Beaufort County Schools

Code of Student Conduct

and

Student / Parent Handbook

www.beaufort.k12.nc.us

August 2020
# CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

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Student Rights, Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Student and Parent Acknowledgment and Pledge

The Code of Student Conduct has been developed to help your child receive quality instruction in an orderly educational environment. The school needs your cooperation in this effort. Therefore, please (1) review and discuss the Code of Student Conduct with your child and afterwards (2) sign and return this sheet to your child’s school. Should you have any questions when reviewing the Code of Student Conduct, please contact your child’s principal. You may access an electronic copy of the handbook on the BCS website: www.beaufort.k12.nc.us. You may also request a paper copy at your child’s school office.

NOTE: FAILURE TO RETURN THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND PLEDGE WILL NOT RELIEVE A STUDENT OR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN FROM BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING OR COMPLYING WITH THE RULES CONTAINED WITHIN THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.

I have reviewed the Code of Student Conduct with my child and understand the rights and responsibilities contained therein.

Parent: ________________________________________________________________________________________

To help keep my school safe, I pledge to show good character, work to the best of my ability and adhere to the guidelines established within the Code of Student Conduct.

Student: ________________________________________________________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Beaufort County Schools Students and Families,

We are excited that you are a part of our system. If you were with us last year we would like to welcome you back and if you are new to BCS we want to welcome you to our system. The Beaufort County Schools works to ensure that all students are given opportunities to achieve to their highest levels. Our efforts, combined with the efforts of the student and their families, and along with partnerships outside of our school system, are to provide opportunities for growth and development of our students. One key ingredient to students’ success is the learning environment. We believe that the learning environment must be orderly and safe, physically and emotionally; where students feel respected and honored. This requires the involvement of students and adults.

The Student Code of Conduct helps detail what we expect from our students. The Student Code of Conduct is a key part of the work that we engage in with our students and their families. It helps us build a strong, collaborative, respectful culture in each school. Student adherence to the Student Code of Conduct is crucial in helping create a climate that is orderly and safe.

We ask that our students and their families discuss the importance of good citizenship and behavior at school. We also ask that our students and parents sign a form indicating that you have read and understand The Student Code of Conduct and return that form to your school. If you have questions about The Student Code of Conduct, please contact the principal of your school.

We thank you for choosing to be a part of the Beaufort County School System and we look forward to a great school year.
Character Traits

Character education is the deliberate effort to help people understand, care about and act upon core ethical values. An intentional and comprehensive character education initiative provides a lens through which every aspect of school becomes an opportunity for character development.

Benefits:
- It promotes character development through the exploration of ethical issues across the curriculum.
- It develops a positive and moral climate by engaging the participation of students, teachers and staff, parents and communities.
- It teaches students how to solve conflicts fairly, creating safer schools that are freer of intimidation, fear and violence, and are more conducive to learning. *

The following character traits are essential for students to compete locally, nationally and internationally! These traits should be modeled and maintained by adults and students.

Responsibility and Respect
*Being accountable for individual behavior and showing high regard for self, others and property*

Courage
*Doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following the conscience instead of the crowd.*

Citizenship
*Being an informed, responsible and caring participant in the community.*

Gratitude
*Being thankful for what others have done for you.*

Self-Discipline
*Demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose and being in proper control of your words, actions, impulses, and desires.*

Kindness
*Being caring and showing concern and compassion for others.*

Honesty
*Being truthful in word and action.*

Good Judgment
*Thinking through the consequences of your actions and basing decisions on practical wisdom and good sense.*

Perseverance
*Staying the course and not giving up; demonstrating commitment, pride and a positive attitude in completing tasks.*

*Character Education Informational Handbook and Guide, DPI*
### Section I – Student Rights and Responsibilities

**Safe and Orderly Educational Environment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Rights</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Responsibilities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To attend school in a positive educational environment</td>
<td>To only engage in behaviors which support a positive educational environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have school staff that is willing to hear the needs and concerns of students</td>
<td>To express needs and concerns appropriately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To feel safe from crime, violence, intimidation, Bullying, harassment, racism and other discrimination at school</td>
<td>To understand and follow school behavior expectations and to report instances of bullying and dangerous/unsafe situations to school administrators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Rights</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Responsibilities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be informed of school board policies and school rules about absences, recovery and tardiness</td>
<td>To attend school and class daily and to be on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To appeal a decision about recovery</td>
<td>To provide documentation of the reason for an absence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To arrange to make up classwork/tests for credit within five days of returning from an absence</td>
<td>To request make-up work for an absence and arrange to complete it within five days of returning to school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Counseling Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Rights</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Responsibilities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be informed about school guidance services</td>
<td>To utilize guidance services for educational improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have access to school counselors</td>
<td>To request counseling or advisement when needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Free Speech/Expression**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Rights</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Responsibilities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To express views without being obscene, disruptive, discriminatory or provocative</td>
<td>To respect the rights of others when they express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To choose to participate in patriotic observances such as the Pledge of Allegiance</td>
<td>To behave respectfully during patriotic observances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have religious beliefs respected</td>
<td>To respect the religious beliefs of others and to refrain from activities that hold religious beliefs up to ridicule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To help develop and distribute publications as part of the educational process</td>
<td>To follow the rules of responsible journalism under the guidance of an advisor and administrator, including refraining from publishing material that is inappropriate for the school environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be protected from bullying, intimidation and threats</td>
<td>To refrain from bullying, intimidation and threatening conduct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Privacy and Property Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Rights</th>
<th>Student Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To have personal possessions remain private</td>
<td>To keep prohibited items away from school and school functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unless school staff have reason to believe that</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a student is in possession of items prohibited by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Code of Student Conduct, board policy or law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have personal property respected</td>
<td>To respect the personal property of others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Safe Harbor Provision**

A student who inadvertently possesses or finds a prohibited object shall immediately notify the school staff and surrender the object. A student may approach a school staff member and voluntarily surrender an object prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct without being subjected to discipline so long as the object is one that the student could lawfully possess off school grounds. This rule does not apply to firearms or destructive devices.

If a student discovers an illegal item (i.e. weapons or drugs) or other contraband on school property or at a school function, the student may approach a school official and report the discovery. A student shall not be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct solely for making such a report. School officials shall make a determination after an investigation of the report.

The Safe Harbor Provision may not apply if a search is ongoing in any location of the school, if the object is surrendered during a search, or if the object is not turned in prior to discovery by school staff. With respect to objects that have been turned over to school staff, the parent/guardian must make arrangements to pick up the object from the school, unless it is an object that must be turned over to law enforcement.

**Behavior on the School Bus or at the Bus Stop**

For the purpose of providing safe transportation for all students, in addition to the other Code of Conduct rules, the following guidelines must be observed:

- Refrain from conduct or behavior that interferes with the orderly, safe and expeditious transportation of bus riders.
- Obey the bus driver at all times.
- Act appropriately while waiting for the bus.
- Stand on the sidewalk or the edge of the street by the curb.
- Do not stand on the traveled part of the road.
- Give your proper name when requested by the bus driver.
- Be at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to a scheduled stop time.
- Ride only on assigned bus.
- Board and depart only at the assigned bus stop.
- Remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- Do not put your feet/legs or other objects such as book bags in the aisle.
- Do not throw items from the bus or on the bus.
- Refrain from eating or drinking while on the bus.

Video cameras have been installed on some buses. Students may be filmed while on the bus.

Violations of these standards, the Code of Student Conduct, or any behavior which substantially disrupts the bus driver and causes, or has the potential to cause, a safety hazard on a moving bus, may be the basis for suspension from the bus and/or school or revocation of bus-riding privileges. In addition, the guidance, rules, and standards on the following two pages with regards to boarding and exiting the bus must also be followed. Failure to do so may be the basis for suspension from the bus and/or school or revocation of bus-riding privileges as well.
Student and Parent Instruction
Crossing the Street to Board the School Bus

Follow these same steps:
- Parents, even if you are
  standing nearby, please
  stay 12 feet away.
- If you hear the horn, look
  and wait.
- Pay attention. Take ear buds
  out. Don't talk or text.
- Stay on your side of the road,
  12 feet away from traffic.

Cars May Not Stop!
Is Dangerous - Crossing the Highway

A bus horn means danger.

Look and Find Safety!

Stop:

3. Stop for moving traffic both ways as you walk directly across the road.

Look:

4. Look for moving traffic both ways in full view of your driver. Be careful.

Cross:

5. Cross 12 feet in front of the bus in full view of your driver, being careful.

Stay:

1. Stay on your side of the road, 12 feet away from traffic.

2. Wait for the bus to stop and then check again. The driver will be holding his left palm up for you to walk for traffic to stop.
Look and find safely!
A bus horn means dangerous.

Follow these same steps:
- Parents, even if you are
  finding safety.
- If you hear the horn, look and
  wait until the bus stops.
- Do not talk or text while
  boarding or exiting the bus.
- You must look in both ways.

Cars may not stop.
- Crossing the highway
- is dangerous.

Student and Parent Instruction
Crossing the street when exiting the school bus.
**Conduct While on School Property**
Parents are encouraged to be active participants in their child’s education. A partnership between parents and the school requires meaningful and appropriate communication. As such, we must be civil in our discourse. This requires that:

1. No one disrupts or attempts to interfere with the operation of a classroom or any other area of a school.
2. School rules for access and visitation are strictly obeyed.
3. Legitimate obligations and time constraints are respected.
4. Information that might help reach our common goal is shared. This includes information about safety issues, academic progress, changes that might impact a student’s work or events in the community that might impact the school.

In the event of a violation of the above guidelines, the following steps are available:

1. Students who believe that have been treated in an inappropriate manner should report the behavior to the school administrator.
2. Parents/guardians or community members who believe they have been treated in an inappropriate manner should report the behavior to the staff member’s immediate supervisor.
3. Employees who believe they have been treated in an inappropriate manner by a student or parent shall report the incident to the school administrator.
4. Anyone on school district property may be directed to leave the premises by an administrator or other authorized staff. Any who threatens to, attempts to, or actually disrupts school or school district operations may be directed to leave the premises by an administrator or other authorized staff and may have limitations placed on their campus access. Disruptive behavior is conduct that creates or may reasonably be expected to create a material and substantial disruption to the educational environment or to the operation of the school, or that poses a threat to the safety of students, staff or visitors. It includes but is not limited to:
   - Profane, lewd, obscene or abusive language, gestures or other written or electronic communication;
   - Rude or riotous noise;
   - Disorderly or assaultive behavior;
   - Vandalism or the defacement of public property
   - Threats to the health or safety of others; and
   - Any other conduct that violates any applicable law or policies of the Board.
5. More details about the expected conduct of visitors to campus may be found in BCS Policy 5020, “Visitors to the Schools.”

**Conduct Away from School Property**
Students may be disciplined for conduct away from BCS property that violates the Code of Student Conduct and that has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment. (BCS Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies)

**Transfer When Criminal Charges are Pending**
The superintendent may transfer to an alternative school or program a student who has been charged with a felony or a crime that allegedly endangered the safety of others, regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed on school grounds or related to school activities, if it is reasonably foreseeable that the educational environment in the regular educational setting will be significantly disrupted if the student remains. In such cases, the student will have a behavior contract detailing the specific requirements for continued enrollment in the alternative school. The parent may appeal the superintendent’s decision to the board. In appropriate circumstances, as permitted by NC law, the superintendent may recommend expulsion of the student. More details about transfers when criminal charges are pending may be found in BCS Policy 4305, “Alternative Learning Programs/Schools” and BCS Policy 4335, “Criminal Behavior.”

**Participation in Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Activities**
In order to participate in extracurricular/co-curricular activities or athletic programs, students must adhere to Board of Education policies, school-level criteria, North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules (where applicable) and law. The district’s behavioral expectations extend beyond the classroom and school campus. Therefore, regardless of when and where the charge arises, any student who is charged with or adjudicated/found guilty of a felony may be excluded from participation in extracurricular/co-curricular activities.
**Student Dress**
The dress and personal appearance of students greatly affects their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. For more details, please see BCS Policy 4316 and 4316-R, “Student Dress Code.”

**Section II – Disciplinary Response Code Overview**
Student disciplinary infractions and associated responses are divided into five progressively severe tiers. Both infractions and responses are outlined later in this document.

**Corporal Punishment**
BCS does not use corporal punishment, believing that other consequences are more appropriate and effective for teaching self-control. Reasonable force necessary to protect one-self or others is not considered corporal punishment. BCS Policy 4302, “School Plan for Management of Student Behavior.”

**Treatment of Administrators, Teachers and Staff**
A student who commits an infraction against or involving an administrator, teacher, or other district staff member will be subject to a heightened response under the five tiers. However, the heightened response will not exceed the maximum penalty for the particular rule violation.

**Participation in Rule Violation**
A student who participates or conspires with another to violate a rule may be found in violation of the rule. If so, the student will be subject to the full disciplinary consequence for the rule violation.

**Truancy**
Students between ages 7 and 16, and students younger than 7 who are enrolled in school, are required by law to attend school. For students with more than 10 unexcused absences, the student and/or parent may be referred for prosecution.

**Possession of Illegal Substances**
The unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and/or alcohol by students on school property or at any school function is prohibited. In addition to school consequences, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and may be required to be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**Possession of Weapons**
The possession of weapons by students on school property or at any school function is prohibited. In addition to school consequences, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and may be required to be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**Reports to Law Enforcement Agencies**
As required by North Carolina law, principals are required to report the following acts to law enforcement when they have personal or actual notice of the incident and the acts occurred on the school campus: “assault involving serious personal injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, possession of a weapon in violation of the law or possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law.” N.C.G.S. § 115C-288(g).

**Reports and Investigations of Child Abuse**
Pursuant to state law, school personnel are required to report any suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, dependency or maltreatment. Suspected child abuse, neglect, dependency or death as a result of maltreatment by parents or other caretakers must be reported to the Department of Social Services. Suspected human trafficking, involuntary servitude, and sexual servitude of a child are special forms of child abuse and must be reported to the Department of Social Services regardless of the relationship between the victim and perpetrator. Suspected child maltreatment by a caregiver in a child care facility, including in a licensed preschool classroom or other licensed classroom or program operated by the school system, must be
reported to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education. Where the source of the child abuse, neglect, dependency, or maltreatment is uncertain, a report should be made to agencies. BCS Policy 4240, “Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations.” Procedures followed at school when a representative of the Department of Social Services wishes to interview a student who is an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect are provided in the Memorandum of Agreement between BCS and BCDSS.

**Reports to Department of Motor Vehicles**

Pursuant to state law, BCS is required to report the following acts to the Department of Motor Vehicles if the student is the minimum age of 14 and is in the 8th grade or above: possession or sale of alcoholic beverages or illegal controlled substances; bringing, possessing or using a weapon or firearm on school property; and physical assault on school staff when the conduct results in a suspension in excess of 10 days or the student is assigned to an alternative school.

**Personal Technology Devices**

A personal technology device (PTD) is a portable Internet-accessing device that is not the property of the district that can be used to transmit communications by voice, written characters, words or images, share information, record sounds, process words, and/or capture images, such as a laptop computer, tablet, smartphone, cellphone, personal digital assistant or E-Reader. A student may possess and use a PTD on school property, at after-school activities and at school related functions, provided that during school hours, the PTD is not activated, used, displayed or visible. Administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use. However, students are not required to use PTDs for instructional purposes. Possession of a PTD by a student is a privilege, which may be revoked for violations of the *Code of Student Conduct*. Violations may result in confiscation of the PTD (to be returned only to a parent) and/or other disciplinary actions. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage to PTDs or other electronic devices brought onto BCS property. Students permitted to use PTDs during the school day must follow all rules set forth in BCS Policy 4318, “Use of Wireless Communication Devices;” BCS Policy 4312, “Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety;” and sign BCS Policy 4312-E, “Student Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement.”

**Section III – Disciplinary Responses**

According to BCS Policy 4300, “Student Behavior Policies,” minor violations of the *Code of Student Conduct* may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to the following: parental involvement, such as conferences; isolation or time-out for short periods of time; behavior improvement agreements; instruction in conflict resolution and anger management; peer mediation; individual or small group sessions with the school counselor; academic intervention; in-school suspension; detention before and/or after school or on Saturday; community service; exclusion from graduation ceremonies; exclusion from extracurricular activities; suspension from bus privileges; and placement in an alternative school.

Serious violations of the *Code of Student Conduct* may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees or school visitors may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is provided in policies 4351, “Short-Term Suspension,” and 4353, “Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension and Expulsion.” See also policy 4333, “Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety,” for information regarding 365-day suspensions for certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices.

**Tier I** – Provides programs and/or school options for students who are at risk for behavioral issues and may be disenfranchised from school or commit minor infractions on an infrequent basis. Program options are typically implemented in the student’s current school and include services such as support related to anger management or conflict resolution. School assignment options may include a student’s placement in an alternative school.

**Potential Responses:** (This list contains some of the options that may be used by the administration in addressing student conduct. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.)
- parental involvement, such as conferences
- isolation or time-out for short periods of time
- behavior improvement agreements
- instruction in conflict resolution and anger management
- peer mediation
- individual or small group sessions with the school counselor
- academic intervention
- in-school suspension
- detention before and/or after school or on Saturday
- community service
- exclusion from extracurricular activities
- exclusion from graduation ceremonies
- suspension from bus privileges
- substance abuse counseling
- Referral to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Team according to BCS process
- Restorative Justice/Restorative Practice (i.e. peer jury, peer mediation, community service)

**Tier II** – Provides interventions and consequences for students who commit infractions of the Code of Student Conduct such as being chronically disruptive or participating in a fight that does not result in injury or significant disruption to the educational environment.

**Potential Responses:** (This list contains some of the options that may be used by the administration in addressing student conduct. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.)

- choice of response from Tier I
- alternative classroom assignment
- out-of-school suspension for 1 to 10 days
- warning of referral to Tier III (referral to Tier III is an option for repeated violations)

**Tier III** – Provides interventions and consequences for students who commit more serious infractions of the Code of Student Conduct and/or have repeat offenses.

**Potential Responses:** This list contains some of the options that may be used by the administration in addressing student conduct. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.)

- choice of response from Tier I or Tier II
- long-term suspension for 11 to 30 days
- disciplinary reassignment to an alternative school
- warning of referral to Tier IV (for repeated offenses)

**Tier IV** – Provides interventions and consequences for students who commit serious offenses and whose conduct seriously threatens the safety of students, staff or visitors or threatens to substantially disrupt the educational environment. Options at Tier IV include long-term suspension for the remainder of the school year and/or assignment to an alternative school. If the offense leading to the long-term suspension occurred during the final quarter of the school year, the exclusion may include the first semester of the following year. Additionally, by law, with limited exceptions, students must be suspended from school for 365 days for bringing a firearm or destructive device on school property.

**Tier V** – Expulsion: The indefinite removal of a student from school and all school properties by the Board of Education for a student (age 14 or older) whose continued presence constitutes a clear threat to other persons or who is a registered sex offender who is subject to the Jessica Lunsford Act. An expelled student may petition the Board for readmission after 180 days from the date he/she was expelled. If granted, the student may be placed in an alternative school with a re-entry plan developed by BCS personnel.

**Within each tier, the administrator has the discretion to impose consequences deemed most appropriate to address the infraction. In the instances where an infraction falls within multiple tiers, it is within the discretion of the administrator to determine tier assignment for the infraction.**
Section IV – Code of Conduct

DPI/PowerSchool codes are listed in italics and bold print. These are state approved codes that are utilized in reporting BCS data to the state. Select one or more when imputing incidents into PowerSchool.

Rule 1  
ATTENDANCE (Citizenship/Responsibility/Self-Discipline) UB: Excessive Tardiness, UB: Leaving School without Permission, UB: Leaving Class without Permission, UB: Truancy, UB: Skipping School, UB: Skipping Class, UB: Cutting Class, UB: Late to Class: A student must attend every class every day unless there is a lawful reason for the absence. Students who are tardy, cut school or class or have excessive unexcused absences are in violation of this rule. Repeated violations of this rule, if other interventions have been tried, may also result in Tier II consequences, with the condition that any out-of-school suspension imposed for conduct related solely to violation of this rule is limited to 2 days per violation.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Tier II Response(s) with maximum of 2 days OSS

Rule 2  
FOOD/BEVERAGES (Citizenship/Responsibility/Self-Discipline) UB: Inappropriate Item on School Property, UB: Insubordination: A student will eat and drink only in authorized areas of the school.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Tier I Response(s)

Rule 3  
STUDENT DRESS (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship) UB: Dress Code Violation: A Student will maintain personal attire and grooming standards that promote safety, health, and acceptable standards of social conduct, and are not disruptive to the educational environment. The board prohibits clothing that is substantially disruptive; is provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene; or endangers the health or safety of the student or others. For more details, please see BCS Policy 4316 and 4316-R, “Student Dress Code.”

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Tier II Response(s) with maximum of 5 days OSS (see page 9)

Rule 4  
PERSONAL PROPERTY (Responsibility/Self-Discipline) A student is permitted to bring or possess only objects that have an educational purpose and will not distract from teaching or learning. Students are permitted to sell items on campus only as part of an approved school activity. (All other items will be confiscated and returned to the parent at a mutually agreed upon time, not to exceed one calendar week.) The following are among the list of prohibited items:

A. Personal Technology Devices UB: Cell Phone Use: A personal technology device (PTD) is a portable Internet-accessing device that is not the property of the district that can be used to transmit communications by voice, written characters, words or images, share information, record sounds, process words, and/or capture images, such as a laptop computer, tablet, smartphone, cellphone, personal digital assistant or E-Reader. A student may possess and use a PTD on school property, at after-school activities and at school related functions, provided that during school hours, the PTD is not activated, used, displayed or visible. Administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for educational purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use. “Educational purposes” include student education, research and career development. Possession of a PTD by a student is a privilege, which may be revoked for violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Violations may result in confiscation of the PTD (to be returned only to a parent) and/or other disciplinary actions. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage to PDTs or other electronic devices brought onto BCS property. Students permitted to use PDTs during the school day must follow all rules set forth in BCS Policy 4318, “Use of Wireless Communication Devices;” BCS Policy
4312, “Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety;” and sign BCS Policy 4312-E, “Student Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement.”

