencies, or similar facilities responsible for the same child abuse reporting requirements as employees. Volunteers will be asked to review and sign a Volunteer Code of Confidentiality stating they will keep all student information confidential.

Insurance/Student Accidents
All students at FCHS involved with sports, extracurricular activities or enrolled in career technical and lab courses must show proof of hospitalization or accident insurance.
–There is an insurance policy available for the students to purchase if needed. Information regarding the plan as well as application for enrollment is available at the front office or online.
–FCHS and the Fannin County Board of Education cannot be responsible for medical and dental bills.

Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

The Fannin County School District will enforce its Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines. Upon reading the guidelines, each student must sign an approved Internet Network Access Agreement before they will be given the opportunity to enjoy Internet access at school. If a student is under the age of 18, his or her parents or legal guardians must also read and sign the agreement. The school district will not provide access to any student who fails to obtain the required signature on an approved agreement.

Internet Safety and Education

Individual Responsibility of Parents and User

All users and their parents or guardians are advised that due to the nature of the Internet, it is extremely difficult for the Board of Education to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by students. Students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet.

Personal Safety

Be safe. When using the computer network and Internet, users should not reveal personal information such as name, home address or home telephone number without authorization from the school.

–Users should not arrange an in-person meeting with someone they "meet" on the computer without their parent's permission.

–In order to promote the safety and security of students when accessing the Internet and any online communication programs, the school district will provide age-appropriate education regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

"Hacking" and Other Illegal Activities

It is a violation of these guidelines to use the schools computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access.

Active Restriction Measures

The school district, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technical means, to ensure that the students are not accessing such depictions or any other materials which are inappropriate for minors.

Privacy

Electronic devices, as well as access to the network and Internet, are provided as a tool for education. The school district reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by a user. Therefore, privacy is not guaranteed. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have the expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

Failure to Follow Guidelines

The use of the computer network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to having their privileges revoked and face potential disciplinary or legal actions.

Laboratory and Career Technical Shops

Any teacher/student in a shop situation not protected by a barrier or wall must wear safety glasses when equipment is in use or there is danger to the eyes (Policy JGF, O.C.G.A., 20-9-1).

Media Center

The media center is open from 7:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. every school day.

–Students must come with a purpose for learning. Students will need to have something to work on if they are in the media center.

–Student patrons of the media center must follow the established rules of acceptable behavior as listed hereafter:

1. No cell phones unless approved
2. Use a quiet voice so as not to disturb other media center patrons
3. Take care of all media center materials
4. Leave food and drinks outside the media center
5. Sign in at the circulation desk upon entering the media center, using full name. This ensures that a record of your visit is recorded if verification of your whereabouts is needed
6. Do not print from computers without permission.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in: verbal warning; return to class; office referral.

Overdues and Fines

Overdue slips and fine notices will be printed out and distributed to students. Students will be fined $0.05 for each school day a book is late, with a maximum late fee of $5.00. –Lost or damaged books must be paid for as soon as possible.

–Payment for a lost book is reimbursed should the book be found and returned in good condition.

–Debts remaining at the end of the school year will roll over to the next year, and must be cleared before graduation.

–Any items checked out at the time a student withdraws from school must be returned or paid for upon withdrawal.

Nicotine Products

All nicotine products are a violation of the FCHS code of conduct. Possession, distribution, or use of these products will result in the following progressive disciplinary action:

Discipline

- *First Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and completion of educational program.
- *Second Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve three days of ISS.
- *Third Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents, and the student will serve 3 days OSS.

- *Fourth Offense*: Confiscate items, contact parents and the student will be recommended for alternative school placement.

Nuisance/Personal Items
In an effort to reduce the opportunity for property to be stolen, we recommend certain items not be brought on school campuses. These items include but are not limited to all electronic devices, headphones/earbuds, laser pointers, non-band musical instruments, card games, etc.
–School personnel are not required to investigate any reported thefts of these nuisance/personal items.
–Nuisance/personal items may be confiscated by school personnel and will be returned to the parent or guardian.
–Repeated violations may result in more serious disciplinary action.

Nurse
Each Fannin County School is very fortunate to have the service of a full-time school nurse. A health form MUST be completed annually online for each child by a parent/guardian during census verification/student record update. Students with Food & Allergy Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, or Seizures must have a physician-signed action plan on file and updated annually. Forms and other important health information (including Diabetes I and II and Water Safety) are located at: https://www.fannin.k12.ga.us/nurses

Nurse: Head Lice

- School-wide head checks may be conducted on all students periodically.
- In the event that your child is found to be positive for lice, you will be contacted by the school nurse. The nurse will explain treatment processes and requirements for the student to return to school.
- If you (parent/guardian) discover head lice on your child, please notify the school nurse so he/she may implement

individual classroom checks in an attempt to prevent outbreaks.

Nurse: Illness Or Accident At School

- If a child becomes ill during the school day and needs to go home, the school will notify the parent/guardian.
- Should the child need emergency medical attention, the child's welfare will come first. Appropriate steps will be taken to get medical services started while an effort is made to contact the parent/guardian.
- If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted during an emergency, the other person(s) listed by the parent/guardian during census verification/student record update will be contacted.
- If your child has a fever (100°F or higher), then your child must stay at home until there is no fever, without using fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours.
- If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, then your child must stay at home until he or she is symptom free, without using medications, for 24 hours.