B. Toys, games (electronic and other), electronic smoking devices, pagers, personal media devices, other electronic equipment, and any devices that create noise and disturbance. **UB: Inappropriate Item on School Property:** Possession of these or any similar devices without permission of the administration is prohibited. Possession of a toy gun that could be mistaken for an actual weapon is a violation of Rule 29, Weapons and Dangerous Objects.

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<tr>
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**Rule 5**

MISREPRESENTATION (Honesty) A student will be honest and submit his/her own work.

A. Altering Report Cards or notes: **UB: Honor Code Violation:** Tampering with report cards, official passes, notes or other school documents, in any manner, including changing grades or forging names to excuses, is prohibited.

B. False Information **UB: Falsification of Information:** Making false statements, written or oral, to anyone in authority is prohibited.

C. Cheating **UB: Honor Code Violation:** Violating rules of honesty and Honor Codes, including but not limited to plagiarism, violating copyright laws, or copying another student’s test or assignment, are prohibited. The superintendent has the discretion to punish violations of this rule as Tier III if the student’s actions have a serious detrimental effect on other students or staff.

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</table>

**Rule 6**

INSUBORDINATION (Responsibility/Respect) **UB: Insubordination:** A student will obey the lawful direction of any authorized staff member while in school, participating in a school activity or on school property. All students are expected to behave in a respectful manner. This includes, but is not limited to, complying with the direction or instruction of a staff member, not walking away from a staff member while being spoken to, speaking to staff in an appropriate manner and completing all assigned work.

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</table>

**Rule 7**

Trespassing (Citizenship/Responsibility/Respect) **UB: Being in an Unauthorized Area:** A student will not enter school property or a school facility without proper authority. This rule includes being on the campus of a school to which the student is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of school administrators; loitering at any school after the close of the school day without any specific need or supervision; or being on the property of any school during a period of suspension or expulsion without the express permission of the principal. A student who is trespassing on school property may be criminally prosecuted. BCS Policy 4330, “Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property.”

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**Rule 8**

MEDICATION (Responsibility/Honesty/Good Judgment) **UB: Inappropriate Item on School Property, UB: Possession of Student's Own Prescription Drug, UB: Insubordination:** Students shall not transport prescription medication to or from school or have prescription medication in their possession at any time without meeting the conditions prescribed in BCS Policy 6125, “Administering Medicines to Students.” A student who is allowed to self-administer medicine pursuant to this policy will be subject to disciplinary action if the student uses his or her prescribed medication in a manner other than as prescribed. Elementary
students are not permitted to self-administer medication, whether prescribed or non-prescribed under any circumstances. Middle and high school students may self-administer non-prescribed over-the-counter medication. Distribution and/or consumption of medication in violation of Policy 6125 may result in an immediate Tier III consequence. Violation of this rule may also be treated as violation of Rule 29.

**Rule 9**

**GENERALLY DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR** (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline) **UB: Disruptive Behavior, UB: Repeat Offender:** A student will maintain appropriate behavior so as to refrain from disrupting class, school or bus activity and be prepared for instruction at all times. A student shall not talk out in class or move from his/her assigned seat/area without permission, throw objects (except as directed by staff for an instructional purpose), horseplay, harass, tease or make rude noises. Repeated incidents of generally disruptive behavior may be considered a Tier III infraction.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

**Rule 10**

**UNSAFE ACTION** (Good Judgment/Citizenship/Responsibility/Respect) **UB: Being in an Unauthorized Area, UB: Disruptive Behavior, UB: Insubordination:** A student shall not commit any action that has the potential to cause danger or physical harm to himself or to others, to include but not limited to: exiting a moving school bus, exiting a school bus by way of the emergency exit absent an emergency, attempting to elude school officials by running through a parking lot or a traffic area, climbing on the roof of buildings, construction areas, boiler rooms, attics or elevator shafts, or any action that has the potential for physical harm to self or others. This includes striking matches, flicking cigarette lighters or using any instrument capable of producing fire on school property or at a school sponsored or school-related activity that is on or off school property. This rule will apply only when the unsafe behavior does not meet the standards of any other violation.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Tier III Response(s) for repeated violations (see page 9)

**Rule 11**

**BULLYING/CYBERBULLING, PROFANITY, OBSCENITY AND/OR DEROGATORY LANGUAGE** (Responsibility/Respect/Self-Discipline/Kindness) **UB: Bullying, UB: Harassment-Racial, UB: Harassment-Disability, UB: Inappropriate Language/Disrespect, UB: Cyber-bullying, UB: Harassment – Sexual Orientation, UB: Harassment – Religious Affiliation:** Bullying and/or harassing behavior are strictly prohibited in BCS. It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain learning environments that are free from harassment or bullying (BCS Policies 433, “Assault, Threats and Harassment” and 4021, “Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying”) Students are expected to use appropriate language and conduct at school and school functions and possess only appropriate materials. This rule applies to cursing, possessing, sending, or receiving written materials or electronic text and/or images that convey an offensive, racial, derogatory, bullying or obscene message to another person. This includes but is not limited to references to race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, gender identity expression, sexual orientation, religion and/or physical or sensory disability, physical appearance or making offensive statements or gestures.

In addition, as with other disciplinary violations, any manner of bullying that occurs off campus may violate the Code of Student Conduct if it has a direct and immediate impact to the orderly and efficient operation of the school or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

Students who feel bullied, harassed or intimidated at school by an adult or another student or who witness such conduct may report it in one of three ways: 1. Go to www.beaufort.k12.nc.us and click on the “Report a
Bully or Harassment” link; 2. Call the BCS Anonymous Tip Line at (252) 940-6545; or 3. Use the Intimidation, Bullying and/or Threats form located on page 63

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Assignment to an Alternative School

**Rule 12 GAMBLING (Responsibility/Self-Discipline) UB: Gambling:** A student will not play games of skill or chance for money or property.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)

**Rule 13 VEHICLE USE (Responsibility/Citizenship/Good Judgment)**

A. **Reckless Vehicle Use UB: Other School Defined Offense; UB: Disruptive Behavior:** A student will not operate any motorized or self-propelled vehicle on school grounds in a manner that is a threat to health and/or safety, or a disruption to the educational process. Driving to school is a privilege, which may be limited or revoked at any time by the school principal.

B. **Vehicle Parking on Campus UB: Inappropriate Item on School Property:** A student will not park a motor vehicle on school premises unless he/she has complied with all school vehicle parking requirements. Parking permits must be visibly displayed and vehicles must be parked only in assigned spaces. Unauthorized vehicles may be towed.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension

**Rule 14 VANDALISM (Responsibility/Citizenship/Good Judgment) UB: Property Damage:** A student will not willfully, with or without malice, act alone or participate with others to damage or destroy property of another, including property belonging to the school or the district, staff, students or other adults on campus or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. A student or parent/guardian will be held financially responsible, as allowed by law for the willful or malicious destruction of property.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension

**Rule 15 USE OF FIRE (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Good Judgment) *RO: Burning of a School Building, UB: Unlawfully Setting a Fire:** A student will neither set fire not attempt to set fire to anything on school property or participate with others to damage or destroy school property through the use of fire. (This violation does not include any smoking violations. For smoking violations refer to Rule 28C.)

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension of Expulsion

**Rule 16 THEFT (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline) UB: Theft, UB: Inappropriate Items on School Property (Stolen Goods):** A student will not steal or possess stolen property, or participate with others to do so. Stolen property includes any object that is possessed without the permission of the owner. In some instances, violations of Rule 16 may be a Tier II infraction.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
Rule 17  BREAKING AND ENTERING  (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline)  *PD  
Robbery with a Firearm or Powerful Explosive, UB: Being in an Unauthorized Area, UB: Theft:  A student 
will not break into any district property. This will include any unauthorized entry into school property with or 
without destruction to the property.  
RESPONSES:  
Minimum:  Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)  
Maximum:  Long-Term Suspension

*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code

Rule 18  BREAKING AND ENTERING WITH THE INTENT TO COMMIT A FELONY OR THEFT  (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Good Judgment)  UB: Being in an Unauthorized Area, UB: Theft:  A student will not unlawfully enter any district property with the intent of committing a  felony, to steal and/or take and carry away the property of another, or to attempt to commit the taking of property.  
RESPONSES:  
Minimum:  Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)  
Maximum:  Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 19  ROBBERY  (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline)  *RO: Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon, *PD: Robbery With a Firearm or Powerful Explosive:  A student will not take or attempt to take another person’s property by force or violence.  
RESPONSES:  
Minimum:  Tier III Response(s) (see page 9)  
Maximum:  Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 20  EXTORTION  (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline)  UB: Extortion:  A student will not take, threaten or attempt to take the property (including but not limited to money) of others through intimidation.  
RESPONSES:  
Minimum:  Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)  
Maximum:  Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 21  UNAUTHORIZED USE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVICES  (Honesty)  UB: Misuse of school technology, UB: Honor Code Violation, UB: Communicating Threats, UB: Cyber-bullying:  
A.  BCS-owned property: A student shall refrain from inappropriate use of school system computers/technology devices or from using the BCS electronic communications and wireless connection network without proper authority. This includes unauthorized use of sign on codes and the school telephone system, communication of threats or implied threats, bullying or harassment, and unauthorized attempts to contact any BCS computer site from any computer station. 
B.  Personal technology devices: A student will refrain from any activity or distribution of information from personal technology devices that would constitute a violation of a rule under the Code of Student Conduct or a violation of law, as, but not limited to, bullying or harassment on social media or other sites if the conduct has or may have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment. Publication of information on the Internet is considered distribution regardless of the location of the technology device from which the offending content was published.  
RESPONSES:  
Minimum:  Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)  
Maximum:  Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion
Rule 22  FALSE ALARM (Responsibility/Good Judgment)  
*UB: False Fire Alarm: In the absence of an emergency, a student shall not call 911, signal or set off an automatic signal indicating the presence of an emergency.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code

Rule 23  PORNOGRAPHIC PROFANE AND/OR VIOLENT MATERIAL (Responsibility/Respect/Citizenship/Self-Discipline)  
*UB: Inappropriate Items on School Property, UB: Harassment-Sexual: A student shall refrain from having any pornographic or profane material in his/her possession, including but not limited to pictures, magazines, CD’s, DVD’s, electronic text or images and sexually explicit or graphically violent materials (including but not limited to documents or instructions concerning the creation and/or the use of weapons.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 24  COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY (Honesty)  
*UB: Use of Counterfeit Items, UB: Inappropriate Items on School Property. A student shall not distribute, produce or use counterfeit currency on school property or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 25  BOMB THREAT (Responsibility/Respect/Self-Discipline/Good Judgment) *RO: Bomb Threat: A student shall not make any report or notification, knowing or having reason to know the report is false (verbal or written), indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Long-Term Suspension
Maximum: Expulsion

Rule 26  AGGRESSIVE PHYSICAL/VERBAL ACTION (Responsibility/Respect/Kindness/ Self Discipline): A student shall not exhibit any form of aggressive physical or verbal action against another student, staff member or any other adult at school. Minor incidents of hitting, biting, spitting, shoving, kicking or throwing objects at a student or adult may be a Tier I or II infraction.

A. Verbal Confrontation/Provocation  
*UB: Aggressive Behavior, UB: Bullying, UB: Harassment-Verbal: A student shall not approach another person in a confrontational, provocative or bullying manner. This will include attempts to intimidate or instigate another person to fight or commit other acts of physical aggression.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

B. Fighting  
*UB: Fighting: The exchange of mutual aggressive physical contact between students, with or without injury is prohibited. A student who is physically attacked may act in self-defense without consequence. Self-defense is defined as the act by a non-aggressor victim using reasonable force to avoid being hit in order to enable oneself to get free from the attacker and notify school authorities. It is not self-defense to participate in the fight. Students who exceed reasonable force in protecting themselves will be disciplined for violating this rule even though another person provoked the fight.
Administrators will have discretion to recognize the need for self-defense on an incident-by-incident basis.

**RESPONSES:**

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*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code*

C. Threatening/Intimidating UB: Communicating Threats, UB: Bullying, UB: Harassment-Verbal, PD: Threat of Physical Attack With a Firearm: A student shall not threaten to strike, attack, or harm any person, or cause another person to become fearful by intimidation, through any medium, including threats made in person, through another person at the request of the perpetrator, on the telephone, in writing, through the use of gang paraphernalia, or by any digital communication (cyber-bullying) that pose a safety risk to the school environment. The tier will be determined by the level of risk presented by the threat, whether the threat could have reasonably been carried out and whether the threatened person was made fearful.

**RESPONSES:**

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E. Assault on a Staff Member *RO: Assault on School Personnel with no Serious Injury, *PD: Assault Resulting in Serious Injury: A student shall not physically attack a staff member or adult. See self-defense as defined above. **Multiple Assaults:** A student shall not act in concert to physically attack a staff member or other adult.

**RESPONSES:**

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F. Inciting to Riot/Chaos UB: Disorderly Conduct, UB: Disruptive Behavior, UB: Aggressive Behavior: A student shall not engage in behavior of a violent or aggressive nature in a highly volatile area that could result in a riot, widespread chaos or aggressive actions (verbal and/or physical) by students witnessing or involved in the incident.

**RESPONSES:**

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G. Refusing to Disperse UB: Insubordination, UB: Disruptive Behavior: A student who witnesses an incident under this rule shall disperse at the request of staff members.

**RESPONSES:**

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**Rule 27 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR (Responsibility/Respect/Self-Discipline/Kindness)** A student shall not engage in any sexual behavior on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.
A. Offensive Touching UB: Harassment-Sexual (not including sexual organ, anus, breast, groin or buttocks), *PD: Sexual Assault (no rape/sexual offense) (includes sexual organ, anus, breast, groin or buttocks): A student shall not engage in unwanted touching of an offensive or sexual nature.

*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code

B. Sexual Harassment UB: Harassment-Sexual: A student shall not engage in unwanted verbal or physical (e.g. gesturing) conduct of a sexual nature which may reasonably be regarded as intimidating, hostile or offensive. This includes the communication of (by digital or other means) or the intentional display of sexually explicit material.

C. Indecent Exposure UB: Harassment-Sexual: A student shall not intentionally expose private body parts, including but not limited to the display of the buttocks (mooning).

D. Consensual Sexual Activity UB: Mutual Sexual Contact between two Students, UB: Excessive Display of Affection: A student shall not engage in consensual sexual activity. “Consensual” means all parties are willing participants in the activity.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

E. Sexual Battery *PD: Rape, *PD: Sexual Assault, *PD: Sexual Offense: A student shall not engage in or attempt to engage in sexual activity with another person by force, threat or fear.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier III Response(s) (see page 9)
Maximum Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 28 ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS (Responsibility/Citizenship): A student shall not use, purchase, sell, distribute, be under the influence of or possess any kind of tobacco, alcoholic beverage, paraphernalia, controlled substance (as defined by state law) or illegal or counterfeit substance.

A. Tobacco UB: Possession of Tobacco, UB: Use of Tobacco: A student shall not use, sell, distribute or possess any kind of tobacco product on school property or at a school function.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: 1st Time Offense: Tier II Response(s) to include completion of tobacco cessation Program (see page 9)
Maximum: Repeat Offenders Tier II Response(s)

B. Alcohol *RO: Alcohol Possession, *RO: Use of Alcoholic Beverages: A student shall not possess, use or be under the influence of alcohol on school property or at a school function. For distribution of alcohol see Rule 28E2.

C. Marijuana UB: Under the influence of controlled substances, *RO: Possession of Controlled Substance-Marijuana, UB: Possession of chemical or drug paraphernalia: A student shall not possess, use or be under the influence of marijuana on school property or at a school function. “Marijuana” is defined to also include synthetic cannabinoids and substances intended to mimic the effects of marijuana. Possession of large amounts or of more than one individually wrapped package of marijuana will be deemed to be a violation of Rule 28E2.

D. Paraphernalia: UB: Possession of chemical or drug paraphernalia: A student shall not use, possess, or distribute any drug related paraphernalia including but not limited to: rolling papers, cigar wrappers, e-cigarettes, vaping/hookah devices, bongs, pipes, or any item intended for the use, storage, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other drugs.
RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier III Response(s) (see page 9)
1st Time Offense Rule 28 (B) or (C): Principal has discretion to reduce OSS to 10 days if student successfully completes at least five sessions of Substance Abuse Counseling.
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion
*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code

E. Drugs/Illegal Substances and Counterfeit Drugs:
1. Use, Influence or Possession of Drugs, RO: Use of Controlled Substance, RO: Use of Narcotics, UB: Use of Counterfeit items, UB: Possession of Counterfeit Items, *RO: Possession of Controlled Substance-Other, *RO: Possession of Controlled Substance-Ritalin, *RO: Possession of Controlled Substance-Cocaine, *RO: Possession of Another Person’s Prescription Drug: For drugs other than marijuana, a student shall not use or be under the influence of illegal or controlled substances or possess illegal, counterfeit or controlled substances (including prescription drugs without a doctor’s order filed with the school) on school property or at a school function. Disciplinary responses shall include a referral to Student Assistance Program. Example items include, but are not limited to:

2. Sale/Distribution (Attempt or Actual) RO: Distribution of a Prescription Drug, RO: Sale of Controlled Substance in violation of law-Other, RO: Sale of controlled substance in violation of law-marijuana, RO: Sale of controlled substance in violation of law-Ritalin, RO: Sale of Controlled substance in violation of the law-Cocaine: A student shall not distribute, sell, attempt to sell, or possess with intent to sell any illegal, counterfeit or controlled substance. Possession of a large amount of or more than one individually wrapped package of a controlled or illegal substance will be considered evidence that the student intended to sell or distribute the product.

RESPONSES:
Minimum: Tier III Response(s) (see page 9)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

Rule 29 WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS OBJECTS – NOT INCLUDING FIREARMS* (Responsibility/Citizenship/Good Judgment) *RO: Possession of Weapon (not all weapons listed below qualify for this reporting code): A student will not possess, handle, transport or use any weapon, object that can be reasonably considered a weapon, dangerous object or substance that could cause harm or irritation to another individual on school property or at any school function. All items will be confiscated and will not be returned except with the mutual agreement of law enforcement. This rule does not apply to school supplies (e.g. pencil, laser pointer) unless used as a weapon. Note: any item thrown from a school bus will be treated as a weapon for the purpose of this rule. See Rule 32 for rules on firearms. Special note: See the Safe Harbor Provision on page 5.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:
A. Toy knife or look alike knife
B. Toy gun or look alike gun
C. Weapon not capable of propelling a missile
D. Knife, switchblade knife, Bowie knife
E. Box cutter/razor blade
F. Camouflaged weapon
G. Object thrown from a bus
H. Gun powder, ammunition, bullets
I. Fireworks
J. Bomb (includes destructive devices such as an explosive, incendiary or poison gas, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, missile with an explosive charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine or similar device
K. Air soft gun, BB gun, pellet gun, air rifle
L. Any object or substance that could cause injury including but not limited to, slingshots, ice picks, multi-fingered rings, metal knuckles, nun chucks, dirks, daggers, lead canes, clubs, stun guns, flare guns, paint ball guns, mace, pepper spray, fire extinguishers and/or the use of any object or any substance that will potentially cause harm, irritation or bodily injury.

*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

**Rule 30**  
GANG AND GANG-RELATED ACTIVITIES (Responsibility/Respect Citizenship/Good Judgment) UB: Gang Activity: No student shall commit any act that furthers gangs or gang-related activities. A gang is any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, or the purposeful violation of any district policy, and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors or symbols. Conduct prohibited by BCS Policy 4328, “Gang-Related Activity,” includes:

A. Clothing: Wearing, possessing, using distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, visible tattoos and body markings, or other items, or being in possession of literature that shows affiliation with a gang, or is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;

B. Communication: Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) to convey membership affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: 1st Time Offense: student shall receive an individualized warning as to what item or conduct is in violation of this policy and shall be permitted to change or remove the prohibited items.
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Alternative School Placement

C. Vandalism or Destruction of Property: Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with gang or gang-related symbols or slogans;

D. Intimidation/Threats: Requiring payment for protection, money or insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity;

E. Coercion: Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity;

F. Solicitation: Soliciting others for gang membership;

G. Conspiracy: Conspiring to commit any violation of this policy or committing or conspiring to commit any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies that relate to gang activity.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier II Response(s) (see page 9)
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Alternative School Placement

**Rule 31**  
FIREARMS (loaded or unloaded) (Responsibility/Respect/Self-Discipline/Good Judgment) *RO: Possession of a Firearm, *PD: Robbery with a Firearm or Powerful Explosive, PD: Threat of Physical Attack with a Firearm, *PD: Physical Attack with a Firearm. A student shall not possess, handle or transport any handgun, rifle, starter gun, shotgun or any other weapon which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of
an explosion, including camouflaged guns or any firearm muffler or silencer. By law, students violating this rule are subject to a 365-day mandatory suspension.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: OSS 365 days  
Maximum: Expulsion

*See Crime Definitions on pages 24-27 before using this code*

**Rule 32 PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS STUDENTS** (Responsibility/Caring/Justice and Fairness): Students who are 14 years of age or older shall not frequently engage in conduct that is in violation of other code of conduct rules and is a danger to others in the school environment. Targeted conduct for this rule are multiple events over an extended period of time, including previous school years. Examples of misconduct under this rule include, but are not limited to, multiple rule violations for assault, the sale or distribution of illegal drugs, gang-related activities, the possession of weapons and inappropriate sexual behavior.

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**Rule 33 REFUSAL TO ALLOW SEARCH** (Responsibility and Honesty) *UB: Insubordination:* School administration has the right to conduct a search of a student or his/her possessions that is reasonable in scope if the administration has a reasonable suspicion that the student may be in possession of a weapon, illegal substance or other items prohibited by or used in violation of law or the Code of Student Conduct.

A. **Search of an individual and/or his/her Possessions:** A student must cooperate with and may not obstruct or interfere with a reasonable and authorized search of the student and/or his/her possessions based on reasonable suspicion that the student may be in possession of a weapon, illegal substance or other items prohibited by or used in violation of law or the Code of Student Conduct.