Nurse: Immunization & Health Records

Fannin County Schools will adhere to GA Code §20-2-771 in regard to vaccination requirements. No child shall be admitted to or attend any school or facility in this state unless the child shall first have submitted a certificate of immunization to the responsible official of the school or facility. The responsible official of any school or facility may grant a 30 calendar day waiver of the certification requirement for a justified reason. The waiver may be extended from the date of first admittance or of first attendance, whichever is earlier, for up to 90 calendar days provided documentation is on file at the school or facility from the local health department or a physician specifying that an immunization sequence has been started and that this immunization time schedule can be completed within the 90 day waiver period, provided confirmation is received during the waiver period from the health department or physician that

immunizations are being received as scheduled, and provided the student under waiver is a transfer student, who is defined as a student who moves from an out-of-state school system to a Georgia school system, or a student entering kindergarten or first grade from out of state. The waiver may not be extended beyond 90 calendar days; and upon expiration of the waiver, the child shall not be admitted to or be permitted to attend the school or facility unless the child submits a certificate of immunization.
Fannin Schools will adhere to GA Code § 20-2-770 which utilizes GA Rules & Regulations 511-5-6-.02 regarding Department of Public Health Form 3300 (1) The parent or guardian of a child being admitted for the first time to a public school shall furnish to the school authorities a properly executed Department of Public Health Form 3300: Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutrition Screening. The Certificate shall be subject to audit by the Department and by the local Health Department. (2) The vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition screenings reported on the Certificate must have been conducted within one year prior to the time that the child is admitted for the first time to a public school. (3) Any child admitted to a public school without a Certificate shall present a Certificate within three months following admission. (4) When a child transfers to another school within Georgia, the Certificate and any related follow-up documentation must be forwarded to the new school.

Nurse: Medication (Policy JGCD)

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. All medications must be taken by the student, 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.

A written authorization must be signed by the student's parent or guardian to allow the teacher or school designee to administer the medication. The teacher or school designee shall keep written documentation of medication administered.
Over-the-counter (OTC) medications may be administered with written parental permission. The medication must be in its original container with a sheet containing the child's name, name of medication and instructions as to how the medicine must be given. For storage purposes the medication and instructions must be sent in a clean zip-lock bag. Any medications given for a period of over 20 days must have a signed Release Form from the doctor and parent with specific instructions included. School personnel shall not provide students with any medication except as authorized by this policy.

Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has, on file, supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission: 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. 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 student code of conduct.

In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order 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 a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self- administer the medication, if applicable, and 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 as a result 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 school 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. Such persons also are authorized to administer albuterol sulfate HFA, if available, to a student in perceived respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for albuterol sulfate HFA.

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.

Parent Resource Room

The parent resource room is located across from the counseling suite.

Parking on Campus
All students who drive to school must purchase a current parking permit and display the permit at the designated place on the vehicle at all times.
–Parking fees are $30.00 per vehicle per year.
–Parking in the visitor's stadium lot is not permitted.
–Any violation of these rules or failure to park a vehicle in a designated parking area could result in a fine or revocation of parking permit.
–Any vehicle parked on campus without a permit is subject to be ticketed.
–Students that are suspended for tardies, parking or driving related violations may have their parking privileges revoked during the suspension.
–Students that are chronically tardy may have their parking privileges suspended or revoked.

Physical Education Dress Requirements
The State Dept of Education requires that all students in Georgia schools have physical education.
–Students are highly encouraged to change to gym clothes.
–Students may change into short pants and shirts or other appropriate clothes for this class. Dressing rooms are provided for making these changes.
–Shirts and shorts worn during physical education classes should conform to the dress code.
–Tennis shoes are required.

Restricted Areas
–Students should not return to the parking lot during the school day without permission.
–Students should use sidewalks.
–Staff parking area is off limits to students.
–Faculty workrooms and restrooms are restricted to faculty use only.
–Instructional area hallways, field house, gyms/gym lobbies, locker rooms, and PAC are off limits to high school students before school and during lunch, without teacher supervision.

Schedules
All bell schedules can be accessed via the Fannin County HIgh School website.

School Improvement Plan
The School Improvement Plan can be located on the Fannin County High School website.

Student Complaint and Grievance Process
From time to time, conditions arise within the school or school system that need improvement, parents and students have the right to appropriately address concerns. These concerns shall be resolved in an orderly process and addressed first at the particular level of concern that is directly involved with the person(s) involved.
Complaints and grievances shall be handled in the following manner:

1. The opportunity shall be provided to any student or his/her parents or guardians to first discuss with his/her teacher a decision or situation which he/she considers unjust or unfair.
2. If the matter remains unresolved after the initial discussion, the student or his/her guardian or the teacher, may then bring the matter to the principal's attention for his/her consideration. Official grievances must be made to the principal in writing or with assistance if necessary.
3. If the matter remains unresolved after discussing it with the principal, it may then be brought to the Superintendent or a designee for his/her consideration.
4. Complaints that remain unresolved following any action of the Superintendent may then be referred in writing to the Board of Education.

Students with Cognitive Disabilities
Students with significant cognitive disabilities may graduate and receive a state defined alternate diploma when the IEP team determines that the student has:

1. Completed an integrated curriculum based on the GPS that includes instruction in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies as well as career preparation, self determination, independent living and personal care to equal a minimum of 28 units of instruction, and
2. Participated in the GAA during middle school and high school and earned a proficient score on the high school GAA test, and-
3. Reached the 22nd birthday OR has transitioned to an employment/education/training or other setting in which the supports needed are provided by an entity other than the local school system. Upon reaching the age of 22, the student may remain enrolled through the end of the semester. Students who plan to remain enrolled until they reach the age of 22 may walk through graduation ceremonies with their class but will receive their diploma the semester they leave school.

Suspensions

In-School-Suspension

The student will be isolated in the suspension room under direct supervision of a teacher. Class assignments will be provided. Limited restroom breaks are allowed. Students who are habitually absent from ISS for all or any part of the school day will be dismissed from the program.

Out-of-School Suspension

The student is denied the privilege of attending school. During out-of-school suspensions, the student is not allowed on campus or any Fannin County Board of Education properties for any reason. He/she is not allowed to attend or participate in any school functions during this time.