B. **Search of Student Lockers and Desks:** Lockers and desks are the property of the District and are assigned to the student with the understanding that he/she is responsible for all property placed in the locker or the desk. Lockers and desks shall be used only for storage of those items that are reasonably necessary for the student’s school activities such as books, gym clothes, coats, school assignments, etc. A student must cooperate with and shall not obstruct or interfere with an authorized search of his/her locker or desk.

C. **Search of a Vehicle:** A student must cooperate with and may not obstruct or interfere with reasonable search of the student’s vehicle and its contents when it is present on school property or at a school activity. These searches will be based on reasonable suspicion that the student may be in possession of a weapon, illegal substance or other items prohibited by or used in violation of law or the Code of Student Conduct. A violation of this rule may result in the student losing his/her parking privilege, in addition to other applicable discipline.

**RESPONSES:**
Minimum: Tier I Response(s) (see page 8)  
Maximum: Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

**Section V – Procedures Relating to Disciplinary Action**

To protect student rights, certain procedures are followed with regard to disciplinary actions. These procedures are developed as suggested or required by law or regulation. School and classroom discipline in areas not covered by these specific procedures are encouraged.

**Short-Term Suspensions (1-10 days)**
A student accused of misconduct, which in the opinion of the principal (includes principal’s designee) would require a short-term suspension from school, shall be afforded the procedures below. A student must be given an opportunity to complete
assignments, take textbooks home, and take major tests or exams missed during the period of suspension. Details of the processes to be followed are provided in BCS Policy 4351, “Short-Term Suspension.”

**Step 1:** The student must be told by the principal/designee why suspension is being considered.

**Step 2:** The student must be given the opportunity to have an informal hearing with the principal/designee and to present his/her version of the events and to identify witnesses to the incident. The informal hearing will typically occur immediately after the student is informed of the charges, but may be delayed if the student’s continued presence on campus is a safety concern.

**Step 3:** The principal/designee shall make a determination as to whether or not a student is guilty of the misconduct, and if so, what disciplinary response will be imposed. Initial notices to impose suspension may be communicated orally to the parent; written notification must follow.

**Step 4:** The principal/designee shall report each suspension in writing to the student’s parent/guardian by fax, email, or any other method reasonably designed to give actual notice. Reasonable effort shall be made to contact parents/guardians prior to the start of the suspension. If parents/guardians cannot be reached prior to the start of the suspension, the principal/designee may start the suspension without contacting them. In this event, the principal must continue efforts to reach the parent/guardian.

**Step 5:** At the discretion of the principal, a written behavior contract may be required upon the return of the student to school.

**Step 6:** Students are not entitled to appeal a principal’s decision to impose a short-term suspension to the Superintendent or the Board of Education.

### Procedures for Long-Term Suspensions (more than 10 days) or 365-day Suspensions and Disciplinary Reassignments

A student accused of a willful violation of the Code of Student Conduct which, in the opinion of the principal/designee, may require a long-term suspension or 365-day suspension from school, shall be afforded the procedural safeguard described below. A suspension of more than 10 days is appropriate only when the student engages in conduct that threatens the safety of students, staff or school visitors, or threatens to substantially disrupt the educational environment. The procedures for a short-term suspension must be employed as well as the following additional steps, prior to the imposition of a long-term suspension. Only the superintendent may impose a period of long-term suspension or 365-day suspension. Details of the procedures to be followed are provided in BCS Policy 4353, “Long-Term Suspension, 365-day Suspension, Expulsion.”

**Notice of Long-Term Suspension:** When a principal decides to recommend that a long-term suspension, 365-day suspension, or expulsion be imposed, parents must be provided notice of the recommendation by the end of the workday (when reasonably possible; otherwise as soon as practicable.)

**Superintendent’s Decision:** The student or the student’s parent may request a hearing before the superintendent in writing within three days of receiving notice from the principal of the recommendation for long-term suspension, 365-day suspension or expulsion. Based on substantial evidence presented at the hearing, the superintendent shall decide whether to uphold, modify, or reject the principal’s recommendation. The superintendent shall send notice of the decision via certified mail to the student and parent.

If the student and parent fail to make a timely request for a hearing or if they waive their right to a hearing by failing to appear for a duly scheduled hearing, the superintendent may impose the long-term suspension or 365-day suspension if it is consistent with board policies and appropriate under the circumstances; impose another appropriate penalty authorized by board policy; or decline to impose any penalty. The superintendent shall send notice of the decision via certified mail to the student and parent.
The superintendent shall offer alternative education services to any student who receives a long-term or 365-day suspension unless the superintendent provides a significant or important reason for declining to offer such services. The student may appeal to the board the superintendent’s decision not to offer alternative education services. Any appeal must be made in writing within five days of receiving the superintendent’s decision.

If the superintendent determines that expulsion is appropriate, the superintendent shall submit to the board a recommendation and the basis for the recommendation along with any proposal for alternative education services.

**Disciplinary reassignment:** If the decision of the superintendent is to make a disciplinary reassignment of the students to an alternative school without any additional days of suspension, the student is not entitled to a due process hearing. Disciplinary reassignment of a student to a full-time educational program that meets the academic requirements of the standard course of study established by the State Board of Education and that provides the student with the opportunity to make timely progress toward graduation and grade promotion is not a long-term suspension requiring a due process hearing. The student may request an appeal to the board as provided in BCS Policy 4305, “Alternative Learning Programs/Schools.” During the period of appeal, the student may be transferred to the alternative learning school or program.

**Hearings Before the Board:** A student or his/her parent may appeal an imposed long-term or 365-day suspension. The student/parent must appeal to the board in writing within five days of receiving the superintendent’s decision. The request for appeal must be limited to issue raised at the administrative hearing. The board hearing will be conducted and a decision rendered within 30 days of the submission of the appeal, unless the student requests that the hearing be delayed. Students are entitled to be represented by counsel at hearings appealing a long-term suspension.

**Procedures for Expulsion**
N.C.G.S. §115C-390.11 gives the Board of Education authority to expel any student over 14 years of age whose behavior indicates that the student’s continued presence in the school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees or who is subject to the Jessica Lundsford Act (which applies to certain registered sex offenders). Details of the procedures to be followed for expulsion are provided in BCS Policy 4353, and procedures to request readmission are provided in BCS Policy 4362, “Requests for Readmission of Students Suspended for 365 days or Expelled.”

**Procedures for Suspension/Removal of Students with Disabilities**
Please see the Handbook on Parents Rights for the additional procedural safeguards to be followed for students with disabilities. Parents or students who need a copy of this handbook, may contact the principal.

**Section VI – Definitions**

**Destructive Device:** An explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the previously listed devices.

**Student:** Any person attending any school in Beaufort County Schools.

**Board:** Beaufort County Board of Education.

**Principal:** The school principal or any school professional to whom the principal may officially delegate authority.

**Parent:** Natural parent, legal guardian (including foster parent) or other caregiver adult who is acting in the place of a parent and is entitled to enroll the student in school under NC law.

**Alternative School:** full-time educational program that meets the academic requirements of the NC Standard Course of Study and provides the student with the opportunity to make timely progress towards graduation and grade promotion.

**Disciplinary Reassignment:** Assignment to an alternative school imposed as a consequence for violating the Code of Student Conduct. These assignments are not long-term suspensions.

**Suspension:** The temporary exclusion of a student from the regular school program.

**In School Suspension (ISS):** In-school suspension is an intervention for minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct in which students are removed from the regular classroom setting but allowed to remain at the school. ISS
provides the opportunity to redirect student behavior and to restore an orderly environment that is conducive to effective teaching and learning.

**Short-term suspension:** A disciplinary exclusion of a student from school for 10 or fewer school days may be imposed by a principal or assistant principal.

**Long-term suspension:** The disciplinary exclusion from school of a student for more than 10 school days. For offenses occurring during the first, second and third quarters, the term may not exceed the end of the school year; for offenses occurring during the fourth quarter, the term may be through the end of the first semester of the following school year. May be imposed by the superintendent or designee.

**Restorative Justice:** Restorative Justice is reactive in nature. It consists of formal and informal responses to wrongdoing. These responses are introduced in an effort to avoid the reoccurrence of the wrongdoing and to begin to rebuild relationships where there has been harm.

**Restorative Practice:** Restorative Practices are proactive in nature. They consist of formal and informal processes put in place to create positive school climate. These processes precede any wrongdoing, provide expectation clarity for all involved and have a strong focus on building relationships and a sense of community.

**365-day suspension:** A disciplinary exclusion from school for 365 calendar days.

**Exclusion:** The removal of a student from school for disciplinary purposes.

**Expulsion:** The indefinite exclusion of a student from school enrollment for disciplinary purposes; may be imposed only by the Board, and the student must be 14 years old.

**Section VII – DPI Crime Definitions**

*Italicized offenses are considered dangerous and may lead to a school being designated “Persistently Dangerous.” The threshold for this status is at least two dangerous acts and a ratio of at least five dangerous acts per thousand students.*

1. **Assault Resulting in Serious Personal Injury:** An intentional offer or attempt by force or violence to do injury to the person of another that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm resulting in one of the following: (1) substantial risk of death, (2) serious permanent disfigurement, (3) a coma, (4) a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, (5) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or (6) that results in prolonged hospitalization. If an offender used a weapon in an assault resulting in serious injury, report both Assault Resulting in Serious Injury and Assault Involving Use of a Weapon.

2. **Assault Involving Use of a Weapon:** An intentional offer or attempt by force or violence to do injury to the person of another that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm through the use of one of the following: (1) any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm, (2) BB gun, (3) stun gun, (4) air rifle, (5) air pistol, (6) bowie knife, (7) dirk, (8) dagger, (9) slingshot, (10) leaded cane, (11) switchblade knife, (12) blackjack, (13) metallic knuckles, (14) razors and razor blades, (15) fireworks, or (16) any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance. If a firearm or other weapon is used in the commission of any offense, the type of weapon must be identified in the Weapon Used/Possessed column of the Data Collection Form.

3. **Assault on School officials, Employees, and Volunteers:** An intentional offer or attempt by force or violence to do injury to a school official, employee, or volunteer that causes reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm while the school official, employee, or volunteer is discharging or attempting to discharge his/her duties.

- The “duties” of a school official, employee, or volunteer include the following: (1) all activities on school property, (2) all activities during a school authorized event or the accompanying of students to or from that event, and (3) all activities relating to the operation of school transportation.

- An “employee” includes (1) one who is employed by a local board of education, (2) one who is employed by a charter school, (3) one who is employed by a nonpublic school that operates under Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, or (4) an independent contractor if the independent contractor or employee of the independent contractor carries out duties customarily performed by
employees of the school.

- A “volunteer” is one who volunteers his/her services or presence at any school activity and is under the supervision of an employee. This offense includes assaults on school personnel that do not involve the use of a weapon and do not result in apparent serious injury.

4. **Making Bomb Threats or Engaging in Bomb Hoaxes**: A person who, with intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceals, places, or displays in or at a public building any device, machine, instrument, or artifact, so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a bomb or other device capable of causing injury to persons or property.

- A “public building” encompasses all educational property, as defined in G.S. 14-269.2, including: (1) any school building or bus, and (2) school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated, by any board of education or school board of trustees or directors for the administration of any school.

- “Public buildings” also include: (1) hospitals, and (2) buildings that house only State, federal, or local government offices, or the offices of the State, federal, or local government located in a building that is not exclusively occupied by the State, federal, or local government.

- This offense includes when a person communicates a bomb threat by any means.

5. **Willfully Burning a School Building**: A person who wantonly and willfully sets fire to, burns, causes to be burned, or aids, counsels, or procures the burning of any schoolhouse or building owned, leased, or used by any public school, private school, college, or educational institution.

6. **Homicide**: A murder which is perpetrated by one of the following means: (1) nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction, (2) poison, (3) lying in wait, (4) imprisonment, (5) starving, (6) torture, (7) any other kind of willful, deliberate, and premeditated murder, (8) during the perpetration or attempted perpetration of an arson, rape, sex offense, robbery, kidnapping, burglary, or other felony committed or attempted with the use of a deadly weapon, (9) the unlawful distribution and ingestion by someone of opium or any other synthetic or natural salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium, cocaine, or methamphetamine resulting in death, or (10) all other types of murder.

7. **Kidnapping**: A person who unlawfully confines, restrains, or removes from one place to another, any other person 16 years of age or over without the consent of such person, or any other person under the age of 16 years old without the consent of a parent or legal guardian of such person, shall be guilty of kidnapping if such confinement, restraint, or removal is for the purposes of one of the following: (1) holding such other person for a ransom, as a hostage, or using such other person as a shield, (2) facilitating the commission of any felony or facilitating the flight of any person following the commission of a felony, (3) doing serious bodily harm to or terrorizing the person so confined, restrained, or removed by any other person, (4) holding such other person in involuntary servitude, (5) trafficking another person with the intent that the person be held in involuntary servitude or sexual servitude, or (6) subjecting or maintaining such other person for sexual servitude.

8. **Unlawful, underage sales, purchase, provision, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages**: It shall be unlawful for a person younger than 21 years of age to possess, sell, give, or purchase any alcoholic beverages. It is also unlawful for any person to aid and abet a person under the age of 21 years old in his/her attempt to obtain an alcoholic beverage.

- An “alcoholic beverage” includes the following: (1) malt beverage, (2) fortified wine, (3) unfortified wine, (4)spiritous liquor, (5) mixed beverages, or (6) beer.

9. **Possession of Controlled Substance in Violation of Law**: It is unlawful for a person to possess or have in his/her immediate control any of the following: Marijuana, Heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, or any other drug listed in Schedules I - VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. (G.S. §90-89 through 90-94.)

- The unauthorized possession of a prescription drug is included under this offense.

- The principal should confer with law enforcement personnel if there is doubt as to whether or not a certain drug is considered a controlled substance.

10. **Possession of a Firearm**: It is unlawful for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind on educational property or to a curricular or extracurricular activity sponsored by a school.

- This offense does not apply to a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol.

- Persons authorized to carry weapons on school property are law enforcement officers, firefighters, and...
emergency service personnel when discharging their official duties.

11. **Possession of a Weapon:** It is unlawful for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any of the following weapons on campus or other educational property: (1) any BB gun, (2) stun gun, (3) air rifle, (4) air pistol, (5) bowie knife, (6) dirk, (7) dagger, (8) slingshot, (9) leaded cane, (10) switchblade knife, (11) blackjack, (12) metallic knuckles, (13) razors and razor blades, (14) fireworks, or (15) any sharp-pointed or edged instrument, except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, clips, and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, maintenance.

- “Educational Property” refers to any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education or school board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any school.
- Persons authorized to carry weapons on school property are individuals carrying a concealed handgun with a permit as authorized by Chapter 14, Article 54B of the NC General Statutes as amended by Session Law 2013-369, and law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel when discharging their official duties.

12. **Rape:** A person is guilty of rape if that person engages in vaginal intercourse with another person by force and against the will of the other person, or if the person being assaulted is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know that the other person is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.

- Statutory rape is vaginal intercourse committed on a child under the age of 16 by a person who is at least 12 years old and at least 4 years older than the victim, regardless of whether the victim consented.

13. **Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon:** Any person or persons, who, having in possession or with the use or threatened use of any firearms or other dangerous weapon, implement or means, whereby the life of a person is endangered or threatened, unlawfully takes or attempts to take personal property from another or from any place of business, residence, or banking institution or any other place where there is a person or persons in attendance, at any time, either day or night, or who aids or abets any such person or persons in the commission of such crime.

14. **Sexual Assault (not involving rape or sexual offense):** A person is guilty of sexual battery if he/she, for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, engages in sexual contact with another person by force and against the will of the other person, or if the person being assaulted is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know that the other person is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.

- NCGS 14-27.1 defines “sexual contact” as touching the sexual organ, anus, breast, groin or buttocks of any person or a person touching another person with their own sexual organ, anus, breast, groin, or buttocks.
- The difference between a sexual assault and a sexual offense is that the sexual assault involves forcible and intentional touching without penetration, and a sexual offense involves penetration of a sex organ or anus by any object, or touching another’s mouth or anus by the male sex organ.

15. **Sexual Offense:**

- First-degree sexual offense: A person is guilty of a sexual offense in the first degree if the person engages in a sexual act with (1) a victim who is a child under the age of 13 years and the defendant is at least 12 years old and is at least four years older than the victim, or (2) with another person by force and against the will of the other person, and (a) employs or displays a dangerous or deadly weapon or an article which the person reasonably believes to be a dangerous or deadly weapon, (b) inflicts serious personal injury upon the victim or another person, or (c) the person commits the offense aided and abetted by one or more other persons.
- Sexual offense with a child (adult offender): A person is guilty of sexual offense with a child if the person is at least 18 years of age and engages in a sexual act with a victim who is a child and under the age of 13 years.
- Second-degree sexual offense: A person is guilty of a sexual offense in the second degree if the person engages in a sexual act with another person (1) by force and against the will of the other person, or (2) who is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know that the other person is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
helpless.

- Statutory rape or sexual offense of person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old: A person is guilty if he/she engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with another person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old and the person committing the act is at least six years older than the person, except when the person committing the act is lawfully married to the other person.

16. Taking Indecent Liberties With A Minor: A person is guilty of taking indecent liberties with a child if, being 16 years of age or more and at least five years older than the child in question, he/she either: (1) willfully takes or attempts to take any immoral, improper, or indecent liberties with any child of either sex under the age of 16 years for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, or (2) willfully commits or attempts to commit any lewd or lascivious act upon or with the body or any part or member of the body of any child of either sex under the age of 16 years. A “lewd and lascivious act” is defined as an act that is obscene, lustful, or indecent, tending to deprave the morals with respect to sexual relations.
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INTRODUCTION

This handbook was produced as a resource for students and parents to explain the notices, policies, and regulations governing all students attending Beaufort County Schools. Some portions of the handbook refer to specific Board of Education policies. In some instances the entire policy is cited; at other times, only the most relevant portion is included. Your school may provide additional rules and regulations.

Parents must help school personnel to effectively communicate information from this handbook to students. Parents help by requiring students to be in school every day they are physically able to be in attendance, providing information such as correct addresses and phone numbers, attending scheduled conferences with school staff, sending the necessary absence or tardy notes, and learning about the school, its mission, its plan for improvement, and its activities. Parents are encouraged to meet with school staff; however, conferences with teachers should be scheduled in advance to avoid interruption of instructional time.

Please take time to become familiar with the contents of this handbook. The information included is important and knowing it will make the school year easier for the students. If you have questions about information in this handbook, call your school principal. If further assistance is needed, the principal will direct you to the appropriate Beaufort County School System central office staff. You may also visit the Beaufort County Schools website at www.beaufort.k12.nc.us.

NOTICES, POLICIES, REGULATIONS

Non-Discrimination: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

It is the School District's policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, genetic information or veteran’s status in its educational programs, activities or employment policies.

For inquiries or complaints or to request a copy of the School District's grievance procedures, please contact:

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<td>Jamie Stokes</td>
<td>Ashley Padgett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Behavior Director</td>
<td>Executive Director of Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>Student Services Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>321 Smaw Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, NC 27889</td>
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<td>(252) 946-6593</td>
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Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requires that the School District notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt-out your child from participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following seven areas:

1. Political affiliates or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and/or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incrimination or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams or screenings except for hearing, vision, scoliosis or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law.

The School District will, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, provide notice of said surveys and activities and give you or your son/daughter, if he/she is eighteen (18) years old or older, the opportunity to opt-out.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-5901

Students with Disabilities: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”)

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (“IDEA”), a federal law, the School District must provide special education services to all children residing in the school district who are between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) who have been diagnosed with or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and who are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. If your child or a child you know may qualify for such special assistance, please contact:

   Kimberly Gibbs
   Director of Exceptional Children
   321 Smaw Road
   Washington, NC  27889
   (252) 946-6593

North Carolina Safe Surrender Law

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §7B-500(b), a female may legally surrender her newborn baby to a responsible adult without fear of criminal prosecution. While any responsible adult may receive a newborn, school social workers, school nurses, counselors and law enforcement agents are examples of responsible adults who are familiar with this law. More information can be found at www.safesurrender.net. Those individuals without Internet access can call 1-800-FOR-BABY or contact a school nurse or social worker.

Homeless Students: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

For information concerning the educational rights of homeless students, please consult Board Policy 4125, “Homeless Students” and/or contact:

   Greg Singleton
   Executive Director for Federal Programs,
   Student Services, Exceptional Children and Preschool
   321 Smaw Road
   Washington, NC  27889
   (252) 946-6593
Notification of Rights under FERPA

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 school receives a request for access.

   Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child’s or their education records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

   Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend their child’s or their education record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

   One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest must be set forth in the school’s or school district’s annual notification for FERPA rights. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

   Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] 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

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires that Beaufort County Schools with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, BCS may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow BCS to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs;
- Photograph or digital image, including still or video images of a student engaged in ordinary school activities; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information contained in an education record that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Directory information may only be released to outside organizations that offer and/or supply school memorabilia such as companies that manufacture class rings, publish yearbooks or provide graduation products. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want BCS to disclose directory information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District (current school) in writing within 10 days after the first day of the academic school year. The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name;
- Address;
- Date and place of birth;
- Dates of attendance;
- Grade level;
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams;
- Diplomas (including endorsements earned), industry credentials/certifications, and awards received;
• The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

BCS Board Policy 4700 “Student Records” is available on the BCS website. Parents and eligible students have the right to obtain a copy of this policy.

**FERPA Opt-Out Letter**

If you wish to restrict the disclosure of your student's directory information, please check all that apply and return to your child's school.

Federal law requires schools to release a secondary student's name, address, and phone number to military recruiters and institutions of higher education unless the student or his parent requests in writing that such information be withheld. In addition, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents (or students, if 18 years of age or older) the authority to prohibit schools from disclosing any or all directory information by providing notification in writing.

Please consider this letter notice of the following:

_____ As parent/legal guardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age and in high school, I hereby exercise my right to request that you do not disclose the name, address or telephone number of my son/daughter to:

_____ Military recruiters

_____ Institutions of higher education

_____ As a student 18 years of age or older and in high school, I hereby exercise my right to request that you do not disclose my name, address or telephone number to:

_____ Military recruiters

_____ Institutions of higher education

_____ As parent/legal guardian of a student less than 18 years of age, I hereby exercise my right under FERPA to request that you do not disclose any directory information for my son/daughter, except: [List directory information or purposes that you do permit, if any]__________________________________________

As a student 18 years of age or older, I hereby exercise my right under FERPA to request that you do not disclose any of my directory information except: [List directory information or purposes that you do permit, if any].