Parental Suspension

The student is sent home and cannot return to school until accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Telephone Messages
The office staff makes every effort to get messages to students. Please call 706-632-2081 to leave a message. Phone messages will be taken and given to the student at a time least disruptive to instruction. FCHS recognizes the value and security that cell phones afford students and their families. It disrupts the learning environment when cell phones ring in a classroom or students use them in violation of pro. Do not use your student's cell phone to get messages to him/her during class. It violates our cell phone protocol and often disrupts instruction.

Textbooks/Chromebooks
At the beginning of each course, students may receive textbooks and/or Chromebooks. These items are on a loan basis and the student must pay for any damages incurred to the items. Regardless of who does the damage to the items, the student to whom the items are issued is held responsible. All textbooks are to be checked in at the end of the course or when the student withdraws from school. All Chromebooks are to be checked in at the end of the school year or when the student withdraws from the school. The replacement costs for damaged, lost or stolen items are full price. The Chromebook Usage Agreement Form can be accessed on the school website.

Theft and Vandalism
All acts of theft and vandalism involving personal property or school property should be reported at once to an administrator.
–Students are warned to keep all monies, valuables, books, and clothing under constant surveillance and under lock and key at all times. Large sums of money and unnecessary valuables should not be brought to school.
–The penalty for theft or vandalism may include a referral to police. Restitution for stolen or damaged property will be assessed against the guilty student.

Tobacco Use
A student shall not, while under the responsibility of the school or at any school activity on any state school property, possess or use smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or smoking paraphernalia which includes, but is not limited to pipes, matches, lighters, and rolling papers.
Discipline

- *First Offense*: confiscate items, contact parent/guardian and the student will serve one day of ISS
- *Second Offense*: confiscate items, contact parent/guardian and the student will serve three days of ISS
- *Third Offense*: confiscate items, contact parent/guardian and the student will serve five days of ISS

Additional Offenses will follow progressive discipline up to Alternative School placement.

Tornado Drills
Specific instructions will be posted in each classroom. The class teacher will instruct students where the safe areas are and will see that the students go to them as quickly and quietly as possible. Students will sit with their knees drawn up and head resting on them. The student will fold their hands at the base of their skull. Students are to remain in the position until instructed to return to class.

Transfer Credit/Letter Grade to Numeric Grade Guidelines
FCHS will accept credits for transferring students when school attended was an accredited institution in accordance with JBC(4)-R(1). A student may not be granted credit for more than 30 quarter hours or two Carnegie Units during any summer school period.

For the purpose of transferring to another school, FCHS will award half credit if the student has a passing grade on or after December 1st.

Non-Accredited Schools

Students entering FCHS from a non-accredited school will be administered final exams and/or End-of-Course Tests (EOC) to determine credits to be awarded for subjects related to their grade level.

Non EOC Exam

Upon taking a non-EOC final exam, the grade received on the exam will be the grade the student receives for the subject as well as the grade recorded on the transcript, as long as the grade is 70 or above. A non-passing grade of 69 or below will result in the student being enrolled in the course at FCHS.

EOC Exam

Upon taking an EOC, the grade received on the exam will be the grade the student receives for the subject as well as the grade recorded on the transcript, as long as the grade is between 70 and 89. A non-passing grade of 69 or below will result in the student being enrolled in the course at FCHS.

EOC Grade Adjustments

An EOC grade of 90 or better will be adjusted to the following scale:

90 = 93	91 = 94	92 = 95	93 = 96	94 = 97	95 = 98	96-99 = 100

Letter to Numeric

Any student enrolling in FCHS from an institution with letter grades instead of numeric grades will be awarded the following (see the exceptions * below):

A+ = 99	A = 95	A- = 92
B+ = 89	B = 85	B- = 82
C+ = 79	C = 75	C- = 72
D+ = 69	D = 65	D- = 62
	F = 50	

*The exception to the above letter grades is courses identified as honors/gifted will receive a weight of 4 extra points and Advanced Placement (AP) courses will receive 8 extra points where applicable (courses already receiving weight will not receive additional weight). For Honors/Gifted and AP courses not offered at FCHS, no weight is added to these courses.

*All grades below 70 are failing and will not be awarded credit. The exception is when the transfer grade is in the “D” area and the student has ALREADY earned credit with this grade. In such cases, the student’s grade will be automatically transferred as a 70. (For example if the student’s previous school awarded credit for a grade of D+, D, or D- the student’s numeric grade will be transferred as a 70.

This exception also applies to dual enrollment classes when a student earns a D. That grade will transfer as a 70 + the additional 5 points.

Additional Grading Guidelines
A grade of Pass will be equivalent to the numeric grade of 90
A grade of Fail will be equivalent to the numeric grade of 50
Dual Enrollment grades will receive 5 points in weight.

A	95 + 5	100
B	85 + 5	90
C	75 + 5	80
D	65 + 5	70
F	50 + 5	55

Visitors at School
All individuals arriving at the school as guests, volunteers, or for the purpose of student check-in or check-out are required to present a valid driver’s license or government-issued photo identification. This identification must be scanned at the main office upon arrival.

Your cooperation in adhering to this protocol is greatly appreciated as we work together to maintain a secure learning environment.

Withdrawal from School
A student who desires to withdraw from FCHS to transfer to another school or for any other reason should go to the counselor’s office and must follow the established procedure.

STUDENT HANDBOOK STATEMENTS

Asbestos Statement
This is to certify that the Fannin County School System has fully complied with Federal Regulation HOCFR 763 – Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). An EPA certified inspector has inspected all school buildings for asbestos. A Management Plan for each school is on file in the Principal's office. The Management Plan is available to the public during regular business hours. Copies may be obtained for a fee of $.10 per page.

Congressional Requirements
Senate Bill 289
–Districts must notify students and parents of online options beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.
–Districts must allow students to take an online course even if the course is offered in the local district.
–Online courses can be accessed through the Georgia Virtual School, local virtual schools, or for-profit vendor online schools.
–Students attending public schools are provided this option at no cost (if taken as part of their regular school day). Additional tuition fees may apply if a course is taken outside of the regular school day.
–If a district chooses a for-profit virtual online provider, all associated costs and course policies are specific to the for-profit provider.
–Any course taken as part of a student's regular school day through a for-profit online provider will be paid by the local school. Districts should contact the for-profit online provider for course costs and course policies.
House Bill 147
OCGA 20-2-1185 (e)(2)
This bill requires every public school to conduct an "Intruder Alert" drill by October 1 of each school year. This drill is for students, school administrators, teachers, and other school

personnel based upon the guidance from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

House Bill 175

–This bill mandates the creation of an online clearinghouse of online courses and online course providers to give parents and students the ability to search the clearinghouse for availability to online courses, online course providers, and guidelines for what constitutes high quality online courses.

–The online clearinghouse and information related to the online clearinghouse can be accessed at the following link: *http://www.gadoe.org/_layouts/GADOEPublic.SPApp/Clearinghouse.aspx*

Moment of Silence

Georgia state law mandates a moment of silence be observed each school day.

Destruction of Special Education Student Records Notice

In compliance with state and federal regulations and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), this notice informs you that the Fannin County School System intends to destroy special education records after the student reaches the age of 25 or has graduated. This information is destroyed annually in July. Records to be destroyed may include Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Evaluations and/or Reports, Data Summaries, Notices, and other personally identifiable information within the special education file.

Parents and students should be aware that these records may be needed for Social Security or other reasons. *Positive identification will be required before records can be released to the individual.* If you wish to obtain these records prior to destruction, or for more information, contact the district registrar at 706-946-2004.

The district may maintain a permanent record, without time limitation, of other school-related information for students.

Directory Information Notice

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal Law, requires that the Fannin County School District obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education record unless a certain exception is met. One exception is Directory Information. Directory information is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. The primary purpose of Directory Information is to allow the Fannin County School System to include student information in certain school publications or school-related activities such as:

- Yearbooks
- Honor Roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Athletic and other extracurricular programs
- Class ring manufacturing companies
- Military recruiters

The Fannin County School District has designated the following information as "Directory Information:

- Student's name, address and telephone number;
- Student's date and place of birth;
- Student's e-mail address;
- Student's participation in official school activities and sports;
- Weight and height of members of an athletic team;
- Dates of attendance at schools within the district;
- Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in the district's schools;
- Photograph; and
- Grade level

You have the right to limit or refuse the disclosure of "Directory Information". If you do not want the Fannin County School District to disclose any or all the above information as directory information, you must notify the principal of the school the student attends in writing within 10 days of receipt of this notice/handbook to opt out of having your child's information included as Directory Information. The written notice must: (1)

include the name of the student; (2) include a statement that the parent/guardian or eligible student is opting out of the disclosure of Directory Information under FERPA; and (3) be signed and dated by the parent, guardian, or eligible student (a student age 18 or older). Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt out of the release of Directory Information.

ESSA Right to Know

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Fannin County School System would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
    - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
    - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
    - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/ or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the Principal at your child's school.

Homeless Students / McKinney Vento Act

The McKinney Vento Act requires homeless liaisons to provide public notice of the education rights of homeless students disseminated in places where homeless students receive

services under the Act, such as in homeless shelters. If you have any questions or concerns regarding student homelessness, please contact FCSS Homeless Liaison, Tara Cantrell, at 706-632-2081.

The Homeless Liaison will contact the District's transportation department personnel to discuss transportation needs. If applicable, the Homeless Liaison will contact the school of origin to discuss transportation needs. The parent/guardian will be informed of transportation services, including to and from the school of origin, and that appropriate assistance to access transportation is provided.

Mindset Program

FCSS has adopted the Mindset Program in order to facilitate insight, raise awareness, enhance skills and certify response teams in preventing and managing aggressive behavior. FCSS uses physical restraint only in circumstances where the student is harming themselves, harming others, or there is imminent danger. If a student has to be restrained under the preceding circumstances, a written report will be given to the parent/guardian within one school day.

Nondiscrimination

Sports Equity Nondiscrimination Notice

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Fannin County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The sports equity coordinator for the school system is Dr. Scott Ramsey, Fannin County High School, 360 Rebel Circle, Blue Ridge, Georgia, and (706) 632-2081. Inquires or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.

Statements of Nondiscrimination
The Fannin County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, or disability in admission to programs, services, and activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or any aspect of operations. This also includes but is not limited to additions, modifications, or alterations to the physical plan of any school facility. FCHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in any educational program or employment decision. All programs are offered to all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

Parent/Eligible Student Data Privacy Complaints Policy (JRA)
It is the policy of the Board of Education that the School District ("District") shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act, which are designed to ensure that education records and student data are kept confidential and secure from unauthorized access and disclosure.

For the purposes of this policy, a "parent" is defined as a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian. An "eligible student" is defined as a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Any parent or eligible student ("Complainant") may file a complaint with the District if that individual believes or alleges that a possible violation of rights under the above laws has occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date the complaint is received by the District.

Complaints shall be handled in accordance with the following procedures:
All complaints shall be directed to the Superintendent's Designee:
FCSS Director of Communications and Information Services
130 Rebel Circle
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-258-2791
technologyhub@fannin.k12.ga.us

Upon the receipt of a request from a Complainant, a complaint form will be provided within 3 business days, which is also available on the District's website.

A written response shall be provided to the Complainant within 10 business days of the Designee's receipt of the completed complaint form.

The Complainant may file an appeal with the Superintendent within 10 business days of receipt of the Designee's response. The Superintendent shall provide a written response to the Complainant within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal. The Complainant may file an appeal to the Board of Education within 10 business days of receipt of the Superintendent's response.

The Board of Education shall render a final decision within 10 business days of receipt of an appeal.