_________________________________________________________________________________________________.

Student Name: __________________________ Grade: _____ Name of School: __________________________

__________________________________________ Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Student (if 18 or older) Date

*It is the policy of the Beaufort County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status in its educational programs, activities or employment policies.*
Student Dress Code (BCS Policy 4316 and 4316-R)

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Thus, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive (for information on gang-related attire, see policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity);
3. is provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene; or
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance, include, but are not limited to, exposed undergarments; sagging pants; excessively short or tight garments; bare midriff shirts; spaghetti straps; revealing tank tops; strapless shirts; attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, indecent or vulgar or that advertise any product or service not permitted by law to minors; head coverings of any kind; see-through clothing; attire that exposes cleavage; any adornment, such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon; any symbols, styles or attire (such as bandanas) frequently associated with intimidation, violence or violent groups; and any symbols, styles or attire about which students at a particular school have been notified. (See policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity, for more information on prohibited clothing and other items that convey membership or affiliation in a gang). The superintendent or designee will develop and maintain administrative regulations in accordance with this policy. This policy and accompanying regulations will be reviewed annually by the superintendent who will provide the board with any recommendations.

Principals at individual schools are authorized to exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy and administrative regulations, including making accommodations on the basis of a student’s religious belief or medical condition. Principals may also specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are prohibited at their schools consistent with this policy.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy, regulations or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

**PANTS, SKIRTS, SHORTS, JUMPERS, DRESSES, SKORTS, CAPRIS**

- Pants may be any color
- Pants must not have holes, cuts and tears.
- Garments cannot be shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
- Overalls and coveralls are prohibited.
- Approved shirt or top is required when wearing a jumper.
- Form fitting spandex material, nylon, and athletic pants/shorts of any kind including sweat pants are prohibited.
- Oversized, undersized, and skintight garments will not be tolerated.
- In Grades Pre-K through 5th grade, students may wear leggings, athletic shorts and pants with elastic waist.

**Shoes**

- Some type of footwear must be worn at all times.
- Pre-K through 5th grade is not allowed to wear flip-flops at any time.
- No spike heels or bedroom shoes.

**Shirts**

- Shirts may be any color and do not require a collar.
- Shirts may be long or short sleeve.
- Sleeveless shirts are not permitted.
- Form fitting spandex material and nylon are prohibited.
• Oversized, undersized, and skin-tight garments will not be tolerated.

Coats
• Coats must not hang past the straddle of the pants.

The Superintendent shall exempt a student from complying with this policy when compliance would impose a substantial burden on a medical condition or the exercise of a sincerely held religious belief. A parent, guardian or person in loco parentis of a student shall submit to the superintendent a written statement explaining the medical condition or religious belief and how it is affected by the school dress code policy.

Coordinated School Health News

*Important Information to Keep Students Healthy and Safe*

**INFLUENZA**
Influenza (the flu) is a viral infection that can cause illness ranging from mild to severe to life-threatening complications. Symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, muscle aches, dry cough, sore throat and runny stuffy nose. Children sometimes also have nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The flu is spread through respiratory droplets from a cough or sneeze, or from droplets on unwashed hands. Vaccine against flu is available every year through private physicians and at the Beaufort County Health Department. The vaccine is recommended for people at high risk for complications of the flu, (the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, including asthma) and people in close contact with them (this includes household contacts). When vaccine supplies are in good supply flu shots are also available for children and adults in the general public.

**MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS**
Meningitis is an infection of the fluids and covering of the brain or spinal cord that can be caused by bacteria. While viral meningitis is fairly common, and people usually recover fully, bacterial meningitis is very rare, but much more serious. Meningitis is spread by close exchange of saliva and respiratory secretions through sharing of drinking glasses, cigarettes or kissing. Symptoms of bacterial meningitis include severe headache, high fever, nausea/vomiting and stiff neck. Symptoms can worsen very quickly Children with any of these symptoms should be checked by a doctor right away. A vaccine against bacterial meningitis is available through private physicians and the Beaufort County Health Department, and is recommended for children in their early teens.

**HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)**
HPV is a common virus that is spread from one person to another by close intimate contact. There are about 40 types of HPV that can infect both men and women, and can raise the risk of cervical cancer in women. This virus lives in the body and usually causes no symptoms, but some people may develop a visible growth or bump. Most people with HPV do not know they are infected which is why males and females can pass it on without realizing it. A new vaccine can now protect females (ages 9-26) from four major types of HPV. For more information about HPV vaccine, check with your physician or the Beaufort County Health Department.

**COMMUNITY ACQUIRED (CA-MRSA) Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aurea**
CA-MRSA is an infection, caused by skin bacteria, that usually starts as a pimple or boil on the skin, and is very hard to clear up without very special antibiotics. CA-MRSA has become a growing problem among athletes who are involved in contact sports, and those using athletic equipment that is shared. Everyone should wash hands frequently with soap and water. All athletes should shower thoroughly with soap immediately after work-out or practice. Athletes should wash all athletic clothing and towels after each use. Do not share personal items. Carefully self check all skin daily for rashes, pimples or boils that get worse instead of better. Report rashes, open sores, pimples and boils to the coach. If sores get worse, even after repeated washing with soap and water, the student should be checked by a doctor or health care provider. Avoid body contact with others or with shared equipment if rash or pustules are present. All skin sores should be covered with an adhesive bandage and clothing for athletics. Do not participate in contact sports until released by a doctor. More information is available at Beaufort County Health Department: [www.bchd.net](http://www.bchd.net) and NC DHHS: [www.immunizenc.org](http://www.immunizenc.org).
Seclusion and Restraint (BCS Policy 4302-R)

The following rules will govern the use of seclusion and restraint by school personnel. As used in this regulation, “school personnel” means employees of the board and any persons working on school grounds or at a school function under a contract or written agreement with the public school system or for another agency to provide educational or related services to students.

A. **Physical Restraint**

Physical restraint means the use of physical force to restrict the free movement of all or a part of a student’s body.

Physical restraint will be considered to be a reasonable use of force when used in the following circumstances:

1. as reasonably needed to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student;
2. as reasonably needed to maintain order or to prevent or break up a fight;
3. as reasonably needed for self-defense;
4. as reasonably needed to ensure the safety of any student, employee, volunteer, or other person present;
5. as reasonably needed to teach a skill, to calm or comfort a student, or to prevent self-injurious behavior;
6. as reasonably needed to escort a student safely from one area to another;
7. if used as provided for in an IEP, Section 504, or behavior intervention plan; or
8. as reasonably needed to prevent imminent destruction to school or another person’s property.

Except as set forth above, physical restraint of students will not be considered a reasonable use of force, and its use is prohibited. In addition, physical restraint will not be considered a reasonable use of force when used solely as a disciplinary consequence.

B. **Mechanical Restraint**

Mechanical restraint means the use of any device or material attached or adjacent to a student’s body that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to any portion of the student’s body and that the student cannot easily remove.

Mechanical restraint of a student by school personnel is permissible only in the following circumstances:

1. when properly used as an assistive technology device included in the student’s IEP, Section 504, or behavior intervention plan or as otherwise prescribed by a medical or related service provider;
2. when using seat belts or other safety restraints to secure a student during transportation;
3. as reasonably needed to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student;
4. as reasonably needed for self-defense;
5. as reasonably needed to ensure the safety of any student, employee, volunteer, or other person.

Except as set forth above, mechanical restraint, including the tying down, taping, or strapping down of a student, will not be considered to be a reasonable use of force, and its use is prohibited.

C. **Seclusion**

Seclusion means the confinement of a student alone in an enclosed space from which the student is (a) physically prevented from leaving or (b) incapable of leaving due to physical or intellectual capacity.

Seclusion of a student by school personnel may be used in the following circumstances:
1. as reasonably needed to respond to a person in control of a weapon or other dangerous object;
2. as reasonably needed to maintain order or prevent or break up a fight;
3. as reasonably needed for self-defense;
4. as reasonably needed when a student’s behavior poses a threat of imminent physical harm to self or others or imminent substantial destruction of school or another person’s property; or
5. when used as specified in the student’s IEP, Section 504, or behavior intervention plan; and
   a. the student is constantly monitored by an adult in close proximity who is able to see and hear the student at all times;
   b. the student is released from seclusion upon cessation of the behaviors that led to the seclusion or as otherwise specified in the student’s IEP, Section 504, or behavior intervention plan;
   c. the confining space has been approved for such use by the local education agency;
   d. the space is appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled; and
   e. the space is free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

Except as set forth above, the use of seclusion is not considered to be reasonable force, and its use is prohibited. In addition, seclusion will not be considered a reasonable use of force when used solely as a disciplinary consequence.

D. ISOLATION

Isolation means a behavior management technique in which a student is placed alone in an enclosed space from which the student is not prevented from leaving.

Isolation is permitted as a behavior management technique provided that:

1. the isolation space is appropriately lighted, ventilated and heated or cooled;
2. the duration of the isolation is reasonable in light of the purpose for the isolation;
3. the student is reasonably monitored; and
4. the isolation space is free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

E. TIME-OUT

Time-out means a behavior management technique in which a student is separated from other students for a limited period of time in a monitored setting. Teachers are authorized to use time-out to regulate behavior within their classrooms.

F. AVERSIVE PROCEDURES

Aversive procedure means a systematic physical or sensory intervention program for modifying the behavior of a student with a disability that causes or reasonably may be expected to cause one or more of the following:

1. significant physical harm, such as tissue damage, physical illness, or death;
2. serious and foreseeable long-term psychological impairment;
3. obvious repulsion on the part of observers who cannot reconcile such extreme procedures with acceptable standard practice, for example:
   a. electric shock applied to the body;
   b. extremely loud auditory stimuli;
   c. forcible introduction of foul substances to the mouth, eyes, ears, nose or skin;
   d. placement in a tub of cold water or shower;
   e. slapping, pinching, hitting or pulling hair;
   f. blindfolding or other forms of visual blocking;
   g. unreasonable withholding of meals;
h. eating one’s own vomit; or
i. denial of reasonable access to toileting facilities.

The use of aversive procedures in public schools is prohibited.

G. NOTICE, REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

1. School staff will promptly notify the principal or designee of any of the following:

   a. any use of aversive procedures;
   b. any prohibited use of mechanical restraint;
   c. any use of physical restraint resulting in observable physical injury to a student;
   d. any prohibited use of seclusion; or
   e. any seclusion exceeding 10 minutes or beyond the amount of time specified on a student’s behavior intervention plan

2. Notice to Parents

   When a principal or designee has personal or actual knowledge of any of the events listed above, he or she shall promptly notify the student’s parent or guardian and shall provide the name of the school employee whom the parent or guardian may contact regarding the incident.

3. Written Report to Parents

   Within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 30 days after the incident, the principal or designee shall also provide the parent or guardian with a written incident report. This report must include the following:

   a. the date, time of day, location, duration, and description of the incident and interventions;
   b. the events or events that led up to the incident;
   c. the nature and extent of any injury to the student; and
   d. the name of a school employee the parent or guardian can contact regarding the incident.

4. Reporting to State Board

   The board will maintain a record of incidents reported under the procedure described above and will provide this information annually to the State Board of Education.

5. Non-Retaliation for Reporting

   An employee making a report alleging a prohibited use of physical or mechanical restraint, seclusion or aversive procedure will NOT be discharged, threatened or retaliated against through compensation, terms, conditions, location or privilege of employment by any local board of education or any employee unless the employee knew or should have known that the report was false.

Student Searches   (BCS Policy 4342)

A. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

   School administrators have the authority to conduct reasonable searches and seize materials in accordance with this policy for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and for upholding standards of conduct established by the board or school. This policy does not apply to investigations conducted by law enforcement officials or to investigations conducted exclusively for the purpose of criminal prosecution. Any school official carrying out a
search or seizure is expected to be knowledgeable about the constitutional rights of students and the appropriate procedures for conducting the search or seizure.

A search of a student is lawful if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law or a school rule. A search of a student is permissible in scope when measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. Reasonable suspicion is not required if a student freely, voluntarily and knowingly consents and agrees to the search of his or her person or personal effects.

A student’s failure to permit reasonable searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered a violation of the expected standard of behavior, and appropriate consequences may be imposed.

B. PERSONAL SEARCHES

A student’s person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law or a school rule.

If a frisk or “pat down” search of a student’s person is conducted, it must be conducted in private by a school official of the same gender and with an adult witness present, when feasible.

If the school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student has on his or her person an item imminently dangerous to the student or to others, a more intrusive search of the student’s person may be conducted. Such a search may be conducted only in private by a school official of the same gender, with an adult witness of the same gender present, and only upon the prior approval of the superintendent or designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay that might be caused by following these procedures.

C. USE OF METAL DETECTORS

A metal detector may be used to search a student’s person and/or personal effects whenever a school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student is in possession of a weapon. The search must be conducted by a school official. The search will be conducted in private, when feasible.

A school official is authorized to conduct general searches of students and other persons and their personal effects with a metal detector before the person may gain entry to the school campus or any school-sponsored extracurricular activity. The search must be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent or designee. Prior to conducting general searches, school administrators must: (1) demonstrate to the superintendent the need for general searches based upon a pattern or expectation of violence or disruption; and (2) provide written notice, if feasible, to students and parents of the school policy governing general searches, but not of specific times when or places where searches will be conducted. Any search conducted pursuant to this policy must be conducted by a school official.

D. DESK AND Locker SEARCHES

Student desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their desks and lockers. Student desks and lockers may not be used to store illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials. Inspections of desks and lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason consistent with board policies or school rules at any time, without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. A student’s personal effects found in a desk or locker, such as backpacks, gym bags or purses, may be searched only pursuant to guidelines for personal searches described above.

E. SEARCHES OF STUDENT MOTOR VEHICLES
Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. School officials have authority to patrol student parking lots at all times to maintain safety in the parking lots. The interior of a student’s motor vehicle parked on the school premises may be searched if a school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law or a school rule.

F. **USE OF TRAINED DOGS IN CONDUCTING SEARCHES**

With the prior approval of the superintendent, school officials may use trained dogs in inspections for illegal materials in school facilities, on school grounds and in school parking lots. All dogs must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who is responsible for the dog’s actions and who is able to verify the dog’s reliability and accuracy in sniffing out illegal material. Trained dogs may sniff lockers, student motor vehicles and other inanimate objects. Such inspections are not considered searches and do not require notice or consent.

Dogs may not be used for random searches of students or other persons. If a school official has reasonable suspicion that a student possesses illegal material on his or her person, a dog may sniff the air near the student. Such a search will be conducted in private with the school official and an adult witness present, when feasible.

**PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING**

Policy Code 1710/4021/7230

The board acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, orderly, caring and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement. The board prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age and will provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law. The board will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying in any of its educational or employment activities or programs. Any violation of this policy will be considered serious and school officials shall promptly take appropriate action to address the violation.

A. **Prohibited Behavior**

Students, school system employees, volunteers and visitors are expected to behave in a civil and respectful manner. The board expressly prohibits unlawful discrimination, harassment and bullying by students, employees, board members, volunteers, or visitors. “Visitors” includes parents and other family members and individuals from the community, as well as vendors, contractors, and other persons doing business with or performing services for the school system.

Students are expected to comply with the behavior standards established by board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, and school and classroom rules. Employees are expected to comply with board policy, school system regulations, and school rules. Volunteers and visitors on school property also are expected to comply with board policy, school system regulations, and school rules and procedures.

This policy applies to behavior that takes place: (1) in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours; (2) on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity; (3) at any bus stop; (4) during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity; (5) at any time or place when the individual is subject to the authority of school personnel; or (6) at any time or place when the behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

B. **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. **Discrimination**

   Discrimination means any act or failure to act, whether intentional or unintentional, that unreasonably and unfavorably differentiates treatment of others based solely on their membership in a socially distinct group or category, such as race, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age or disability.
2. Harassment and Bullying
   a. Harassment or bullying behavior is deliberate conduct intended to harm another person or group of persons. Such conduct violates this policy when any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication:
      1. places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
      2. creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits or by adversely altering the conditions of an employee’s employment

   “Hostile environment” means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as harassment or bullying and that the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is harassment or bullying. A hostile environment may be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident, if sufficiently severe.

Harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, behavior described above that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic or motivated by an individual’s association with a person who has or is perceived to have a differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability. Examples of behavior that may constitute bullying or harassment include, but are not limited to, acts of disrespect, intimidation, or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, lewd propositions, exclusion from peer groups, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons. Harassment and bullying may occur through electronic means (“cyberbullying”), such as through the Internet, emailing, or text messaging, or by use of personal websites to support deliberate and repeated behavior intended to cause harm to persons or groups. Legitimate age-appropriate pedagogical techniques are not considered harassment or bullying.

Harassment, including sexual or gender-based harassment, as described below, is not limited to specific situations or relationships. It may occur between fellow students or co-workers, between supervisors and subordinates, between employees and students, or between non-employees, including visitors, and employees or students. Harassment may occur between members of the opposite sex or the same sex.
   b. Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that violates this policy. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:
      1. submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual’s employment, academic progress or completion of a school-related activity;
      2. submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual, or in the case of a student, submission to or rejection of such conduct is used in evaluating the student’s performance within a course of study or other school-related activity; or
      3. such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of (a) unreasonably interfering with an employee’s work or performance or a student’s educational performance, (b) limiting a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or environment, or (c) creating an abusive, intimidating, hostile or offensive work or educational environment.

Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, suggestions or demands for sexual involvement accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats, pressure for sexual activity, continued or repeated offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, continued or repeated verbal remarks about an individual’s body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, sexual assault, sexual violence, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings,
objects, pictures or written materials. Acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, but not involving sexual activity or language, may be combined with incidents of sexually harassing conduct to determine if the incidents of sexually harassing conduct are sufficiently serious to create a sexually hostile environment.

As provided in policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations, employees are strictly prohibited from engaging in a romantic or sexual relationship with any student enrolled in the school system, whether or not the relationship is consensual. Such conduct is prohibited whether or not it constitutes sexual harassment.

c. Gender-based harassment is also a type of harassment that violates this policy. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

C. Reporting and Investigating Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment or Bullying

Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against, harassed, or bullied in violation of this policy by any student, employee, or other person under the supervision and control of the school system, or any third person who knows or suspects conduct that may constitute discrimination, harassment, or bullying, should inform a school official designated to receive such complaints, as described in policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure.

Any employee who has witnessed, or who has reliable information that another person may have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or bullying in violation of this policy has a duty to report such conduct in accordance with policy 1720/4015/7225. Employees who observe an incident of harassment or bullying are expected to intervene to stop the conduct in situations in which they have supervisory control over the perpetrator and it is safe to do so. If an employee knows of an incident involving discrimination, harassment, or bullying and the employee fails to report the conduct or take proper action or knowingly provides false information in regard to the incident, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal.

Reports, except mandatory employee reports, may be made anonymously, and all reports will be investigated in accordance with policy 1720/4015/7225.

D. Responding to Occurrences of Discrimination, Harassment, or Bullying

1. Consequences for the Perpetrator
   a. Disciplinary Consequences for Students
      Students will be disciplined in accordance with the school’s student behavior management plan (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior). Based on the nature and severity of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the incident, the student will be subject to appropriate consequences and remedial actions ranging from positive behavioral interventions up to, and including, expulsion. In addition, the violation may also be reported to law enforcement, as appropriate.

      Incidents of misbehavior that do not rise to the level of discriminatory harassment or bullying may violate acceptable standards of student behavior, including, but not limited to, the expectation that students will demonstrate civility and integrity in their actions and interactions with others. See policy 4310, Integrity and Civility. The consequences for such behavior will be consistent with applicable board policy and the Code of Student Conduct.

      This policy will not be construed to allow school officials to punish student expression or speech based on undifferentiated fear or apprehension of a disturbance or out of a desire to avoid the discomfort and unpleasantness that may accompany an unpopular viewpoint.

   b. Disciplinary Consequences for Employees
      Employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal. In addition, the violation may also be reported to law enforcement, as appropriate. Nothing in this policy will preclude the school system from taking disciplinary
action against an employee when the evidence does not establish unlawful discrimination, harassment, or bullying, but the conduct otherwise violates board policy or expected standards of employee behavior.

c. Consequences for Other Perpetrators

Volunteers and visitors who violate this policy will be directed to leave school property and/or reported to law enforcement, as appropriate, in accordance with policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools. A third party under the supervision and control of the school system will be subject to termination of contracts/agreements, restricted from school property, and/or subject to other consequences, as appropriate.

d. Consideration of Need for More Extensive Response

School administrators shall consider whether the misconduct warrants more than just a response at the individual level. Given the nature and severity of the misconduct, the administrators may determine that a classroom, school-wide, or school system-wide response is necessary. Such classroom, school-wide, or school system-wide responses may include additional staff training, harassment and bullying prevention programs, and other measures deemed appropriate by the superintendent to address the behavior. The actions taken must be reasonably calculated to end the behavior, eliminate a hostile environment and its effects if one has been created, and prevent recurrence of the behavior.

1. Retaliation Prohibited

The board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person for (a) reporting or intending to report violations of this policy, (b) supporting someone for reporting or intending to report a violation of this policy, or (c) participating in the investigation of reported violations of this policy.

After consideration of the nature and circumstances of the reprisal or retaliation and in accordance with applicable federal, state, or local laws, policies, and regulations, the superintendent or designee shall determine the consequences and remedial action for a person found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation.

E. Training and Programs

The board directs the superintendent to establish training and other programs that are designed to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying and to foster an environment of understanding and respect for all members of the school community. Information about this policy and the related complaint procedure must be included in the training plan.

As funds are available, the board will provide additional training for students, employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students regarding the board’s efforts to address discrimination, harassment and bullying and will create programs to address these issues. The training or programs should (1) provide examples of behavior that constitutes discrimination, harassment or bullying; (2) teach employees to identify groups that may be the target of discrimination, harassment or bullying; and (3) train school employees to be alert to locations where such behavior may occur, including locations within school buildings, at school bus stops, on cell phones, and on the Internet.