Parental Rights under Family Educational Rights Privacy Act for Elementary and Secondary Schools
A. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older

("eligible students") 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 day the Fannin County School System receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.
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 FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Fannin County School System to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

B. The Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act afford parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") the right to file a complaint with their local school system 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. Direct complaints to:

Fannin County School System/Gini Tipton
FCSS Director of Technology and Information Systems
130 Rebel Circle

Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-258-2791
gtiption@fannin.k12.ga.us

C. FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student –

1. To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors,consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) -(a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))
2. To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure Model Annual Notification is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
3. To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State (SEA). Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are

designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of.

Protection Of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires the Fannin County School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents
2. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family
3. Sex behavior and attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, or ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parents
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program

–This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

–Following is a schedule of activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the upcoming school year. This list is not exhaustive, and for surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, the Fannin County School District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)
–If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to your child's principal. He or she will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and /or instructional materials before the survey or instruction is administered to a student.

PLANNED ANNUAL SURVEYS:

Georgia Student Health 2.0 Survey Consent: The Georgia Student Health Survey is administered between October and March each school year. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this survey, please send a letter stating that you do not want your student to participate with your signature and phone number by September 30th of each school year.

Right to Review Instructional Materials § 20-2-1017

You may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for your student. Request to review instructional materials should be directed to the

Fannin County School System
Director of Curriculum
6145 Old Hwy 76
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-3771

Section 504
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 at any of the school offices.

Destruction of Section 504 Student Records Notice
This notice informs you that the Fannin County School System intends to destroy Section 504 education records after five years of the student exiting high school.

Parents and students should be aware that these records may be needed for reference in post secondary schools. *Positive identification will be required before records can be released to the individual.* If you wish to obtain these records prior to destruction or for more information, contact the district registrar at 706-946-2004.

The district may maintain a permanent record, without time limitation, of other school-related information for students.

School Board

Bullying (Policy JCDAG)

The Fannin County Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Definition

Bullying is an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at 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, or involve electronic communication whether or not such 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.

Also included but not limited to:

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:
4. 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;

5. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or otherwise substantially infringing upon the rights of a student.
6. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
7. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Consequences: Grades 6-12

Bullying violations shall result in any of the following consequences or combination of consequences: parent contact, anti-bullying contract, counseling, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, tribunal hearing, possible police action. Upon confirming that an incident of bullying has occurred, the accused student should be charged with bullying and given an age-appropriate consequence which shall include, at minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under the circumstances. Schools should clearly communicate to all parties that retaliation following a report of bullying is strictly prohibited and may result in strong disciplinary action.

School Choice

A student who is the victim of bullying (as defined) might under the appropriate circumstances be the victim of a violent criminal offense. If this is the case the student shall be provided within ten (10) school days of the commission of the violent criminal offense, and to the extent possible, the right to transfer to a school that is making adequate yearly progress (AYP) and has not been identified as being on school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Since FCSS only has one middle school and high school, this will only apply to our elementary schools.

Definition

A violent criminal offense is defined as aggravated battery, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery, aggravated sodomy, armed robbery, arson, kidnapping, murder, rape, and voluntary manslaughter either on campus or at a school-sanctioned event.

Falsifying Reports of Alleged Inappropriate Behavior by Other Students

Any student who knowingly files a false report of bullying, harassment or intimidation is guilty of such and should be punished under the following disciplinary provisions.

Falsifying Reports of Alleged Behavior in Violation of the Student Code of Conduct by Other Students: Students are not to knowingly falsify, misrepresent, omit or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by other students. This will include knowingly false allegations of inappropriate behavior alleged to have been committed by unknown students.

Retaliation Prohibited

Under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4, retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry is prohibited. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of local board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Retaliation Predicated by a Report of Bullying: "Retaliation" is defined as bullying, harassment or intimidation toward a person in response to a previously reported bullying, harassment or intimidation. IMMUNITY - O.C.G.A20-2-751.4(e) "Any person who reports an incident of bullying in good faith shall be immune from civil liability for any damages caused by such reporting."

Bus Regulations/Protocol (Bus Conduct)

The Fannin County Board of Education has a perennial concern for the safe transportation of our students to
and from school. In an effort to ensure that safety, it is the Board's belief that:

A. When students are transported, it may be necessary to make individual, group or entire bus seating assignments. Seating assignments may be made by a bus driver, or principal, and/or the Transportation Director.

B. When students misbehave on school transportation vehicles, the following procedure will be followed:

Bus Driver

1. When a student's first misbehavior is noted, the bus driver must warn the student.
2. If a second misbehavior is observed, the driver will warn the student and may assign a specific seat. (If a seat is assigned, the bus driver will notify the principal and transportation director immediately.)
3. Upon the third observation of misbehavior and every incident thereafter, the bus driver will complete a conduct report and submit it to the principal.
4. Records will be kept of all warnings or actions taken dealing with bus conduct.

Principal

The principal will make a written note of any second offense seat assignment made by the bus driver.
First written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action.
Second written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action which will include one to three days of suspension of the student from riding the bus.
Third written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action which will include three to five days of suspension of the student from riding the bus.
Fourth written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action which will include five to ten days of suspension of the student from riding the bus.
Fifth written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action which will include thirty days of suspension of the student from riding the bus.
Sixth written referral to principal: The principal will take disciplinary action which will include the suspension of the student from riding the bus the remainder of the year. However, all cases of long term suspension will be reviewed every 30 days.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, administrators may utilize discretion in determining appropriate consequences; the

Transportation Director must approve any discretionary variation from established procedure. An exception to the above procedure: Serious offenses may result in immediate suspension of the student from riding the bus.

While the law requires the school district to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents of students from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the student boards the bus in the morning and after the student leaves the bus at the end of the school day.
–Once a student boards the bus – and only at that time – does he/she become the responsibility of the school district.
–In view of the fact that a bus is an extension of the classroom, the board shall require students to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.
–When a student does not conduct himself/herself properly on a bus, the bus driver of that school will bring the incident to the attention of the building principal.
–The building principal will inform the parents immediately of the misconduct and request their cooperation in correcting the student's behavior. A student can be suspended or expelled from school for misbehaving on the bus. A student who becomes a serious disciplinary problem on the bus may have his/her riding privileges suspended or revoked. In such cases the parents of the students involved become responsible for seeing that their child gets to and from school safely.

Note

The administration at FCHS expects our students to recognize that school buses transport younger students, and that they are to act accordingly to provide a good role model for younger students.

Rules

THE FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS.

1. Stand off the roadway while awaiting the bus.
2. Keep your seat at all times when the bus is moving.

3. Keep your arms and heads inside windows.
4. Walk ten feet in front of the bus. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road.
5. Unnecessary conversations with drivers are dangerous. Please remain quiet.
6. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed.
7. Absolute silence is required at all railroad crossings.
8. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Students must obey the driver.
9. The driver has the right to assign students to certain seats if necessary to promote order on the bus.
10. Students are not to leave the bus at any place along the route except for necessary bus transfers unless he/she presents a request by his/her parents that has been approved by the principal.
11. Students are not to use tobacco or e-devices in any form on the bus.
12. Students must be on time; the bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
13. Riding the bus is a privilege and should not be abused.

In accordance with board policy JCDA, failure of students to follow the bus rules will result in negative consequences.

Note

Serious offenses will result in immediate suspension of the student from riding the bus. Students may also be assigned ISS or OSS for serious offenses. Example: throwing objects on the bus would result in a bus suspension and an ISS assignment.

Student Code of Conduct Fannin County Schools
Revised 7-9-26

The school'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 as a whole. Accordingly,

students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.

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 at 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.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the 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 policy or procedures.

AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER

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 and 20-2-738 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 report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day or the following 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 day of receiving such report, notify in writing the teacher and the student's parents or guardian of the discipline or student support services which has occurred as a result of the teacher's report. This written notification shall include information as to how the parents or guardian may contact the principal or designee. Reasonable attempts to confirm receipt of such written notification by the parent or guardian shall be made.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

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 of a particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student, and other relevant factors such as placement in special education programs. Discipline for special education students will be dictated by the student's IEP and in accordance with due process.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral corrections in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

The Code of Conduct shall be available in each school, classroom and online at www.fannin.k12.ga.us. It shall also be provided for each student upon enrollment and to the parents and guardians. Students and parents or guardians are asked to sign to acknowledge receipt of the Code of Conduct.

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

- Warning and/or Counseling with a School Administrator or Counselor
- Loss of Privileges
- Isolation or Time-out
- Temporary Removal from Class or Activity
- Notification of Parents
- Parent Conference
- Corporal Punishment
- Detention/Saturday School
- Temporary Placement in an Alternative Education Program
- Short-term Suspension
- Referral to a Tribunal for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion
- Suspension or Expulsion from the School Bus
- 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 when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

-The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion; however, these punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Fannin County Board of Education policies.

-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. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

-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 parent/guardian will be notified if possible. 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.

-Any disability of a student will be taken into account when addressing misbehavior. All discipline of students with disabilities must follow the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, IDEA, and the Georgia Special Education rules.

-No student in preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports, such as response to intervention, unless such student possessed a weapon, illegal drugs, or other dangerous instrument or such student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-742.

-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. 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 prior notice to students or parents. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers, or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

BEHAVIORS WHICH WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The degree of discipline imposed will be in accordance with the progressive discipline process unless otherwise stated.

- Possession, sale, use in any amount, distribution, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate marijuana, drug paraphernalia, CBD (with or without THC), alcoholic beverage, or other intoxicant
- Possession, distribution, attempted sale, or sale of substances represented as drugs or alcohol
- Sale, attempted sale, distribution, or being under the influence of a prescription or over the counter drug
- Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument: As outlined in O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1, A student shall not possess, use, handle, or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:
    - 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.

    - 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, nun chuck, 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 term 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 and will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney. Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the student code of conduct. See Board Policy JCDAE- Weapons
- Assault, including threats of bodily harm and/or sexual assault, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions: Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to a disciplinarytribunal if a student is alleged to have

committed an assault upon another student or a person attending a school-related function

- Battery, including sexual battery, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions: Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.
- Physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel: (1) 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 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. (2) 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.

- Bus Misbehavior: Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6. These include bullying, as defined by subsection (a) of Code Sections 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus and other unruly behavior. As defined by Code Section 20-2-751.5, The local school board policy shall require a meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district official to form a school bus behavior contract for the student. Such contracts shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Contract provisions may include but shall not be limited to assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus. This subsection is not to be construed to limit the instances when a school code of conduct or local board of education may require use of a student bus behavior contract.
- Students are allowed to “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD), but shall be prohibited from using such devices during the operation of a school bus in such a manner that interferes with the communication equipment or the bus driver’s operation of the school bus. The bus driver may allow wearing of headphones with an audio system on a case-by-case basis as long as it is in accord with local school rules. 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.
- Disrespectful conduct, including use of vulgar or profane language, toward teachers, administrators, other school

personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions

- Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student
- Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, sexual harassment in the form of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature
- Possession or use of tobacco in any form
- Possession or use of e-cigarettes, vaping or related paraphernalia
- Damaging or defacing personal property, including the property of another student or any person legitimately at the school, or school property (vandalism or graffiti) during school hours or off-school hours
- Theft
- Extortion or attempted extortion
- Possession and/or use of fireworks or any explosive
- Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat
- Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives; Disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff
- Classroom and school disturbances
- Violation of school dress code
- Indecent exposure or use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Gambling or possession of gambling devices
- Moving and non-moving driving violations
- Giving false information to school officials
- Cheating on school assignments

- Unexcused absence, chronic tardiness, skipping class, leaving campus without permission, failure to comply with compulsory attendance law as required under O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1
- Bullying: Georgia law O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4 mandates that upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of school officials 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 school.