F. Notice

The superintendent is responsible for providing effective notice to students, parents and employees of this policy
and of the procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of discrimination, harassment and bullying established in policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure. The superintendent must ensure that each principal provides a copy of this policy and policy 1720/4015/7225 to students, employees, and parents or other responsible care givers at the beginning of each school year. In addition, both policies must be posted on the school system website, and copies of the policies must be readily available at each school and worksite. Notice of the policies must appear in all student and employee handbooks and in any school or school system publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct for students and employees.

G. Coordinators

The superintendent has appointed the following individuals to coordinate the school system’s efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under federal non-discrimination laws. These responsibilities include investigating any complaints communicated to school officials alleging noncompliance with Title VI or Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination Act and/or the Boy Scouts Act, or alleging actions which would be prohibited by those laws.

1. Title IX Coordinator
   Name: Nicole Howard
   Office Address: 315 Smaw Road, Washington, NC 27889
   Phone Number: 252-946-6593

2. Section 504 Coordinator
   Name: Ashley Padgett
   Office Address: 315 Smaw Road, Washington, NC 27889
   Phone Number: 252-946-6593

3. ADA Coordinator
   Name: Jamie Stokes
   Office Address: 1010 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, NC 27889
   Phone Number: 252-946-6593

4. Age Discrimination Coordinator
   Name: Mark Doane
   Office Address: 315 Smaw Road, Washington, NC 27889
   Phone Number: 252-946-6593

5. Coordinator for Other Non-discrimination Laws
   Name: Mark Doane
   Office Address: 315 Smaw Road, Washington, NC 27889
   Phone Number: 252-946-6593

H. Records and Reporting

The superintendent or designee shall maintain confidential records of complaints or reports of discrimination, harassment or bullying. The records must identify the names of all individuals accused of such offenses and the resolution of such complaints or reports. The superintendent also shall maintain records of training conducted and corrective action(s) or other steps taken by the school system to provide an environment free of discrimination, harassment and bullying.

The superintendent shall report to the State Board of Education all verified cases of discrimination, harassment or bullying. The report must be made through the Discipline Data Collection Report or through other means required by the State Board.

I. Evaluation

The superintendent shall evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to correct or prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying and shall share these evaluations periodically with the board.
DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURE
Policy Code: 1720/4015/7225

The board takes seriously all complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment and bullying. The process provided in this policy is designed for those individuals who believe that they may have been discriminated against, bullied or harassed in violation of policy 1710/4021/7230, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying or policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities. Individuals who have witnessed or have reliable information that another person has been subject to unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying also should report such violations to one of the school system officials listed in subsection C.1. of this policy. Reports may be made anonymously.

A. DEFINITIONS

1. Alleged Perpetrator

   The alleged perpetrator is the individual alleged to have discriminated against, harassed or bullied the complainant.

2. Complaint

   A complaint is an oral or written notification made by a person who believes he or she is the victim of unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying.

3. Complainant

   The complainant is the individual complaining of being discriminated against, harassed or bullied.

4. Days

   Days are the working days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, vacation days or holidays, as set forth in the school calendar. In counting days, the first day will be the first full working day following receipt of the complaint. When a complaint is submitted on or after May 1, time limits will consist of all weekdays (Monday–Friday) so that the matter may be resolved before the close of the school term or as soon thereafter as possible.

5. Investigative Report

   The investigative report is a written account of the findings of the investigation conducted in response to a complaint.

6. Investigator

   The investigator is the school official responsible for investigating and responding to the complaint.

7. Report

   A report is an oral or written notification that an individual, other than the reporter, is a suspected perpetrator or victim of unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying.

B. REPORTING BY EMPLOYEES OR OTHER THIRD PARTIES
1. Mandatory Reporting by School Employees

Any employee who witnessed or who has reliable information or reason to believe that an individual may have been discriminated against, harassed or bullied in violation of policy 1710/4021/7230 or policy 1730/4022/7231 must report the offense immediately to an appropriate individual designated in subsection C.1., below. An employee who does not promptly report possible discrimination, harassment or bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. Reporting by Other Third Parties

All members of the school community including students, parents, volunteers and visitors are also strongly encouraged to report any act that may constitute an incident of discrimination, harassment or bullying.

3. Anonymous Reporting

Reports of discrimination, harassment or bullying may be made anonymously but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

4. Investigation of Reports

Reports of discrimination, harassment or bullying will be investigated sufficiently to determine whether further action under this policy or otherwise is necessary, and school officials shall take such action as appropriate under the circumstances, regardless of the alleged victim’s willingness to cooperate. At the option of the alleged victim, the report may be treated as a complaint by the alleged victim under this policy.

C. COMPLAINTS BROUGHT BY ALLEGED VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT OR BULLYING

1. Filing a Complaint

Any individual who believes that he or she has been discriminated against, harassed or bullied is strongly encouraged to file a complaint orally or in writing to any of the following individuals:

a. the principal or assistant principal of the school at which either the alleged perpetrator or alleged victim attends or is employed;
b. an immediate supervisor if the individual making the complaint is an employee;
c. the assistant superintendent of human resources if the alleged perpetrator or alleged victim is an employee of the school system (or the superintendent if the assistant superintendent of human resources is the alleged perpetrator);
d. the Title IX coordinator for claims of sex discrimination or sexual harassment (see policy 1710/4021/7230 for contact information);
e. the Section 504 coordinator or the ADA coordinator for claims of discrimination on the basis of a disability (see policy 1710/4021/7230 for contact information); or
f. for claims of other forms of prohibited discrimination, the applicable civil rights coordinator as established in policy 1710/4021/7230.

2. Time Period for Filing a Complaint

A complaint should be filed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after disclosure or discovery of
the facts giving rise to the complaint. Complaints submitted after the 30-day period may be investigated; however, individuals should recognize that delays in reporting may significantly impair the ability of school officials to investigate and respond to such complaints.

3. Informal Resolution

The board acknowledges that many complaints may be addressed informally through such methods as conferences or mediation. The board encourages the use of informal procedures such as mediation to the extent possible; however, mediation or other informal procedures will not be used to resolve complaints alleging sexual assault or sexual violence complaints by a student of sexual harassment perpetrated by an employee, or when otherwise inappropriate. Informal procedures may be used only if the parties involved voluntarily agree.

If an informal process is used, the principal or other designated personnel must (1) notify the complainant that he or she has the option to end the informal process and begin formal procedures at any time and (2) make a copy of this policy and other relevant policies available to the complainant. Any informal process should be completed within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days unless special circumstances necessitate more time. If informal procedures fail to resolve the matter in a reasonable period of time or are inappropriate or if the complainant requests formal procedures, the complaints will be investigated promptly, impartially and thoroughly according to the procedures outlined in the remainder of this policy.

4. Other Resources

Individuals may also contact the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education:
4000 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC 20202-1475 Telephone: 202-453-6020 TDD: 800-877-8339 FAX: 202-453-6021 Email: OCR.DC@ed.gov

D. PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT OR BULLYING

1. Initiating the Investigation

   a. Whoever receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or bullying pursuant to subsection C.1. shall immediately notify the appropriate investigator who shall respond to the complaint and investigate. The investigator of a complaint is determined as follows.

   1. If the alleged incident occurred under the jurisdiction of the principal, the investigator is the principal or designee, unless the alleged perpetrator is the principal, the assistant superintendent of human resources, the superintendent or a member of the board. If the alleged perpetrator is any other employee, the principal or designee shall conduct the investigation in consultation with the assistant superintendent of human resources or designee.
   2. If the alleged perpetrator is the principal, the assistant superintendent of human resources or designee is the investigator.
   3. If the alleged incident occurred outside of the jurisdiction of a principal (for example, at the central office), the assistant superintendent of human resources or designee is the investigator unless the alleged perpetrator is the assistant superintendent of human resources, the superintendent or a member of the board.
   4. If the alleged perpetrator is the assistant superintendent of human resources, the superintendent or designee is the investigator.
5. If the alleged perpetrator is the superintendent, the board attorney is the investigator. (In such cases, whoever receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or bullying shall immediately notify the assistant superintendent of human resources who shall immediately notify the board chair. The board chair shall direct the board attorney to respond to the complaint and investigate.)

6. If the alleged perpetrator is a member of the board, the board attorney is the investigator. (In such cases, whoever receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or bullying shall immediately notify the superintendent who shall direct the board attorney to respond to the complaint and investigate. Unless the board chair is the alleged perpetrator, the superintendent shall also notify the board chair of the complaint.)

b. As applicable, the investigator shall immediately notify the Title IX, Section 504, ADA, or other relevant coordinator of the complaint, and, as appropriate, may designate the coordinator to conduct the investigation.

c. The investigator shall explain the process of the investigation to the complainant and inquire as to whether the complainant would like to suggest a course of corrective action.

d. Written documentation of all reports and complaints, as well as the school system’s response, must be maintained in accordance with policy 1710/4021/7230.

e. Failure to investigate and/or address claims of discrimination, harassment or bullying shall result in disciplinary action.

2. Conducting the Investigation

a. The investigator is responsible for determining whether the alleged act(s) constitutes a violation of policy 1710/4021/7230 or policy 1730/4022/7231. In so doing, the investigator shall impartially, promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint. The investigator shall interview (1) the complainant; (2) the alleged perpetrator(s); (3) individuals identified as witnesses by the complainant or alleged perpetrator(s); and (4) any other individuals, including other possible victims, who may have relevant information. The investigation will include a review of all evidence presented by the complainant or alleged perpetrator.

b. The complaint and investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible. Information may be shared only with individuals who need the information in order to investigate and address the complaint appropriately and those with a legal right to access the information. Any requests by the complainant for further confidentiality will be evaluated within the context of the legal responsibilities of the school system. Any complaints withdrawn to protect confidentiality must be recorded in accordance with policy 1710/4021/7230.

c. The investigator shall review the factual information gathered through the investigation to determine whether, based on a preponderance of the evidence, the alleged conduct constitutes discrimination, harassment or bullying, giving consideration to all factual information, the context in which the alleged incidents occurred, the age and maturity of the complainant and alleged perpetrator(s), and any other relevant circumstances. The investigator shall submit a written investigative report to the superintendent and, as applicable, to the Title IX, Section 504, ADA, or other coordinator.

3. Notice to Complainant and Alleged Perpetrator

a. The investigator shall provide written notification to the complainant of the results of the investigation within 15 days of receiving the complaint, unless additional time is necessary to conduct an impartial, thorough investigation. The investigator shall specify whether the complaint was substantiated and, if so, shall also specify:
1. reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, corrective action intended to end the discrimination, harassment or bullying and prevent it from recurring;
2. as needed, reasonable steps to address the effects of the discrimination, harassment or bullying on the complainant; and
3. as needed, reasonable steps to protect the complainant from retaliation as a result of communicating the complaint.

b. If required by federal law, information regarding specific disciplinary action imposed on the alleged perpetrator(s) will be given to the complainant, such as when the information relates directly to the complainant (e.g., an order requiring the perpetrator not to have contact with the complainant). School officials are encouraged to consult with the superintendent and board attorney before releasing such information, however.

c. If the investigator determines that the complaint was substantiated, the perpetrator(s) shall be subject to discipline or other corrective steps, as described in policy 1710/4021/7230. If the corrective steps involve actions outside the scope of the investigator’s authority, the superintendent will be notified so that responsibility for taking the corrective steps may be delegated to the appropriate individual.

d. Each alleged perpetrator will be provided with a written summary of the results of the investigation in regard to whether the complaint was substantiated, whether the alleged perpetrator violated relevant law or board policies by his or her actions, and what, if any, disciplinary actions or consequences will be imposed upon the perpetrator in accordance with board policy. The perpetrator may appeal any disciplinary action or consequence in accordance with board policy. However, an appeal by the perpetrator of disciplinary action does not preclude school officials from taking appropriate action to address the discrimination, harassment or bullying.

4. Appeal

a. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the results of the investigation, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent (unless the alleged perpetrator is the assistant superintendent of human resources or the superintendent, in which cases the complainant may appeal directly to the board in accordance with the procedure described in subsection D.4.b below). The appeal must be submitted in writing within five days of receiving the notice of the results of the investigation. The superintendent may review the documents, conduct any further investigation necessary or take any other steps the superintendent determines to be appropriate in order to respond to the complaint. The superintendent shall provide a written response within 10 days after receiving the appeal, unless further investigation is needed.

b. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the superintendent’s response, he or she may appeal the decision to the board within five days of receiving the superintendent’s response, except in cases of sexual harassment where the complainant may appeal within 30 days from receiving the superintendent’s response. The board will review the documents, direct that further investigation be conducted if necessary and take any other steps that the board determines to be appropriate in order to respond to the complaint. Upon request of the complainant, the board will hold a hearing pursuant to policy 2500, Hearings Before the Board. The board will provide a written response within 30 days after receiving the appeal, unless further investigation is necessary or the hearing necessitates that more time be taken to respond.

E. TIMELINESS OF PROCESS

The number of days indicated at each step of the process should be considered a maximum. Every effort should
be made to expedite the process. If any school official charged with investigating the complaint or reviewing the investigation fails at any step in the process to communicate a decision within the specified time limit, the complainant will be entitled to appeal the complaint to the next step unless the official has notified the complainant of the delay and the reason for the delay, such as the complexity of the investigation, review or report. The school official shall make reasonable efforts to keep the complainant apprised of progress being made during any period of delay. Delays that interfere with the exercise of any legal rights are not permitted.

Failure by the complainant at any step in the process to appeal a complaint to the next step within the specified time limit will be considered acceptance of the decision at that step, unless the complainant has notified the investigator of a delay and the reason for the delay and the investigator has consented in writing to the delay.

F. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. No reprisals or retaliation of any kind will be taken by the board or by an employee of the school system against the complainant or other individual on account of his or her filing a complaint or report or participating in an investigation of a complaint or report filed and decided pursuant to this policy, unless the person knew or had reason to believe that the complaint or report was false or knowingly provided false information.
2. All meetings and hearings conducted pursuant to this policy will be private.
3. The board and school system officials will consider requests to hear complaints from a group, but the board and officials have the discretion to hear and respond to complainants individually.
4. The complainant may be represented by an advocate, such as an attorney, at any meeting with school system officials.
5. Should, in the judgment of the superintendent or designee, the investigation or processing of a complaint require that an employee be absent from regular work assignments, such absences shall be excused without loss of pay or benefits. This shall not prevent the superintendent or designee from suspending the alleged perpetrator without pay during the course of the investigation.

G. RECORDS

Records will be maintained as required by policy 1710/4021/7230.

STUDENT AND PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Policy Code: 1740/4010

A. OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

The board strives to resolve concerns and complaints of students and parents whenever possible. To this end, the board has provided opportunities for students and parents to express their concerns through processes established in board policies. Policy 1742/5060, Responding to Complaints, identifies these different processes, including a mechanism for resolving complaints in an informal manner.

While the board encourages resolutions of complaints through informal means, it recognizes that, at times, a formal process may be necessary for certain types of complaints or if the informal process did not produce satisfactory results. This policy provides a complaint procedure that may be used as described
Any parent or student who has questions about the options for proceeding with a complaint or concern may contact the principal or superintendent for further information and copies of all applicable board policies.

**B. DEFINITIONS**

1. **Days:** Days are working days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, vacation days, or holidays, as set forth in the school calendar. In counting days, the first day will be the first full working day following the receipt of the grievance. After May 1, time limits will consist of all weekdays (Monday – Friday) so that the matter may be resolved before the close of the school term or as soon thereafter as possible.

2. **Final Administrative Decision:** A final administrative decision is a decision of a school employee from which no further appeal to a school administrator is available.

3. **Grievance:** A grievance is a formal complaint regarding specific decisions made by school personnel that alleges that such decisions have adversely affected the person making the complaint. A grievance includes, but is not limited to, circumstances such as when a student or parent believes that board policy or law has been misapplied, misinterpreted or violated. The term “grievance” does not include any matter for which the method of review is prescribed by law, for which there is a more specific board policy providing a process for addressing the concern, or upon which the board is without authority to act. Claims of discrimination, harassment or bullying must be processed under policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure.

4. **Official:** The official is the school system employee hearing and responding to the grievant.

**C. TIMELINESS OF PROCESS**

The number of days indicated at each step of the grievance process should be considered a maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the process.

Failure by the official at any step to communicate a decision within the specified time limit will permit the grievant to appeal the grievance to the next step unless the official has notified the grievant of the delay and the reason for the delay, such as the complexity of the investigation or report. The official shall make reasonable efforts to keep the grievant apprised of progress being made during any period of delay. Delays that interfere with the exercise of the grievant’s legal rights are not permitted.
Failure by the grievant at any step of the process to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specified time limit will be considered acceptance of the decision at the current step, unless the grievant has notified the official of a delay and the reason for the delay and the official has consented in writing to the delay.

D. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. No reprisals of any kind will be taken by the board or by an employee of the school system against any grievant or other student or employee because of his or her participation in a grievance filed and decided pursuant to this policy.

2. All meetings and hearings conducted pursuant to this policy will be private.

3. The board and school system officials will consider requests to hear grievances from a group of grievants, but the board and officials have the discretion to hear and respond to grievants individually.

4. The grievant may have a representative at any stage of the grievance. The grievant may have an attorney present after the initial meeting with the principal to discuss the filing of the grievance. However, if the grievant intends to be represented by legal counsel, he or she must notify the appropriate school official in advance so that school personnel also will have the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel.

E. PROCESS FOR GRIEVANCE

1. Filing a Grievance

   a. Whenever a student or parent or guardian believes that he or she has been adversely affected by a decision of a school employee, the student or parent or guardian may file a grievance as provided in this policy.

   b. A grievance must be filed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after disclosure or discovery of the facts giving rise to the grievance. For a grievance submitted after the 30 day period that claims a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of state or federal law, the superintendent or designee shall determine whether the grievance will be investigated after considering factors such as the reason for the delay; the extent of the delay; the effect of the delay on the ability of the school system to investigate and respond to the complaint; and whether the investigation of the complaint is necessary to meet any legal obligations. However, students, parents and guardians should recognize that delays in filing a grievance
may significantly impair the ability of the school system to investigate and respond effectively to such complaints.

c. A student or parent or guardian who has a grievance must provide the following information in writing to the principal: (1) the name of the school system employee or other individual whose decision or action is at issue; (2) the specific decision(s) or action(s) at issue; (3) any board policy, state or federal law, state or federal regulation, or State Board of Education policy or procedure that the parent or guardian or student believes has been misapplied, misinterpreted or violated; and (4) the specific resolution desired. If there is not a specific decision or action at issue and no concern that state or federal law has been misapplied, misinterpreted or violated, then the procedure established in policy 1742/5060 is appropriate, and the principal shall address the concern following that policy.

d. Even if the principal is the employee whose decision or action is at issue, the student must submit the grievance first to the principal in order for the principal to address the issue within the formal process. If, however, the grievance claims that a state or federal law has been misapplied, misinterpreted or violated, the student may submit the grievance directly to the superintendent or designee.

e. If a student wants to initiate a formal grievance regarding a decision by the superintendent that directly and specifically affects the student, the general process described in this policy will be used, except that the grievance will be submitted to the assistant superintendent of human resources, who shall forward the grievance to the board chairperson.

2. Investigation

a. The principal shall schedule and hold a meeting with the student and/or parent or guardian within five school days after the grievance has been filed with the principal. The student may only be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other person who is in a position of loco parentis to the student.

b. The principal shall conduct any investigation of the facts necessary before rendering a decision.

3. Response by Principal

a. The principal shall provide a written response to the written grievance within five days of the meeting. The response will include the principal’s decision regarding resolution of the grievance and the basis for the decision. In responding, the principal may not disclose information about other students or employees that is considered confidential by law.
b. A copy of the grievance and the principal’s response will be filed with the superintendent.

4. Response by Superintendent

a. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the principal’s decision, the grievant may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The appeal must be made in writing within five days of receiving the principal’s decision.

b. The superintendent may review the written documents and respond or the superintendent may schedule and hold a conference with the grievant, principal and any other individuals the superintendent determines to be appropriate within fifteen school days after receiving the appeal.

c. The superintendent shall provide a written response within 10 days after reviewing the appeal. In responding, the superintendent may not disclose information about other students or employees that is considered confidential by law.

5. Appeal to the Board

If the grievant has alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, the grievant will have the right to appeal a final administrative decision to the board of education (see subsection E.5.a, Mandatory Appeals, below). If a grievant has not alleged such specific violations, he or she may request a board hearing, which the board may grant at its discretion (see subsection E.5.b, Discretionary Appeals, below).

a. Mandatory Appeals

1. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the superintendent’s response to his or her grievance and has alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, the grievant may appeal the decision to the board within five days of receiving the superintendent's response.

2. A hearing will be conducted pursuant to policy 2500, Hearings Before the Board.

3. The board will provide a final written decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal unless further investigation is necessary or the hearing necessitates that more time be taken to respond.
b. Discretionary Appeals

1. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the superintendent’s response to his or her grievance but has not alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, then within five days of receiving the superintendent’s response, the grievant may submit to the superintendent a written request for a hearing before the board of education.

2. If the full board will be meeting within two weeks of the request for a hearing, the board will decide at that time whether to grant a hearing. Otherwise, the board chairperson will appoint a three-person panel to review the request and determine whether to (1) deny the appeal; (2) review the superintendent’s decision on the written record only; or (3) grant a hearing. The panel will report the decision to the board. The board may modify the decision of the panel upon majority vote at a board meeting.

3. If the board denies the appeal, the decision of the superintendent will be final and the grievant will be notified within five days of the board’s decision.

4. If the board decides to grant a hearing, the hearing will be conducted pursuant to policy 2500.

5. The board will provide a final written decision within 30 days of the decision to grant a hearing, unless further investigation is necessary or the hearing necessitates that more time be taken to respond.

F. NOTICE

The superintendent or designee is responsible for providing effective notice to students, parents and school system employees of the procedures for reporting and investigating grievances.

G. RECORDS

Appropriate records shall be maintained in accordance with state and federal law.
RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SAFETY (BCS POLICY 3225/4312/7320)

Technological resources, including computers, other electronic devices, programs, networks and the Internet, provide opportunities to enhance instruction, appeal to different learning styles, and meet the educational goals of the board. Through the school system’s technological resources, users can observe events as they occur around the world, interact with others on a variety of subjects, and acquire access to current and in-depth information.