Hazing
Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts Willful and persistent violation of the student Code of Conduct
Criminal law violations: A student who has committed a violation of the criminal laws and whose presence on the school campus may endanger the safety of other students or cause substantial disruption to the school operation may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal.

DISRUPTIVE PRESENCE
The Fannin County School District reserves the right to exclude a student's enrollment/attendance at a school due to any off-campus behavior 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.

If, through notification by legal authorities or other official/unofficial entities, a principal needs to make a determination regarding the application of this policy as it relates to a student's off-campus behavior, the principal will adhere to the following protocol:

- Contact the Assistant Superintendent of Transportation and Student Conduct, who will work with the principal, the school resource officer, and the school board attorney in order to confirm whether or not charges are being filed against the student.

- Work with the Assistant Superintendent of Transportation and Student Conduct on the potential application of the Fannin County School System “Disruptive Presence” infraction code regarding the student’s off-campus behavior.
- Communicate with the student’s parents regarding (a) the current Georgia requirements regarding schools/school districts dealing with off-campus behaviors and (b) the application of local board policy as it pertains to their student.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Assault: Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike)

Battery: Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person (Example: fighting)

Bullying: In accordance with Georgia law as defined in O.C.G.A 20-2-751.4, bullying is defined as follows: An act that is: Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:

- 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;
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or otherwise substantially infringing upon the rights of a student;Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or 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 including, but not limited to, extracurricular 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.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student: A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.
Disruptive students can be placed in alternative education settings in lieu of being suspended or expelled.

Corporal Punishment: Physical punishment of a student by a school official in the presence of another school official.

Detention: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student’s attendance before school or after school. Students are given one day’s notice so that arrangements for transportation can be made by the parents or guardians.

Disciplinary Tribunal: School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finders and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters. These officials have received the appropriate initial and ongoing trainings to serve in this capacity.

Georgia law shall be observed in developing and implementing disciplinary hearings held by the hearing officer, disciplinary panel, or disciplinary tribunal pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-751 through O.C. G.A. 20-2-759 including the ability to honor disciplinary orders of private schools and other public schools/school systems as outlined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.2.

Dress Code: The current dress code is explained in the student handbook.

Drug: The term drug does not include prescriptions issued to the individual, aspirin or similar medication and/or cold medications that are taken according to product use recommendations and board policy.
Caffeine pills are considered drugs.

Expulsion: Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school quarter or semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal.

Extortion: Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

Fireworks: The term “fireworks” means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or 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 and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

Gambling: Engaging in a game or contest 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.

Hazing: Any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

In-School Suspension: Removal of a student from class or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program isolated from peers.

Physical Violence: 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.

Suspension: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, 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.

System's Early Intervention Program for Student and Parent: This early intervention program is for youth ages 12-18 and their parents/guardians. First offenders for possession or use of alcohol or other intoxicants may be offered the opportunity to attend the Substance Use Prevention Education Resource (SUPER) Program.

Theft: The offense of taking or misappropriating any property of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

Truant: Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences.

Waiver: A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of the consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

Weapon: The term weapon is defined as any object which is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. The following may be defined as dangerous weapons: 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, OR 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, nun chuck, 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 term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

UNSAFE SCHOOLS

Major offenses, including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School

according to the provisions of State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.16.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES

The Fannin County Board of Education provides a variety of resources which are available at every school within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. This Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) includes interventions, Student Support Teams, school counselors, and chronic disciplinary problem student plans.

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 contact 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 the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Georgia law 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, and request at least one parent or guardian attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction 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 or by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law 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 a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior. 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.

Sexual Harassment (Policy JCAC)
It is the policy of Fannin County High School to maintain a learning environment that is free from sexual harassment.
–It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the staff to harass a student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined below.
–It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass other students or school employees through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined below.
–Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written or physical conduct of a sexual

nature when made by a member of the school staff to a student or when made by any student to another student or system employee constitutes sexual harassment.
–Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal harassment or abuse such as sexually-oriented kidding, teasing, and/or jokes
2. Pressure for sexual activity
3. Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications
4. Unwelcome touching such as pinching, patting, or brushing against.
5. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning ones' grades, job, etc.

Any person who alleges sexual harassment by a staff member or student at Fannin County High School or on school transportation must report this behavior directly to the principal or school counselor. All complaints are investigated by the principal.

Reporting of Acts of Sexual Misconduct

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.

State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15
Earning Units of High School Course Credit by Testing Out

1. A student may demonstrate subject area competency by testing-out of any course that has an associated End of Course exam (EOC).
2. A $50 fee will be collected prior to administration of the exam. Fee will be reimbursed if a score of "Distinguished" is obtained.

3. A unit of course credit is awarded to students who reach the performance level of Distinguished on an EOC prior to taking a specific EOC course.
4. Students have only one opportunity per course to test-out.
5. At this time, a student may only earn up to three credits by testing-out.
6. Students must meet the following requirements for earning course credit through testing-out:
    a. Not currently or previously enrolled in the course;
    b. Have earned a grade of B or better in a content area course that is the same content area of the course for which the student is attempting the EOC;
    c. Received a letter of recommendation from a teacher in the same content area.
    d. Received parent/guardian permission as stated by the Local Board of Education.
7. Students who do not reach the performance level of Distinguished when attempting to test-out must enroll in and complete the associated course and retake the EOC even if the student made a passing grade on the EOC during the testing-out attempt.
8. Students who are currently enrolled, or who have previously been enrolled, in a higher-level course are not allowed to earn credit by later attempting to test-out of a lower level course. For example, a student already taking AP Physics may not earn credit for Physical Science by testing-out.
9. Course credit of students who test-out of a course is reported in the same way as the course credit earned through completing courses.
10. Local boards of education may develop policies relating to utilizing grade equivalent scores in the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average (GPA).
11. Under NCAA requirements, units of credit earned through testing-out using the EOC will not count as a core course

credit for athletic aid for any student seeking NCAA Division I or II athletic scholarships.