The use of technological resources should be integrated into the educational program. Technological resources should be used in teaching the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and in meeting the educational goals of the board. The Media and Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) should provide suggestions for using technological resources in the curriculum guides as provided in board policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides. Teachers are encouraged to further incorporate the use of technological resources into their lesson plans.

The superintendent shall ensure that school system computers with Internet access comply with federal requirements regarding filtering software, Internet monitoring, and Internet safety policies. The superintendent shall develop any regulations necessary to meet such requirements and will submit any certifications necessary to meet the requirements.

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Beaufort County Board of Education believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for communication and collaboration, exceed any disadvantages; but ultimately, parents and legal guardians of minors are responsible for setting the behaviors that their child should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, Beaufort County Board of Education supports and respects each family’s right to decide whether or not to deny their child’s Internet access. Students are granted access to the Internet automatically. However, Internet access is considered a privilege and may be revoked at any time by school administration. Parents or legal guardians may deny access to their child at any time through completion of a Parental Request to Deny Access Form.

Before using the Internet, all students must be trained about appropriate on-line behavior. Such training must cover topics such as cyber bullying and safely interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Any users of school system computers or electronic devices or who access the school network or the Internet, including staff and students, must comply with the requirements listed below. All students and employees must receive a copy of this policy annually. Before using school system technological resources, students and employees must sign a statement indicating that they understand and will strictly comply with these requirements. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in disciplinary action, including revocation of user privileges. Willful misuses may result in disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law.

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to activities that support learning and teaching. Use of school system technological resources for commercial gain or profit is prohibited.

2. Students and employees must comply with all applicable board policies, administrative procedures, and school standards and rules in using technological resources. (See the Beaufort County Schools Student Code of Conduct). All applicable laws, including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and public records, apply to technological resource use. Any use that violates state or federal law is strictly prohibited.

3. Under no circumstances may software purchased by the school system be copied for personal use.

4. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally accessing, downloading, storing, printing or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages or other material
that is obscene, defamatory, pornographic, harassing or considered to be harmful to minors.

5. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).

6. Users must respect the privacy of others. When using e-mail, chat rooms, blogs or other forms of electronic communication, students must not reveal personally identifiable, private or confidential information, such as home address or telephone number, of themselves or fellow students. In addition, school personnel must not disclose on the Internet or on school system websites or web pages any personally identifiable information concerning students (including names, addresses or pictures) without the permission of a parent or guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or board policy 4700, Student Records. Users also may not forward or post personal communications without the author’s prior consent.

7. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software or computer networks. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance. Users must scan any downloaded files for viruses.

8. Users may not create or introduce games, network communications programs or any foreign program or software onto any school system computer, electronic device or network without the express permission of the technology director or designee.

9. Users of the school computer system or Internet access are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities such as “hacking” or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.

10. If a user identifies a security problem on a technological resource, he or she must immediately notify a system administrator. Users shall not demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk shall be denied access.

11. Users are prohibited from using another individual’s network and other login credentials. Users may not read, alter, change, execute or delete files belonging to another user without the owner’s express prior permission.

12. Teachers shall make reasonable efforts to supervise a student’s use of the Internet during instructional time.

13. Views may be expressed as representing the view of the school system or part of the school system only with prior approval by the superintendent or designee.

14. All employees are required to use the BCS network or approved off-network sites when creating websites for any and all educational and work related postings or communications with students.

B. Restricted Material

Before a student may use the Internet for any purpose, the parent must be made aware of the possibility that the student could obtain access to inappropriate material. The student must sign a consent form acknowledging that the student user is responsible for appropriate use of the Internet and consenting to the school system monitoring the student’s e-mail communication and use of the Internet.
The board is aware that there is information on the Internet that is not related to the educational program. The board also is aware that there is information and opportunities to communicate on subjects that are not suitable for school-age children and that many parents would find objectionable. The school system will take reasonable precautions to prevent students from having access to inappropriate materials, such as violence, nudity, obscenity or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The school system will install or will ensure that its Internet service provider installs a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to audio or visual depictions that are obscene, that are considered child pornography or that are harmful to minors. School officials may disable such filters for an adult who uses a school-owned computer for bona fide research or other lawful educational purpose. School system personnel may not seek to limit access to the Internet for the purpose of restricting access to political ideas or social perspectives if the action is motivated solely by disapproval of the ideas involved. However, the user is ultimately responsible for his or her activity on the Internet. The Board will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's risk. Beaufort County Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

C. Privacy

No right of privacy exists in the use of technological resources. School system administrators or individuals designated by the superintendent may review files, monitor all communication, and intercept e-mail messages to maintain system integrity and to ensure compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations. School system personnel shall monitor on-line activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned computer.

D. Personal Websites

The superintendent may use any means available to request the removal of personal websites that substantially disrupt the school environment or that utilize school system or individual school names, logos or trademarks without permission.

1. Students

Though school personnel generally do not monitor students’ Internet activity conducted on non-school system computers during non-school hours, when the student’s on-line behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy (see the student behavior policies in the 4000 series).

2. Employees

All employees are required to use the BCS network when creating websites for any and all educational and work-related postings or communications with students. Thus, employees may not use personal websites or on-line networking profiles to post information in an attempt to communicate with students about school-related matters.

Employees are to maintain an appropriate relationship with students at all times. Having a public personal website or on-line networking profile or allowing access to a private website or private on-line networking profile is considered a form of direct communication with students. Employees are encouraged to block students from viewing any material or profiles that are not age appropriate. Any employee found to have created and/or posted inappropriate content on a website or profile that has a negative impact on the employee’s ability to perform his or her job as it relates to working with students
will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. This section applies to all employees, volunteers and student teachers working for or in the Beaufort County Schools.

Network access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. Responsible use of network access relies on the understanding and proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. Procedures are provided so that users are aware of their responsibilities in accessing the Network in compliance with ethical, legal and educational guidelines. Network accounts will be terminated for users who violate any of these provisions and future access may be denied. Signatures on the "RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY AGREEMENT" indicate the parties have read the terms and conditions and understand their significance.

E. NETWORK USE GOALS

1. To communicate more effectively using technology.

2. To support the implementation of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, the IMPACT Model, and local School Improvement Plans for increased student achievement.

3. To enhance learning opportunities by focusing on the application of skills information retrieval, searching strategies, research skills, and critical thinking.

4. To promote life-long learning skills.

5. To provide worldwide electronic mail for staff.

ACCESS INCLUDES:

1. Information, news, and resources from businesses, libraries, education institutions, government agencies, research institutions, and a variety of other digital sources approved by the school principal.

2. Telecommunications with individuals and groups in other locations.

3. Acquisition and use of school/district owned/provided software.

4. Electronic mail for staff and students.

5. School/district network resources (storage, intranet, shared drives/files).

6. Class and course sites; virtual learning environments.


RESPONSIBLE USES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. The use of a Network account must be in support of education, the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and/or research and must be consistent with the educational objectives of the Beaufort Schools.

2. Use of any other organization’s network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for our network. When creating email accounts with third party providers, it is preferable to use the school email domain with that third party provider.
3. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited.

**UNACCEPTABLE USES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

1. Violating copyright laws.
2. Using threatening or obscene material.
3. Distributing protected material.
4. Using offensive or harassing statements or language including disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious or political beliefs.
5. Sending or soliciting sexually oriented messages or images.
6. Using for product advertisement or commercial purposes.
7. Using for political lobbying or campaign purposes.
8. Operating a business for personal gain, sending chain letters, or soliciting money for any reason.
9. Unsolicited commercial E-mail activities.
10. Hacking, or gaining access by false pretenses to computers, files, or resources for any reason.
11. Any activity that divulges another person's e-mail address or other personally identifiable information to a third party. These include but are not limited to “Virtual Greeting Cards,” “Virtual Flowers” or third party forwarding of Network Content.
12. Disrupting the school program on/off campus through use of digital tools.

**F. STUDENT INTERNET/Email ACCESS**

All students will automatically be given access to the Internet. Students may also receive a district issued email account.

Annually, parents or legal guardians may deny their child’s individual access to the Internet and/or prohibit them from obtaining a BCS email account at any time by submitting a signed and dated Parental Request to Deny Access Form included in this handbook. The form is also available upon request from your child’s school and may be downloaded from the forms section of the district’s Internet website. Parent’s requests to deny access are effective only for the current school year and do not carry over into the child’s next school year.

The denial of Internet access removes an individual student’s unfettered personal access to the Internet. Students that have had their individual Internet access denied are still able to participate in teacher or administrative led activities that contain Internet content. Students that have their Internet access denied are not protected from viewing Internet content in use by other students. Students that have been denied a BCS email account but not Internet access may have access to e-mail accounts from other service providers or Internet locations.

1. School administrators are responsible for ensuring that each student’s parent or legal guardian is made aware that parents or guardians have the option to deny their child’s access to the Internet, e-mail, or both.
2. Schools are free to incorporate the content of Parental Request to Deny Access form into custom school forms, but may not change the content therein.

3. Conflicts on the delivery of Internet based curriculum or other similar issues due to the student not having Internet access must be resolved between the parent and the school principal.

G. ETHICAL USE

Users are expected to abide by all BCS policies and generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These rules include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your message to others.

2. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.

3. Do not reveal personally identifiable information such as social security number, credit card number, your personal address or phone numbers of yourself, other students, or colleagues.

4. Electronic mail (E-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. School system personnel monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via school-owned computer.

5. Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users or the school program.

6. All communication and information accessible via the internet should be assumed to be intellectual property protected by copyright law.
BCS PARENTAL REQUEST TO DENY ACCESS

You have the option of denying your child’s individual access to the Internet and/or prohibiting them from obtaining a BCS email account. To deny access to one or both services, please complete this form as appropriate, sign, date and return to your child’s school. Parents or guardians will be notified when the school receives the signed form.

Student Name: ____________________________
Grade: __________________

School: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: __________________________

Home Address: __________________________________________

Phone: __________________________

I have read the Beaufort County Schools Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Policy and Procedures and hereby request to deny Internet access for my child.

I DO NOT give permission to issue an account for my child and DO certify that the information contained in this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________

I have read the Beaufort County Schools Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Policy and Procedures and hereby request to deny a BCS electronic email account for my child.

I DO NOT give permission to issue an account for my child and DO certify that the information contained in this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________
BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SAFETY AGREEMENT (POLICY 3225/4312/7320-E)

(In accordance with Children's Internet Protection Act [CIPA] and North Carolina Public Law 106-554)

PURPOSE:
Beaufort County Schools provides all students on campus access to the Internet and network resources. Additionally students at designated grade levels may have access to email accounts and/or laptop computers as a means to promote achievement and provide diverse opportunities during the educational experience. This agreement provides guidelines and information about the limitations that the school imposes on use of these resources. Beaufort County Board of Education Policy 4312 ("Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety") requires that "the student must sign a consent form acknowledging that the student user is responsible for appropriate use of the Internet and consenting to the school system monitoring the student's e-mail communication and use of the Internet" Signing this responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement signifies compliance with Board Policy 4312, required for the use of any school computer, including laptop computers, as well as agreement with the higher standards. In this document additional rules may be added as necessary and will become a part of this agreement.

TERMS OF THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SAFETY AGREEMENT

Specifically, the student:

- Will adhere to these guidelines each time the BCS equipment or online resources are used at home and school.
- Will make available for inspection by an administrator or teacher upon request any messages or files stored or information accessed, downloaded, or transferred using district-owned technology.
- Will use appropriate language in all communications avoiding profanity, obscenity and offensive or inflammatory speech. Cyber Bullying such as personal attacks and/or threats on/against anyone made while using district-owned technology to access the Internet or local school networks are to be reported to responsible school personnel. Rules of etiquette should be followed conducting oneself in a responsible, ethical and polite manner.
- Will follow copyright laws and should only download/import music or other files to a district-owned technology that he/she is authorized or legally permitted to reproduce, or for which he/she has the copyright.
- Will never reveal identifying information, files or communications to others through email or posts to the Internet.
- Will use only school-assigned email for academic purposes and understand that this email is not private.
- Will participate in social networking activities only as assigned and supervised by a teacher; will avoid posting personal information online; will understand that postings are permanent; will exercise mature conduct at all times while online.
- Will not attempt access to networks and other technologies beyond the point of authorized access. This includes attempts to use another person's account and/or password.
- Will not share passwords or attempt to discover passwords. Sharing a password could make you liable if problems arise with its use and subject you to disciplinary action.
- Will not download and/or install any programs, files, or games from the Internet or other sources onto any district-owned technology. This includes the intentional introduction of computer viruses and other malicious software.
- Will not tamper with computer hardware or software, unauthorized entry into computers, and vandalism or destruction of the computer or computer files. Damage to computers may result in felony criminal charges.
Will not attempt to override, bypass or otherwise change the Internet filtering software or other network configurations.

Will use technology for school-related purposes only during the instructional day while refraining from use related to commercial, political or other private purposes.

Will not make use of materials or attempt to locate materials that are unacceptable in a school setting. This includes, but is not limited to pornographic, obscene, graphically violent, or vulgar images, sounds, music, language, video or other materials. The criteria for acceptability is demonstrated in the types of material made available to students by administrators, teachers, and the school media center. Specifically, all district-owned technologies should be free at all times of any pornographic, obscene, graphically violent, or vulgar images, sounds, music, language, video or other materials (files). Students shall inform staff in the event of inadvertent access of inappropriate material.

Will not connect any personal technologies such as laptops and workstations, wireless access points and routers, printers, etc. to district-owned and maintained local, wide or metro area network. Connection of personal devices such as iPods, smart phones, PDAs and printers is not supported by BCS technical staff. Home Internet use and cost is the responsibility of the student both in cost and configuration.

Will keep district laptops secure and damage free. Each laptop that is issued to be used off campus comes with a protective bag/case. If a laptop is issued to an individual student, use of provided laptop bags are required at all times.

Will back up data and other important files regularly. BCS will at times perform maintenance on the laptops. All files not backed up to server storage space or other storage media will be deleted during these processes. Students are encouraged to back up all personal files on their own storage media as needed.

By signing this I agree to abide by the conditions listed above and assume responsibility for the care and proper use of BCS technology, including personally backing up personal data. BCS is not responsible for any loss resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, lost data, or service interruptions caused by user errors, omissions or reasons beyond the district's control, information obtained via the Internet and other sources using BCS technologies is not guaranteed as to its accuracy or quality. I understand that should I fail to honor all the terms of this agreement, future Internet and other electronic media accessibility may be denied. Furthermore, I may be subject to disciplinary action outlined in the BCS Student Code of Conduct and, if applicable, my network privileges may be revoked.

As the student, my signature indicates I have read or had explained to me and understand this Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement, and accept responsibility for abiding by the terms and conditions outlined and using these resources for educational purposes. I understand that this agreement applies to the use of any school equipment used both on and off campus.

Student (please print): _______________________________

Student Signature:_______________________________ Date: ________________________
PARENT PERMISSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING & VIDEOTAPING

Throughout the school year, there may be occasions when the school/school system personnel and/or area media will be photographing and/or videotaping classroom and school-related activities. These images (student photographs, video artwork, writing and other creative works) are frequently used in school/school system publications, sent to the local media for publishing or published on the school/school system website and managed social media sites on the Internet.

If you prefer that your child NOT be photographed and/or videotaped, please complete the first section below and return to your child’s teacher within the first ten days of school. If you prefer that your child’s work NOT be published in local media or on the Internet, please complete the second section below and return to your child’s teacher within the first ten days of school. **This form is not required if you are giving parental consent for both scenarios.**

1. I do NOT give permission for my child to be photographed or videotaped for the purpose of being sent to the media for publishing or used in any other school system information including print material and/or Internet.

   Child’s Full Name: ________________________________ Grade: ________________

   Name of School Child Attends: ________________________________

   Signature of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________ Date: ________________

2. I do NOT give permission for my child’s artwork, writing and other creative works to be sent to the media for publishing or used in any other school system information including print material and/or Internet.

   Child’s Full Name: ________________________________ Grade: ________________

   Name of School Child Attends: ________________________________

   Signature of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________ Date: ________________
ATTENDANCE (BCS Policy 4400)

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

A. Attendance Records

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina.

B. Excused Absences

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student’s teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. Isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. Death in the immediate family;
4. Medical or dental appointment;
5. Participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. A minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student’s parent(s). The student will have the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to the excused absence for a religious observance;
7. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor’s page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. Pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; Or
9. visitation with the student’s parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

In the case of excused absences, short-term out-of-school suspensions, and absences under G.S. 130A-440 (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school) the student will be permitted to make up his or her work. (See also policies 4110, Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and 4351, Short-Term Suspension.) The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

C. School-Related Activities

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. Principals shall ensure that classes missed by students due to school-related activities are kept to an absolute minimum. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school;
2. job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(34a);
3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities;
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school;
5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal; and
6. in-school suspensions.

Assignments missed for these reasons are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

1. **Excessive**

   After three unexcused absences, the data manager will contact the parent by certified letter to inform them of the absences. The school must keep documentation of the letter in Powerschool. (Article 26 G.S. 115C-378 e)

2. At six unexcused absences, the data manager will contact the parent by mail informing them that they may be in violation of the compulsory attendance law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified. The data manager will then notify the school counselor. The school counselor will schedule a Supplemental Problem-solving Team meeting to determine appropriate interventions that are listed on the Attendance Standard Treatment Protocol. If appropriate, the Supplemental Problem-Solving Team will need to invite the school nurse, EL teacher, etc. The Supplemental Problem-Solving Team will contact the school social worker and provide copies of letters, meeting notes, and Tier II Intervention Plan. If parents, guardian, or custodian does not attend the Supplemental Problem-solving Team meeting, then the school counselor and/or administrator will make a home visit. The school counselor and/or administrator may be accompanied by a school resource officer. (Article 26 G.S. 115C-378 e)

3. On the 10th unexcused absence, the school counselor will schedule an Intensive Problem-solving meeting. In attendance will be the principal, social-worker, school nurse (if appropriate), school counselor, school staff, parent, guardian or custodian, and student. In this meeting, the team will review any information collected by the school and create an Intensive Intervention Plan to produce positive outcomes of student’s attendance. (Article 26 G.S. 115C-378 f)

4. On the 15th unexcused absence, the principal will refer the student to the Judiciary Attendance Committee (JAC). The JAC is charged with investigating the reasons for the student’s absences and informing the student’s parent or guardian of available resources and assistance that will enable the student to avoid absences. The parent or guardian referred to the JAC will be strongly encouraged to follow the recommendation of the JAC and any plan developed by the JAC to prevent further absences. The social worker will take the judge’s recommendation and documents in PowerSchool.

5. If the student accumulates unexcused the JAC recommendation, the BCS Social Worker will file a petition.

   Students who are excessively tardy to school or class may be suspended for up to two days for such offenses.
In addition, for students experiencing homelessness (see board policy 4125, Homeless Students), school officials must consider issues related to the student's homelessness, such as a change of caregivers or nighttime residence, before taking disciplinary action or imposing other barriers to school attendance based on excessive absences or tardies.

Excessive absences may impact eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics. See policy 3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations.


Cross References: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students (policy 4023), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy 4110), Homeless Students (policy 4125), Short-Term Suspension (policy 4351)

Adopted: August 16, 2011

Revised: November 20, 2012; May 16, 2016; August 1, 2017 (Legal references only); May 15, 2018; December 17, 2019; August 18, 2020

D. 

Student Promotion and Accountability (BCS Policy 3420)

A. Purpose

The board believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. To the extent reasonably possible, students should be given as much time or as little time as they need to be proficient at a particular level of study. Students will be promoted to the next level of study as described in this policy.

B. Student Promotion Standards

The superintendent shall develop (1) proposed promotion standards and (2) a process to be used in determining a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study and shall submit the standards and process to the board for approval. The standards will be based, in part, upon proficiency in reading. The standards and process must provide multiple criteria for assessing a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student’s work and, when appropriate, accepted standards for assessing developmental growth. The standards and process will incorporate all state law and State Board of Education policy requirements, including those for the assessment and promotion of third grade students as described in G.S. 115C-83.6 et seq. and State Board of Education Policies KNEC-002 AND -003.

Students must comply with the Beaufort County Schools Attendance Policy and meet the following accountability standards:

1. Grades K through 2
a. To be promoted to the next grade level, students must score proficient (on grade level) in reading and writing on the End-of-Year Progress Report or show significant progress (documented by literacy assessments and work samples) toward meeting current grade level skills.

b. Students also must score proficient on the quarterly math assessments or show significant progress (documented by objective assessments and work samples) toward meeting current grade level skills.

2. Grade 3

a. To be promoted to the next grade level, students must demonstrate proficiency in reading, in accordance with state law and State Board of Education policy.

b. To be promoted to the next grade level, students should also demonstrate grade level proficiency and make adequate academic growth for the year in mathematics.

c. Students who do not meet the promotion standards will be given remediation and retesting as provided in section D. of this policy.

d. In addition, students must pass language arts and mathematics and one other core subject (science or social studies). Students must demonstrate proficiency or adequate progress toward proficiency in writing as documented by work samples maintained in the student’s writing portfolio.

3. Grades 4 through 5

a. To be promoted to the next grade level, students in grades 4-5 should demonstrate grade level proficiency and make adequate academic growth for the year in reading and mathematics.

b. In addition, students must pass language arts and mathematics and one other core subject (science or social studies). Students must demonstrate proficiency or adequate progress toward proficiency in writing as documented by work samples maintained in the student’s writing portfolio.

4. Grades 6 through 8

a. To be promoted to the next grade level, students in grades 6-8 should demonstrate grade level proficiency and make adequate academic growth for the year in reading and mathematics.

b. In addition, students must pass language arts and mathematics and one other core subject (science or social studies), and 50 percent of exploratory wheel classes. Students must demonstrate proficiency or adequate progress toward proficiency in writing as documented by work samples maintained in the student’s writing portfolio.

5. Grades 9 through 12

A. Criteria for promotion to Grade Ten: 6 Credits
B. Criteria for promotion to Grade Eleven: 13 Credits
C. Criteria for promotion to Grade Twelve: 20 Credits

Principals shall ensure that the promotion standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study. Principals have the authority to promote or retain students based upon the standards approved by the board and any applicable standards set by the State Board of Education.

To reduce the number of students who do not meet promotion standards, the board directs school administrators and teachers to use personal education plans as required in policy 3405, Students at Risk of Academic Failure, to address the needs of students who are not making adequate academic progress.

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures regulating enrollment in and credit accrual in remediation and summer school programs.
C. **Excessive Absences**

If a high school student is absent from school for eight or more days in a semester or a middle or elementary school student is absent ten or more days in a semester the principal or a committee established by the principal shall consider the appropriate action to take because of the absences. The principal or committee shall review other measures of academic achievement, the circumstances of the absences, the number of absences, and the extent to which the student completed missed work. A committee may recommend to the principal and the principal may make any of the following determinations:

1. the student will receive the grade otherwise earned;
2. the student will be given additional time to complete the missed work before a determination of the appropriate grade is made; or
3. the student will not receive a passing grade for the semester;

Students with excused absences due to documented chronic health problems are exempt from this policy provision.

D. **Opportunities for Retesting to Meet Student Promotion Standards**

The principal may consider promotion of students in grades 4-8 who score below Level III on the state end-of-grade reading and mathematics tests if the teacher can verify that the student is performing at grade level or would have the necessary skills to be successful at the next grade level. The Beaufort County Board of Education recognizes the authority of a principal to make the final decision on grading and classifying students.

E. **Diploma Standards**

To receive a North Carolina high school diploma, a student must complete the requirements set forth in policy 3460, Graduation Requirements.

F. **Appeals of Promotion Decisions**

1. **Appeal to the Superintendent**

   Within five workdays of receiving the principal’s written decision to promote or retain a student, the student’s parents may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may overturn the principal’s decision only upon a finding that the principal’s decision was arbitrary and capricious (i.e., without a rational basis) or was otherwise an abuse of discretion.

   The superintendent must render a decision within 10 workdays of receiving the appeal. The superintendent may support the principal’s decision, remand it back to the principal for consideration of additional issues or reverse the decision.

   The superintendent’s findings must be in writing and must be provided to the parents.

2. **Appeal to the Board of Education**

   The superintendent’s decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed to the board in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection E.5 of policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure.

G. **Promotion Standards for Students with Disabilities**
To the extent possible, students with disabilities must be held to the same promotion standards as all other students. However, for students who take alternative assessments in lieu of the end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) tests, promotion decisions must be based on criteria recommended by the IEP team.

All intervention strategies and other opportunities, benefits and resources that are made available to students without disabilities must be made available to those students with disabilities who are subject to the student promotion standards. Such opportunities must be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

H. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, the superintendent shall provide opportunities for students in grades 9 through 12 to earn course credit by demonstrating mastery of course material without first completing the regular period of classroom instruction in the course. Students in grades 6 through 8 may earn credit by demonstrated mastery for high school courses offered in middle school. To earn credit by demonstrated mastery, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge through a multi-phase assessment, in accordance with standards established by the State Board of Education and any additional standards established by the superintendent.

I. Credit Recovery

Students who fail a high school course may retake part of the course through credit recovery to earn credit for the course. Credit recovery delivers a subset of the blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student’s mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion. A pre-assessment of the student’s understanding of the course material will be administered at the beginning of the course and the credit recovery will be tailored to meet the needs of the individual student. The length of a credit recovery course is dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not a fixed length of seat time.

Any EOC exam associated with the credit recovery course will be administered no later than 30 days upon completion of the credit recovery course. The credit recovery will be graded as pass or fail and will not impact the student’s grade point average. The original grade for the course will remain on the student’s transcript.

J. Acceleration

Some students may need less time to learn the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to challenge these students by expanding the curriculum, providing opportunities to explore subjects in greater detail or providing different types of educational experiences. To challenge a student sufficiently, the principal may reassign the student to a different class or level of study and/or may identify concurrent enrollment or other curriculum expansion options (see policy 3101, Dual Enrollment).

Although student placement ahead of grade should be approached with caution, the principal, after consulting with the professional staff and the student’s parents, may determine that skipping a grade level is appropriate. The final decision to advance a student in grade shall rest with the principal, with the agreement of the student’s parent or guardian.

To receive credit toward graduation, high school students must participate in approved group or individual instructional experiences in grades 9 through 12 or through approved courses at off-campus institutions. The superintendent shall provide any additional criteria necessary to make a determination of whether credit may be awarded.

K. Reporting Requirements
1. Superintendent’s Report to the Board.
   At least on an annual basis, the superintendent shall provide the board with the following information for each school:
   a. aggregate student performance scores on state-mandated tests and any other standardized tests used by a school or the school system;
   b. the number and percentage of students retained and/or not meeting the standards for their grade level;
   c. the number and percentage of third grade students exempt from mandatory third grade retention by category of exemption as listed in state law; and
   d. remedial or additional educational opportunities provided by the school system and the success of these efforts in helping students meet promotion standards.

2. Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction.
Pursuant to statutory requirements and standards established by the Department of Public Instruction, all required information regarding student performance will be provided annually to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

3. Publication on the School System Website.
   Information about the reading performance of third grade students will be posted on the school system website in accordance with state law.

L. Resource

Consistent with the objective of improving student performance, the board will provide schools with maximum flexibility in the allocation of state funds. School personnel are expected to budget financial resources in a manner that will meet the standards established in this policy. The board will consider requests to transfer funds from other funding allotment categories to intervention strategies as part of the school improvement plan submitted by school officials. All funds will be used in a fiscally sound manner in accordance with policy 8300, Fiscal Management Standards.

M. Notification to Parents

The superintendent or designee shall provide information regarding promotion standards to all students and parents. In addition, if a kindergarten, first grade, second grade or third grade student (1) is demonstrating difficulty with reading development; (2) is not reading at grade level; or (3) has a personal education plan under G.S. 115C-105.41, the student’s teacher shall provide the student’s parents timely written notice advising that if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained, unless exempt from mandatory retention for good cause. Parents are encouraged to help their children meet the promotion standards and will have opportunities to discuss promotion standards and procedures with teachers and the principal. Information provided to parents should be in the parents’ native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.

Parents may request a conference at any time during the academic year to discuss their child’s progress. Conferences shall be held during times when teachers are free of classroom responsibilities, such as before or after class, during planning periods, or on teacher workdays.

The teacher of a student who is in danger of not being promoted shall schedule a conference with the student’s parent by the conclusion of the third nine-week grading period. The teacher of a student who does not meet promotion standards must notify the student’s parents that the student has failed to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study and must provide the parents with information concerning retesting, intervention, review and appeal opportunities. When a student is to be retained, the principal shall provide the student’s parents written notice of the retention and, if the student will be retained in accordance with G.S.
115C-83.7(a) for failure to demonstrate reading proficiency, (1) written notice of the reason the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in G.S. 115C-83.7(b) and (2) a description of proposed reading interventions that will be provided to the student to remediate identified areas of reading deficiency. Teachers shall provide parents of students retained under G.S. 115C-83.7(a) at least monthly written reports on student progress toward reading proficiency. The evaluation of a student’s progress will be based upon the student’s classroom work, observations, tests, assessments and other relevant information.

Teachers will maintain records of parent notifications and conferences.

N. Children of Military Families

As required by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and policy 4155, Assignment to Classes, school administrators have the authority to exercise flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for the placement of children of military families in courses or programs offered by the school system.

Comprehensive Health Education Program (BCS Policy 3540)

The board is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The board recognizes the primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents as provided in this policy. The comprehensive health education program provided by the school system will meet the requirements of state law and the objectives established by the State Board of Education. The board may, in its discretion, expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.

A. Comprehensive Health Education Program

A comprehensive health education program must be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

Students also will be provided an educational program that focuses on the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and the skills to reject alcohol and drugs. This program may be included as part of the comprehensive school health program.

As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage as the expected standard for school-age children, STDs, the human reproductive system, preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies, the effectiveness of contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy and awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

B. Parental Opportunities to Review Materials and Withhold Consent for Student Participation

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, the awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness the principal or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center of each school where these subjects will be taught. The program and instructional materials covered under this subsection of the policy shall be available for review for at least 60 days before use.
The principal or designee shall also notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child’s participation in any or all portions of the reproductive health and safety education instruction or in specific topics such as abstinence education, STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, and awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse. Any parent wishing to withhold consent must do so by completing the Reproductive Health and Safety Education Consent form. Any parent wishing to withdraw consent previously given for participation must do so in writing.

C. Standards for Instruction

For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional objectives and only use the age-appropriate materials that have been made available to parents for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education or other field authorized by law.

A determination of what is an appropriate education for a student with disabilities must be made in accordance with the student’s individualized education plan, following all procedures as provided in the North Carolina Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities.

Administering Medicines to Students (BCS Policy 6125)
The board recognizes that students may need to take medication during school hours. School personnel may administer medication prescribed by a health care practitioner upon the written request of a student’s parent. In limited circumstances, a student may be authorized to self-administer medications. To minimize disruptions to the school day, students should take medications at home rather than at school whenever feasible. School officials may deny a request to administer any medication that could be taken at home or when, in the opinion of the superintendent or designee in consultation with school nursing personnel, the administration of the medication by school personnel would pose a substantial risk of harm to the student or others.

For the purposes of this policy, all references to “parent” include parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians. In addition, for purposes of this policy, the term “health care practitioner” is limited to licensed medical professionals who are legally authorized to prescribe medications under North Carolina law, such as doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathic medicine, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.

A. Medication Administration by School Employees


   Authorized school employees may administer medication to students when all of the following conditions are met. These conditions apply to all medications, including those available over-the-counter without a prescription.
   a. Parental Consent: The student’s parent must make a signed, written request that authorizes school personnel to administer the medication to the student.
   b. Medication Authorization/Order: A health care practitioner must prescribe the medication for use by the student and provide explicit written instructions for administering the medication.
   c. Certification of Necessity: The student’s health care practitioner must certify that administration of the medication to the student during the school day is necessary to maintain and support the student’s continued presence in the school.
   d. Proper Container/Labeling: If the medication to be administered is available by prescription only, the parent must provide the medication in a pharmacy-labeled container with directions for how and when the medicine is to be given. If the medication is available over-the-counter, it must be provided in the original container or packaging, labeled with the student’s name.
   e. Proper Administration: The employee must administer the medication pursuant to the health care practitioner’s written instructions provided to the school by the student’s parent, and in
accordance with professional standards.

2. Procedures for Administering Medications

The superintendent shall develop procedures for the implementation of this policy. The procedures and a copy of this policy must be made available to all students and parents each school year. The superintendent’s procedures should be developed according to the guidelines listed below.

   a. The health and welfare of the student must be of paramount concern in all decisions regarding the administration of medication.

   b. Procedures for medication administration must be consistent with recommendations of the School Health Unit of the Children & Youth Branch of the N.C. Division of Public Health, as described in the North Carolina School Health Program Manual.

   c. Students with special needs are to be afforded all rights provided by federal and state law as enumerated in the Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities. Students with disabilities also are to be afforded all rights provided by anti-discrimination laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

   d. No student may possess, use, or transmit any drug or counterfeit drug prohibited by policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol.

   e. The board generally encourages school personnel to administer medication from a centralized location. However, in all instances, whether administered from a centralized location or multiple locations, any medications kept at school for a student must be kept in a locked and secure place. An exception to the requirement for locked storage may be made for emergency medications that must be immediately accessible.

   f. No teacher or assistant teacher shall administer any non-emergency prescription medication within the classroom setting, except under the following circumstances:

       1. When the principal and teacher agree that it would be inappropriate to send a student in an exceptional children’s self-contained classroom to the office for administration of medication; or

       2. When the principal has submitted to the board and the board has approved a plan for classroom administration of medication. Any such plan shall ensure student privacy and shall provide for the placement of a locked storage facility in the classroom.

   g. The principal or designee shall be responsible for ensuring that two or more persons are designated for the administration and security of medication and that designated staff maintain proper documentation of the time and dosage of medications.

   h. All school personnel who will be administering medications must receive appropriate training provided by the school nurse.

   i. Only medications clearly prescribed for the student may be administered by school personnel. At the time a parent brings a medication to school for administration, if school personnel have concerns regarding the appropriateness of the medication or dosage for a student, a confirmation should be obtained from the student’s health care practitioner or another health care practitioner prior to administering the medication or allowing a student to self-administer the medication.

   j. Although efforts should be made not to disrupt instructional time, a parent has the right to administer medication to his or her child at any time while the child is on school property.

   k. At the end of the school year or if medication is discontinued, any medication not picked up by the parent or guardian within two (2) weeks will be destroyed.

   l. A prescription medication log shall be maintained on each child receiving medication.

   m. Written information maintained by school personnel regarding a student’s medicinal and health needs is confidential. Parents and students must be accorded all rights provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and state confidentiality laws. Any employee who violates the confidentiality of the records may be subject to disciplinary action.
B. Emergency Medication

Students who are at risk for medical emergencies, such as those with diabetes, asthma, or severe allergies, must have an emergency action plan developed for them to address emergency administration of medication. Students must meet the requirements of subsection A.1, above, including providing authorization and instructions from the health care practitioner and written consent of the parent, in order for emergency medication to be administered by school personnel while the student is at school, at a school sponsored activity, and/or while in transit to or from school or a school-sponsored event. Board approval is not required for classroom-based administration of emergency medication.

C. Students Self-Administering Medications

The board recognizes that students with certain health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or an allergy that could result in an anaphylactic reaction, may need to possess and self-administer medication on school property in accordance with their individualized health care plan or emergency health care plan. As used in this section of the policy, “medication” refers to a medicine prescribed for the treatment of asthma, diabetes, or anaphylactic reactions and includes a prescribed asthma inhaler, insulin or a source of glucose, or a prescribed epinephrine auto-injector. The superintendent shall develop procedures for the possession and self-administration of such medication by students on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, and/or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events.

1. Authorization to Self-Administer Medication
   Before a student will be allowed to self-administer medication pursuant to this section, the student’s parent must provide to the principal or designee all of the documents listed below:
      a. written authorization from the student’s parent for the student to possess and self-administer the medication;
      b. a written statement from the student’s health care practitioner verifying that:
         1. the student has asthma, diabetes, or an allergy that could result in anaphylactic reaction;
         2. the health care practitioner prescribed the medication for use on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events; and
         3. the student understands, has been instructed in self-administration of the medication, and has demonstrated the skill level necessary to use the medication and any accompanying device;
      c. a written treatment plan and written emergency protocol formulated by the prescribing health care practitioner for managing the student’s asthma, diabetes, or anaphylaxis episodes and for medication use by the student;
      d. a statement provided by the school system and signed by the student’s parent acknowledging that the board of education and its agents are not liable for injury arising from the student’s possession and self-administration of the medication; and
      e. any other documents or items necessary to comply with state and federal laws.

Prior to being permitted to self-administer medication at school, the student also must demonstrate to the school nurse, or the nurse’s designee, the skill level necessary to use the medication and any accompanying device.

The student’s parent must provide to the school backup medication that school personnel are to keep in a location to which the student has immediate access in the event the student does not have the required medication.

All information provided to the school by the student’s parent must be reviewed by the school nurse and kept on file at the school in an easily accessible location. Any permission granted by the principal or designee for a student to possess and self-administer medication will be effective only for the same school for 365 calendar days. Such permission must be
renewed each school year.

2. Responsibilities of the Student.
   A student who is authorized in accordance with this policy to carry medication for self-administration must carry the medication in the original labeled container with the student’s name on the label.

3. Consequences for Improper Use.
   A student who uses his or her medication in a manner other than as prescribed or who permits another person to use the medication may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school disciplinary policy. However, school officials shall not impose disciplinary action on the student that limits or restricts the student’s immediate access to the diabetes, asthma, or anaphylactic medication.

The board does not assume any responsibility for the administration of medication to a student by the student, the student’s parent, or any other person who is not authorized by this policy to administer medications to students.

D. Students Self-Administering Other Types of Medication

   The school district discourages students from possessing and/or self-administering other medication, both prescription and non-prescription.

   Students in grades 6 through 12 may self-administer over the counter medication with a medication authorization signed by a healthcare practitioner and parent.

   Elementary students are not permitted to self-administer medication, whether prescribed or non-prescribed, under any circumstances.

   The school district assumes no responsibility for students who self-medicate or for the transportation of medication to and from school. Students who self-administer prescribed medications must have written parental permission or risk possible violation of policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol.

**Instructional Use of Videos (BCS Policy 3335)**

It is the policy of the Beaufort County Board of Education that any media used within a school setting should be for instructional purposes only and consistent with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Sound instructional principles that maximize instructional time should always be employed when using any form of media in the instructional setting. Use of video in any format (VHS, DVD, Streaming, etc.) or direct TV programming for entertainment or reward purposes violates this policy. Utilization of video or direct TV broadcast must comply with the Copyright Law. The Board does not condone any infringement on the property rights of copyright owners.

1. Videos must be appropriate, relevant, of educational value, and on the students’ level.

2. Teachers must verify the rating and/or appropriateness of the item intended to be shown to students in any school setting. Only items meeting the ratings set forth in the chart below are permitted.

3. Teachers must preview any video/DVD to be shown to students.

4. Any video/DVD that is part of an officially adopted textbook purchased by BCS will not require administrative approval but must be documented in the lesson plan and must be used in accordance with the Standard Course of Study, and the guidelines of this policy.

5. If a video/DVD is used, Section 110(1) of the Copyright Law dictates that these videos/DVDs may only be shown for educational purposes in a face-to-face setting, not broadcast over the closed-circuit television system. They may
not be shown for entertainment, filler, motivation, or reward, etc. This also applies to employee or student owned videos/DVDs.

6. Documentation must be provided in the teacher lesson plan verifying use of any video/DVD to support the Standard Course of Study.

7. Teacher assistants or substitutes may not show a video/DVD, etc. unless it is a documented part of a lesson plan left by the teacher.

8. Teachers should limit the student viewing time of videos/DVDs. It may not be necessary to show the entire video/DVD to support the curriculum needs.

9. Any video, DVD, etc. legally purchased by the school or district and/or cataloged in the school media center with a “G” rating or “unrated” may be shown without administrative approval as long it fits the Standard Course of Study objective, is specifically documented in the lesson plan, does not violate this policy, and does not violate grade level or BCS pacing guide recommendations.

Rating guidelines and parental permission requirements are indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beaufort County Schools Video/DVD Rating Guidelines*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>May be Shown To:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>K-5 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12 Students</td>
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* Students enrolled in Community College or Distance Education courses may view content appropriate for the course including content rated “PG or above” without parental consent.

10. All videos, DVDs, streaming videos or TV broadcasts rated higher than a G rating (or TV equivalent) in grades 6-8, higher than a PG rating (or TV equivalent) in grades 9-12, or unrated K-12 if not legally purchased by the school or district, require prior approval from the principal. Prior to the showing, the instructor/teacher shall submit to the principal in writing the following information for approval:

a. Title, rating & brief description  
b. Date(s) and purpose for student viewing  
c. Alignment with Standard Course of Study  
d. Date of parental notification

Once approved by the principal, the teacher must receive a signed permission form from the parent or guardian prior to student viewing. Notice to parents and guardians shall include the following information including the right for the parent or guardian to remove his or her child from the viewing:

a. Title, rating & brief description  
b. Date(s) and purpose for student viewing  
c. Alignment with Standard Course of Study
d. Alternative setting & assignment for those opting-out

11. A broadcast television program may be recorded off-air and retained by the school for 45 calendar days. It may only be used once and repeated once within each class by an individual teacher during the first 10 consecutive school days during the 45-day calendar retention period. At the end of the 45 days, it must be erased.

12. The rating guidelines are not applicable to before and after school programs, summer programs, parent involvement events, extracurricular activities, etc. with Principal approval and signed parental permission.

13. Employees who violate the terms of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Student Athlete Behavior and Drug Screening (BCS Policy 4326)**

Participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Students involved in athletic activities represent the school and school system in interscholastic competition, public performances and various other activities. They are role models for other students. Their use or abstinence in the use of alcohol or illegal drugs is likely to influence the choices of other high school students. In addition, the use or abuse of alcohol and/or illegal drugs by athletes is likely to increase student injuries to the user or others with whom he or she is playing. Finally, the board believes that the adoption of this alcohol and drug testing policy will deter the use of alcohol, and drugs among high school students. Therefore, the board has adopted this policy on the alcohol and drug testing of students who participate in athletics activities and non-athletes who tamper or otherwise interfere with the testing process.

**A. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Students Subject to Alcohol and Drug Testing

   This policy applies to grades 6 through 12 students who elect on a voluntary basis to participate in any school athletics.

2. Alcohol and Drug Testing Required

   To be eligible to participate in athletics the student and his or her parents must agree in writing on a form adopted by the superintendent to submit to alcohol and drug testing. All eligible students at each high school shall be tested once per year during their sport’s season. If the athlete participates in more than one sport, the student will not be tested more than once per year unless selected as part of the random testing process. Testing will be conducted on a periodic basis as established by the superintendent. The number of students tested randomly will be as follows: (1) middle schools 6 athletes per sports season; (2) 3A high schools 16 students selected per month; and (3) 1A high schools 12 selected per month. The superintendent may increase or decrease numbers as needed. The students shall be tested for the presence of any of the substances listed in subsection E.1 of this policy, including marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, and any other drugs the superintendent deems appropriate.

3. Refusal to Test/Leaving a Test

   A student who refuses to test or leaves school without permission during testing will be ineligible to participate in athletics for 365 calendar days and will not be eligible for a waiver as described in subdivision B.4.a of this policy. Once selected for testing the student may not leave the presence of a school employee or the contracted Test Administrator’s staff until he or she has provided a urine specimen. If the student refuses to cooperate with school employees or the contracted Test Administrator’s staff, the student’s refusal to cooperate shall be treated as refusing to test.