Student Drug Testing Policy (JCABB)

This policy applies to all Fannin County School System students who

1. participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity,
2. park a car on Fannin County School System property, or
3. whose parents have chosen to utilize the opt-in option available to them in order to have their child participate in the random drug screenings if they are not involved in extra-curricular activities or on-site parking.

A “school-sponsored extracurricular activity” means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, drill team, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances, dramatic productions, student government, fine arts organizations, industrial technology and agricultural organizations, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the school system.

Opt-in Option

Parents may choose to include their child in the random drug testing program through an opt-in option. Those students who are included through this method are required to participate for the entire school year.

Testing Program

Testing pursuant to this policy shall be accomplished through various methods to obtain specimens from the student participant. Any student who refuses to be tested as required under this policy, or who alters or falsifies or attempts to alter or falsify a test, shall be removed from these privileges.

Sanctions

Any participating student whose drug test administered pursuant to this policy renders a positive test result as indicated by the testing facility shall be subject to the following consequences:

First Positive Test Result

–The participating student and his/her parent/legal guardian will be required to attend a conference to disclose and discuss the test results with the school principal and his or her designee(s).

–The student will be required to be re-tested on the next random drug-testing day.

Second Positive Test Result

–The participating student and his/her parent/legal guardian will be required to attend a conference to disclose and discuss the test results with the school principal and his or her designee(s).

–The student and parent/guardian will be informed that they are required to enroll and participate in a drug counseling program.

–The participating student will be suspended from all school-sponsored extracurricular activities and/or all parking privileges for 20 school days if he/she is participating in either of these activities. If participating in interscholastic athletics, the student may remain a part of the team and will be expected to participate in team practices and/or conditioning sessions. If participating in other extracurricular activities other than interscholastic athletics, the student may remain part of the activity and will be expected to participate in practices for any upcoming performances. If the student has been issued a parking permit, he/she will not be permitted to park and/or drive on campus.

–In addition, the student will be required to be re-tested on the next random drug-testing day at the student's and/or parent's/guardian's expense.

Third Positive Test Result

The participating student will be suspended from any and all school-sponsored activities and for driving privileges for one (1) calendar year. At the end of the calendar year, the student will be required to be re-tested. Upon receipt of the re-test results a determination will be made as follows.

- A negative test result will place the student's name back into the random testing pool.
- A positive test result shall be treated again as a third positive drug test result and the participating student will

be suspended from any and all school-sponsored activities and for driving privileges for an additional (1) calendar year. At the end of that calendar year, the student will be required to be re-tested at the student's and/or parent's/legal guardian's expense. The student will remain at the level of the third positive test result until the student has a negative test result at which time the student will begin anew.

Student Support Processes

The Fannin County Board of Education provides a variety of resources which are available at every school within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. These resources include Student Support Teams, school counselors, and chronic disciplinary problem student plans.

Surveys & Screenings

Georgia Student Health 2.0 Survey Consent

If you do not wish for your child to participate in this survey, please send a letter stating that you do not want your student to participate with your signature and phone number by September 30.

Hearing & Vision Screening

If you do not wish for your child to participate in this screening, please send a letter stating that you do not want your student to participate with your signature and phone number by August 26.

Testing Information

FCHS offers the ACT and SAT on campus. More information regarding these tests can be found at *www.actstudent.org* and *www.collegeboard.org.*

FCHS administers PSAT and ASVAB annually each October to sophomores and the top juniors. More information can be found at *www.collegeboard.org* and *www.asvabprogram.com*.

ACCUPLACER Testing (available through the Counselor's Office and Dual Enrollment Coordinator)
AP Exams: TBD
EOC Exams: December & May
EOPA Exams: November & April (initial testing)
Final Exams: last two days of each semester

Weapons Notification

A student shall not possess, use, handle, or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. 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, 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 disk, 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

and will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.
–Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the student code of conduct. See Board Policy JCDAE-Weapons.

School-Parent Compact
In order to encourage and promote student success, it is necessary for the student, teacher and parent to work together toward this common goal. On the school website is the school-parent compact for students, teachers, and parents emphasizing every person's responsibility in achieving this success. Below is an outline.
<u>The teacher will</u>
- Post notes and tutoring opportunities on website
- Assist in class as needed and be available for extra help as often as possible
- Send home progress reports every 4 and ½ weeks and contact parent if failing
- Post weekly grade(s) in Infinite Campus and provide syllabus

<u>The student will</u>
- Take notes daily, work diligently in class, and ask for help as needed
- Come prepared to class daily and take advantage of opportunities for help
- Write down assignments and access teacher website to have assignments complete and turned in on time
- Schedule time to make up missed exams and complete make up work following school's make up protocol

<u>The parent will</u>
- Access Infinite Campus and monitor student's grades
- Check with student for homework and exams
- Remind student to study nightly and be responsible for work, especially when absent
- Contact the school and teacher when a problem arises

Internal Guideline Statement: It is the internal guideline of the Fannin County School District to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all students, staff, and visitors. To maintain a state of readiness for emergency situations, each school within the district is required to develop, update, and submit an Emergency Preparedness Plan to the Superintendent (or designee) on an annual basis.

Key Requirements

- **Annual Submission:** Every school principal or designated campus administrator must submit an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan prior to the start of each academic year.
- **Plan Components:** Individual campus plans must align with district-wide emergency management guidelines and address key hazard protocols (including prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery).
- **Review & Verification:** The Superintendent (or designee) and GEMA / HS shall review each submitted plan for compliance, completeness, and alignment with district policies before granting final approval.
- **Confidentiality:** Due to sensitive security information contained within school safety plans, individual campus EOPs are exempt from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law.