4. Consequences of A Positive Test
a. **FIRST OFFENSE**

In the event a student tests positive for alcohol or drugs, or is caught with alcohol or a controlled substance at school or a school sponsored event, or is convicted in court for use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, the student shall be ineligible to participate in athletics for 365 calendar days. However, if the student enrolls in and successfully completes a substance abuse education and/or intervention program recommended by the superintendent, the student shall obtain a waiver to regain eligibility to participate in athletics but not in the same sport season that the violation occurred (documentation of completion must be presented). The student will be required to take an alcohol and/or drug test and test negative before being allowed to return to athletics. The student will also be required to take two (2) more unannounced tests besides the return test. The two tests must be administered within 365 calendar days. If a student elects not to seek a waiver, he or she may return to athletics after a 365-day suspension period provided that he or she takes and passes a drug test. The student shall not be subject to suspension from school as a result of a positive alcohol and/or drug test. A student will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible suspension from school, for a violation of Subsection B.5, Unauthorized Possession of a Specimen, or Subsection B.7, Sample Tampering, of this policy. If a student also violates policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol, the student will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with that policy and the Code of Student Conduct.

b. **SECOND OFFENSE**

In the event a student tests positive a second time or fails or refuses to participate in the second alcohol/drug test when selected, or is caught with alcohol or a controlled substance at school or a school sponsored event or is convicted in court for use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substances, the student shall be ineligible to participate in athletic activities for 365 calendar days. The student shall not be subject to suspension from school as a result of a positive alcohol and/or drug test. A student will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible suspension from school, for a violation of Subsection B.5, Unauthorized Possession of a Specimen, or Subsection B.7, Sample Tampering, of this policy. If a student also violates policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol, the student will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with that policy and the Code of Student Conduct.

5. Unauthorized Possession of Specimen

Any student found with a urine specimen in his or her possession or who has been found to have given a urine specimen to or received a urine specimen from another individual will be subject to a 365-day suspension from athletics with no waiver and may be suspended from school in accordance with Policy 4325 – Drugs and Alcohol.

6. Cold Specimen

Any athlete who gives a cold* specimen on a test will be asked to provide another specimen during the same testing day. Any athlete who gives two cold specimens on the same testing day will be treated as refusing to test and will be subject to a 365-day suspension from athletics with no waiver.

*Cold Specimen: A sample determined to be outside of normal temperature ranges.

7. Sample Tampering

Any athlete who tampers with a specimen will be treated as refusing to test and will be subject to a 365-day suspension from athletics with no waiver and may be suspended from school in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
Any athlete who is found to have given an adulterated\* sample will be treated as refusing to test and will be subject to a 365-day suspension from athletics with no waiver and may be suspended from school in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

\*Adulterated Sample: A sample determined to have been altered in such a way that the lab could not determine whether the test was positive or negative.

B. PERMISSION FORMS, SIGN-UPS, DATA COLLECTION AND RECORD KEEPING

1. Student/Parent Permission Required

Each student and each student’s custodial parent or guardian (unless the student is 18 years-of-age or emancipated) wishing to participate in athletics, must give consent in writing for alcohol and drug testing and for the release of the test results to: The BCS contracted Testing Administrator; the Medical Review Officer (MRO); the student and the student’s custodial parent or guardian; and the principal or designee on a form provided.

2. Sign-ups

The enrollment shall be for the entire time that a student is in grades 6 through 12. Students may sign up any time in the school year. Students may also request to withdraw consent for the alcohol and drug testing program at any time prior to being pulled for random drug testing. Once consent is withdrawn, the student will not be eligible for participation in athletics for 365 days from the withdrawal date.

3. Process of Selection

The BCS contracted Test Administrator will be responsible for maintaining for each of the grades 7 through 12 and the Alternative School a separate but unified database consisting of all students who have given permission for testing. Each eligible student shall be assigned a number to be used for identification during the testing process. The Test Administrator will randomly generate a list of student numbers representing the students to be tested. The number of students tested randomly will be as follows: (1) middle schools 6 athletes per sports season; (2) 3A high schools 16 selected per month; and (3) 1A high schools 12 selected per month. The superintendent may increase or decrease numbers as needed. The students shall be tested for the presence of any of the substances listed in subsection E.1 of this policy, including marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, and any other drugs the superintendent deems appropriate. The day of testing shall be varied so that testing does not become predictable.

C. METHOD OF COLLECTION OF URINE SAMPLES

The following procedures shall be used for the collection of urine specimens at the individual schools.

1. Notice of Collection

For testing, the contracted Test Administrator shall notify the school in a secure manner prior to 8:00 A.M. on the day of testing that its students have been selected for testing. The contracted Administrator shall send the principal or designee by runner, FAX or E-Mail the numbers (not names) of the students selected for testing. The school will determine each student’s name and class schedule. A school employee will notify each student personally that he or she has been selected for testing immediately prior to testing. The student shall be escorted immediately to the collection site. The student shall not be allowed to go to his or her locker for any reason.
The student may not leave the presence of a school employee or the contracted Test Administrator’s staff until he or she has provided a urine specimen. If the student refuses to cooperate with school employees or the contracted Test Administrator’s staff, the student’s refusal to cooperate shall be reported as a “refusal to test.”

2. Time of Collection

In general, urine specimens will be collected as determined by contracted Test Administrator in conjunction with a school administrator.

3. Collection Location, Supplies and Equipment

Each school and the contracted Test Administrator shall select by mutual agreement one or two rest rooms to use for collecting urine samples.

4. Protection of Student’s Privacy

The following procedures at a minimum shall be used to ensure that the privacy interests of each student are respected during the collection of the student’s urine specimen.

   a. The contracted Test Administrator’s staff shall monitor each student in a non-intrusive but controlled manner to detect any attempt to provide a false urine specimen. Immediately upon receipt of a urine specimen it shall be tested to determine its temperature.

5. Chain of Custody

The contracted Test Administrator shall implement procedures to ensure that each student’s urine sample is appropriately labeled and secured to prevent each sample from being lost, misplaced, or contaminated. At a minimum, the contracted Test Administrator shall provide each student with a sanitized kit containing a specimen bottle. The bottle will remain in the student’s possession until a seal is placed on the bottle by the collection staff. The student will sign a form certifying that the bottle contains his or her urine sample and that the specimen has been sealed. The seal may be broken only by the lab testing the specimen.

After the specimen has been sealed, the specimen shall be transported to the testing laboratory by the contracted Test Administrator. In order to maintain confidentiality, the specimen bottle shall be labeled with the student’s number and not the student’s name. In addition, the results sheet mailed by the laboratory to the contracted Test Administrator or MRO shall report the results by student number and not by student name.

6. Inability to Provide Sample

The contracted Test Administrator shall implement appropriate procedures for use in the event a student states that he or she is physically unable to provide a urine sample. At a minimum, if a student says that he or she is unable to provide a urine specimen, the student will be given a 40 ounce glass of water and a minimum of three hours to provide a urine sample. A student that is unable to provide a sample after the determined time limit has expired will be subject to consequences under Subsection B.3, Refusal to Test/Leaving a Test, unless it is determined that the student is excused from testing for a legitimate medical reason. If the student states that he or she has a medical problem which prevents the student from providing a urine sample, the student will be given the opportunity to communicate with the MRO. In consultation with the student’s physician, the MRO shall determine whether or not the student has a legitimate medical reason for being excused from the testing.

7. Absentees
A student who is absent on the day of a test shall be excused. However, in the case of a student who was present during the first period and later leaves campus without a valid excuse (or cuts class) after it becomes known that students are being tested, the student’s absence shall be considered a “refusal to test.”

8. **Outside Testing**

The board will not accept testing results completed outside of the purview of the Test Administrator. Tests and results from sources other than the drug testing conducted by the Beaufort County Schools will not be accepted or used as a basis for restoring athletic eligibility.

9. **Appeals**

Any appeal associated with decisions made stemming from athletic drug testing will be heard by the board, or a committee thereof. If the drug test results are challenged and a re-test is requested, the board will only accept a test that re-tests the specimen originally tested and only by the testing agency that conducted the original test, at the expense of the person making the request (the parent or guardian of the athlete).

**D. SUBSTANCES TESTED FOR AND TYPES OF TESTS**

1. **Substances**

Students may be tested for any of the following substances:

a. PCP;  
b. marijuana;  
c. amphetamines;  
d. barbiturates;  
e. cocaine;  
f. opiates;  
g. benzodiazepines;  
h. alcohol; and  
i. any other additional substances upon recommendation of the contracted Test Administrator.

2. **Screening Test**

The urine specimen shall be screened using an enzyme immunoassay (EIA) test or other NIDA approved screening test.

3. **Confirming Test**

If the screening test indicates the presence of a controlled substance, the specimen shall be subject to a confirming test by Gas chromatography/mass spectrometer (GC/MS).

4. **Split Sample**

Each student’s urine sample shall be split into two samples. In the event of a confirmed positive test, a student may request that portion of his or her urine sample be tested by another NIDA approved laboratory at the student’s or parent’s expense.

5. **Standards for Positive Test**
BCS will use the standard cutoff scores generally used by NIDA and/or SAMHSA for determining a positive test result.

6. Use of Licensed Laboratory Only

The contracted Test Administrator must use a laboratory that is appropriately licensed by the NIDA or SAMHSA.

E. DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL REVIEW OFFICER

The contracted Test Administrator shall employ or provide by sub-contract a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina as a Medical Review Officer (MRO).

Any confirming test reported by the laboratory as “positive” for the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance shall be reported directly to the MRO. The MRO shall notify the student and the student’s parent or guardian of the test results and shall give them an opportunity to present information, such as the documented use of a prescription medication or an over-the-counter drug, which would render the “positive” result invalid or “negative.” Failure or refusal of the student and/or the student’s parent or guardian to cooperate with the MRO shall constitute a “refusal to test.”

The MRO shall inform the student and the student’s parent or guardian of the opportunity for an additional confirming test at the student’s or parent’s expense from the remaining sample of the student’s urine.

If the MRO determines that a “positive” test result was the result of the lawful use of a prescription or non-prescription drug, the test results shall be considered as “negative.” If the MRO determines that the test results are valid and “positive” for the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the MRO shall inform the student and the student’s parent or guardian of his or her determination.
BCS STUDENT ATHLETIC COMMITMENT CONTRACT

I, ______________________________________ have chosen to participate in the following sports:

I commit myself to continuously working toward the goal of top physical fitness. To do anything which would harm body would not be in my best interest or the best interest of my team or the school.

I agree to remain chemically free from tobacco and its products, alcohol and drugs. I fully understand this pledge extends to seven days per week.

If I have a problem and/or need help fulfilling this contract, I understand all of the coaches will be available to help me. The AOD Team and school counselors will also be available to help me.

I have read and understand the BCS Policy 4326, “Student Athlete Behavior and Drug Screening,” and the consequences for violations of this policy.

I have read and understand the athletic policies of this school and the consequences for violations of these policies.

I pledge to keep all the rules and policies; and to help all of my teammates abide by the same athletic rules and policies.

I authorize BCS to conduct a urinalysis test for drugs and/or alcohol use. I also authorize BCS to conduct random drug testing during the current school year and subsequent years of high school with the understanding that I can request omission from the database. I authorize the release of information concerning the results of such a test to the BCS and my parent(s) and/or guardian(s). I understand that by signing this form that I will abide by the terms and conditions of this policy.

Student Print Clearly: ____________________  ____________________  ____________________
First Middle Last

Grade: ___  ____________________  Birth Date: ___-___-____
Student I.D. Number  Month  Day  Year

Student Signature: ____________________  Date: ____________________

As the parent/guardian of ____________________, I understand and support this contract and pledge my son/daughter has signed. Optimum health is the goal of our athletic program, and I support the school system in its efforts to attain this goal.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________  Date: ____________________

Coach’s Signature: ____________________  Date: ____________________
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

This notice is provided to you with information regarding the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Plan for Beaufort County Schools. AHERA is a provision of the Toxic Substance Control Act and was passed by Congress in 1986. It requires schools to "ensure that workers and building occupants, or their legal guardians, are informed at least once each school year about inspections, response actions, and post- response action activities, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities that are planned or in progress as well as the availability of the AHERA Management Plan for public review." (§763.84(c))

The AHERA Management Plan contains documents of the initial AHERA inspection, 6- month periodic Surveillances, Triennial re-inspections, employee training and Operations and Maintenance procedures. The results of these surveillances and re-inspections are on file in the school’s administrative office in the Asbestos Handbook. Everyone is welcome to view these anytime during normal school hours.

If you have any questions regarding the AHERA Management Plan for this school district, you can contact the Executive Director for Plant Operations at 1010 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, NC  27889.

Pest Management  (BCS Policy 9205)

This notice is being distributed to comply with the North Carolina School Children’s Health Act. Beaufort County Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) to comply with this law. IPM is a complete, preventative approach to managing pests that minimizes pesticide use in our schools and on school grounds. IPM is explained further in BCS Policy 9205.

The IPM Coordinator will maintain the pesticide label and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of each pesticide product that may be used on school property. The label and the MSDS are available for review upon request by parents, guardians, staff members, or students attending the school. Also, the IPM Coordinator is available to help answer any questions you might have about the school system’s pest management program and pesticide use decisions.

Notification of Pesticide Use:  Beaufort County Schools may find it necessary to use pesticides to control pests at your school or site. North Carolina state law gives you the right to be notified annually of the Beaufort County Schools pesticide application schedule, and 72 hours in advance of pesticide applications made outside that schedule, but the latter only if you request notification ahead of time using the enclosed form. Beaufort County Schools will use Mop-Up products in cafeterias and Amdro in grounds routinely throughout the school year for treatment/control of ants and roaches.

Exemptions:  Certain relatively low-risk pesticides are exempted from these notification requirements including antimicrobial cleansers, disinfectants, self-contained baits, crack and crevice treatments, and any pesticide products classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as belonging to the US EPA’s Toxicity Class IV, “relatively nontoxic.” Your right to be notified extends to all non-exempt pesticide applications at your school or non-school site (office building, garage, workshop, etc.) both indoor and outdoor pesticide applications, and including applications that place over the summer recess, holidays, weekends, or after school hours.

Emergency Pesticide Use:  In the event that a non-exempt pesticide must be used for a pest control emergency at your school or site and there is not adequate time to notify you more than 72 hours in advance, and you have requested advance notice, you will receive a notice of emergency pesticide application less than 72 hours before, or as soon as possible after the pesticide application.
To request advance notification of non-exempt pesticide applications at your school please return the attached form signed to your child’s school. For additional information you may contact your child’s school or Beaufort County Schools IPM Coordinator, Jamie Stokes, 1010 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, NC 27889, (252) 946-3735.

**BCS Request for Notification of Non-Exempt Pesticide Application**

Dear Beaufort County Schools,

I am writing to request notification in advance of non-exempt pesticide applications at my child’s school as per my legal right under the NC School Children’s Health Act. I understand that I can request 72 hour advanced notification for pesticide applications that are not already listed on the school district’s annual schedule. I understand that notification requirements apply to all non-exempt pesticide applications at the relevant school or other non-school site, both indoor and outdoor pesticide applications, and including applications during summer recess, holidays, weekends, or after school. I understand that should a pest control emergency require a pesticide application for which there is not adequate time to notify me 72 hours in advance, I will receive a notice of emergency pesticide use less than 72 hours, or as soon as possible after the emergency pesticide application. In addition, I understand that it is my responsibility to maintain communication through updating my mailing address for notification and that the school is only required to try contacting me once about the pesticide application.

Full Name (please print):

Full Mailing Address:

Name of Student & School:

Signature: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________
STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONS (BCS Policy 4040)

The board expects all employees to maintain the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards in their interactions with students. Employees are required to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning through consistently and fairly applied discipline and established and maintained professional boundaries. Employees are expected to motivate each student to perform to his or her capacity while modeling the behavior expected of students in staff-student relationships.

The interactions and relationships between staff and students must be based upon cooperation, mutual respect, and an understanding of the appropriate boundaries between adults and students inside and outside of the educational setting. Employees are expected to demonstrate good judgment and to avoid the appearance of impropriety in their interactions with students. Employees must consult their supervisor any time they suspect or are unsure whether conduct is inappropriate or otherwise constitutes a violation of this or other board policy.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms “staff” and “employees” include independent contractors and school safety officers, but do not include student employees.

A. Romantic Relationships and Sexual Contact Prohibited

All employees are prohibited from dating, courting or entering into a romantic relationship or having sexual contact with any student enrolled in the school system regardless of the student's age. Employees engaging in such inappropriate conduct will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and may be subject to criminal action as provided in G.S. 14-202.4 and 14-27.32. Further, school system personnel shall provide no assistance to an employee in finding another job, beyond the routine transmittal of personnel or administrative files, if the employee engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor or a student in violation of the law.

B. Restrictions on Electronic Communications

1. In accordance with policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media, employees are prohibited from communicating with current students through non-school-controlled social media without parental permission except to the extent that the employee and student have an appropriate relationship which originated outside of the school setting. Any communication through social media authorized under policy 7335 must meet the professional standards established in this policy and must otherwise be consistent with law and all other board policy.

2. Instant messages will be treated as a form of communication through social media subject to the terms of policy 7335 and subsection B.1 above, regardless of whether the messaging service is actually provided through a social media service or otherwise.

3. Employees are prohibited from engaging in other forms of one-to-one electronic communications (e.g., voice, voice mail, email, texting, and photo or video transmission) with students without written prior approval of the employee’s supervisor and the student’s parent. This rule shall not apply, however, if one or more of the following circumstances exist:

   a. the communication (1) is for an educational purpose, (2) is conducted through a school system-provided platform which archives all such communications for a period of at least three years, (this requirement does not apply to telephone or voice mail communications),
and (3) occurs after the employee has given prior notice to his or her supervisor or designee that such communications will occur;

b. the communication serves an educational purpose and is simultaneously copied or transmitted to the employee’s supervisor or designee and, upon request, to the parent or guardian;

c. the communication is necessary in a bona fide emergency, provided the communication is disclosed to the supervisor and parent or guardian as soon as reasonably possible; or
d. the communication derives from a relationship or association outside of the school setting and occurs with the consent of the parent or guardian, provided such communication does not otherwise violate this or other board policy.

Any one-to-one electronic communication permitted by this subsection must meet the professional standards established in this policy and must otherwise be consistent with law and all other board policies.

4. It is the duty of every employee to notify his or her supervisor of any unsolicited one-to-one communication, in any form, electronic or otherwise, received from a student when the communication lacks a clear educational purpose. School counselors are excluded from this requirement only to the extent that it conflicts with their professional duties.

5. Violations of this section will be considered unprofessional behavior subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Factors that may be relevant to the determination of an appropriate disciplinary response to unauthorized communications with students include, but are not limited to:

   a. the content, frequency, subject, and timing of the communication(s);
   b. whether the communication(s) was appropriate to the student’s age and maturity level;
   c. whether the communication(s) could reasonably be viewed as a solicitation of sexual contact or the courting of a romantic relationship, including sexual grooming;
   d. whether there was an attempt to conceal the communication(s) from the employee’s supervisor and/or the student’s parent or guardian;
   e. whether the communication(s) created a disruption of the educational environment; and
   f. whether the communication(s) harmed the student in any manner.

C. Reporting Inappropriate Conduct

1. Reporting by Employees

   Any employee who has reason to believe any of the following shall immediately report that information to the superintendent or designee:

   a. that another employee is involved in a romantic or other inappropriate relationship or has had sexual contact with a student;
   b. that another employee has engaged in other behavior prohibited by this policy; or
   c. that the employee has witnessed behavior by another employee that has the appearance of impropriety, whether or not the behavior may have a valid purpose.

An employee who fails to inform the superintendent or designee as provided in this section may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

2. Reporting by Students

   Any student who believes that he or she or another student has been subject to misconduct that
violates this policy should immediately report the situation to the principal, school counselor, or the Title IX coordinator designated in policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure.

3. Report of Criminal Misconduct

Any principal who has reason to believe that a student has been the victim of criminal conduct shall immediately report the incident in accordance with policy 4335, Criminal Behavior.

4. Report to State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Any administrator, including the superintendent, a deputy/associate/assistant superintendent, a personnel administrator, or a principal, who knows or has reason to believe that a licensed employee has engaged in conduct which involves physical or sexual abuse of a child shall report that information to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within five working days of any disciplinary action, dismissal, or resignation based on the conduct. For purposes of this subsection, physical abuse is the infliction of physical injury other than by accidental means or in self-defense, and sexual abuse is the commission of any sexual act upon a child or causing a child to commit a sexual act, regardless of consent and the age of the child. Failure to report such conduct may result in the suspension or revocation of an administrator's license by the State Board of Education.

This reporting requirement applies in addition to any duty to report suspected child abuse in accordance with state law and policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations, as applicable.
Intimidation, Bullying and/or Threats
Administrative Report Form

This form is to be completed to provide appropriate documentation for the school and central office administration when incidents of intimidation, bullying and/or threats occur involving students or staff. Please complete the form below and submit a copy to the individuals indicated. This form may be completed anonymously.

Student name: ___________________________ School: ___________________________

Name of individual communicating the threat: ___________________________________________________________

Date of incident: ___________________________

Brief description of the incident:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature _________________________________ Date ________________________________

Submit copies to: • School principal (A response will be provided within three days, if this form is not submitted anonymously.)
Non-Sufficiently Funded Checks

P.O. Box 157
Suwanee, GA 30024-0157

Dear Parents/Students:

Envision Payment Solutions™ is pleased to have been selected by Beaufort County Schools as its check service provider.

Please be aware that if your check is returned, it may be re-presented electronically. Also, in presenting a check for payment, you authorize service charges and processing fees to be debited from the same account should the check be dishonored. These fees, as permitted by state law, may be debited as a paper draft or an electronic funds transfer, at our option. Each dishonored item is subject to the applicable state returned check fees.

Specifically, per North Carolina General Statute § 25-3-506, the service fee for returned checks is $25. (Note that the fee structure will change according to any amendments made to NC law during a school year.)

If you wish to inquire about a returned check written to Beaufort County Schools, please contact Envision Payment Solutions™ directly at the information listed below.

Thank you. We wish you and your children all the best for this year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Envision Payment Solutions™

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Customers (check writers) with returned check inquiries should contact:

Envision Payment Solutions™
Tel 877.290.5480, or 770.709.3100
Fax 770.709.3007
P.O. Box 157
Suwanee, GA 30024-0157
customerservice@envisionpayments.com

www.envisionpayments.com