



CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

SCHOOL BOARD OF HARDEE COUNTY

2025 / 2026

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Welcome Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,
We want to thank you for your continued support in helping us create safe, respectful, and engaging learning environments for all students.

An orderly and disciplined environment is essential to student success. It allows every child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We are committed to teaching and modeling respect for authority, self, and others, and we appreciate your partnership in reinforcing these values at home.

Students are expected to follow school rules and demonstrate responsible behavior at all times—whether riding the bus, attending class, participating in school-sponsored events, or simply being present on school grounds. During these times, students are under the supervision and care of school personnel, including administrators, teachers, support staff, and volunteers.



Sonja M. Bennett

*Superintendent of
Schools*

This Student Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for behavior, the responsibilities of students, and the consequences for violations. It is important that both you and your child read and understand the Code, as well as any additional classroom or school-specific rules. Our goal is not only to address misbehavior when it occurs, but more importantly, to guide students toward making positive choices and becoming respectful, responsible citizens.

Should serious or repeated violations occur, we will reach out to you promptly. Please ensure that your child's school has accurate and up-to-date contact information, including daytime and evening phone numbers.

Thank you for working with us to build a positive and productive school culture. With your support, we are confident that this will be a year of growth, learning, and achievement for every student.

Sincerely,

Sonja M. Bennett

Superintendent of Schools

School Board of Hardee County



Mark Gilliard
School Board Chair
District V



Claire Cornell
Vice-Chair
District III



Dr. Stacy Sharp
District I



Andrew Smith
District II



Marie Dasher
District IV

Code of Conduct

The School Board of Hardee County is committed to being a world-class school system with a focus on improved student achievement so that all students meet or exceed rigorous standards. In order to meet this goal, the primary objective is to fully develop each student's potential for learning while cultivating positive interpersonal relationships. These skills build a foundation for students to obtain academic, personal, and civic competencies necessary to become productive citizens.

The School Board of Hardee County has developed the Code of Conduct for Students to clearly communicate the behavioral expectations and support students in making decisions that result in positive outcomes. The Code of Conduct for Students is the District's policy that creates a safe learning environment to ensure academic success. To accomplish this objective, it is necessary that the school environment be a safe and supportive community. The culture should be one that embraces diversity, civility, and academic achievement among all members of the school community to ensure that individuals feel valued, cared for, and respected.

Florida Statute 1006.07(2) requires each school district to distribute to students, parents, guardians, teachers, and other school personnel a code of student conduct developed cooperatively by students, parents and teachers. The District Code of Student Conduct is based on School Board rules which will be enforced fairly throughout the District.

This Code is in force not only on school grounds and on school buses during regular school hours, but also at other times and places (field trips, athletic functions and other school-sponsored events) where school authorities have jurisdiction over students.

It is the policy of the School Board of Hardee County not to discriminate against employees or students by either deliberate or inadvertent bias based on race, color, sex, age, national origin, handicap, marital status, or religion. It is further recognized that a passive policy of nondiscrimination will not of itself result in providing opportunities to those individuals who might otherwise be adversely affected. It is for this reason that the School Board commits itself to a program of affirmative action designed not to discriminate against anyone.

It is the intent of this Code to be a strict disciplinary guide with its "minimum consequences" listed. Consequences over the "minimum" may be assigned by the principal.

Authority of School Personnel

Authority of School Personnel The Code of Conduct for Students applies to all students enrolled in The School Board of Hardee County. Students enrolled in The School Board of Hardee County are subject to the law, rules, regulations, and policies of the State of Florida and The School Board of Hardee County, Florida, anytime a student is: on School Board-owned property, attending school, presumed by law to be attending school, being transported to or from school or school-sponsored events at public or school expenses, and/or attending or participating in a school-sponsored activity. All students are subject to the immediate control and direction of teachers, staff members, or bus drivers to whom such responsibility has been assigned by the principal or the principal's designee (Section 1003.31, Florida Statutes).

The principal has the unequivocal authority to determine the appropriate charge(s) for the misconduct and the corresponding level of the offense based on the facts and circumstances of the incident(s), in accordance with the policies of The School Board of Hardee County (Section 1006.09, Florida Statutes).

Teachers and other school staff members have authority for the control and discipline of students assigned to them on campus, as well as in other places where they may supervise students.

Students are expected and required to follow the requests and directives of all teachers and school staff members, school volunteers, and chaperones when on School Board-owned property or at other places where they are under the direct supervision of School Board personnel.

Teachers shall make every reasonable effort to control classroom disruptions or misbehavior by students. However, if a disruption or misbehavior persists, or if the disruption is severe, the teacher shall direct the student to an appropriate administrator with a description of the incident on a referral form provided by the administration (Section 1003.32, Florida Statutes). Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board, similar to activities or incidents that occur on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a Board official, employee, or the property of such official or employee.

Authority of School Personnel

In relation to student safety, Florida statutes and State Board rules provide the following:

School personnel only need reasonable suspicion to search lockers or other storage areas. In addition, after coordination with the level administrator, any school principal may request that a law enforcement unit bring canines trained to detect the presence of illegal drugs or other contraband to their school campus. Any search performed by such canines will be designed to limit the disruption caused to instruction during the school day. Such canines may be used to search the individual student vehicle or locker if the principal has a reasonable suspicion that the search will result in the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or the Student Code of Conduct. Canines may also be used to conduct random searches of student vehicles or lockers (1006.09, Florida Statutes).

Teachers are authorized to remove a student who is unruly, disruptive, or abusive, as well as any student who repeatedly interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate with the class. These disruptions impact the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who do not respond to classroom behavioral interventions may be referred to school administration for interventions or corrective strategies (1003.32, Florida Statutes).

A principal, teacher, bus driver, or other staff member shall not be civilly or criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity with School Board rules regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students, except in the case of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment (1006.11(2), Florida Statutes).

Teachers and other instructional personnel are given the right to use reasonable force to protect themselves or others from injury and to press charges against a student if a crime has been committed on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities (1003.32, Florida Statutes).

National-origin minority or limited-English-proficient students shall not be subjected to any disciplinary action because of their use of a language other than English (State Board Rule 6A-6.0908).

Impact Hardee

Vision

The vision of the School Board of Hardee County is building learning partnerships with home, school, and community to ensure personal and academic excellence.

Mission

Tn a safe environment, all students will achieve high standards of learning in order to become ethically responsible decision-makers and lifelong learners.

Beliefs

- We believe every student can achieve high standards of learning;
- We believe public schools ae the foundation of good citizenship;
- We believe in the responsible stewardship of resources;
- We believe in sustainable community partnerships;
- We believe in family and advocate involvement;
- We believe in safe and positive learning environments;
- We believe in shared accountability for student success;
- We believe in a culture of professional collaboration; and
- We believe in preparing our students for success beyond high school graduation.

Statement of Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any person found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.



Non-Discrimination Notification

2025 Hardee District School Board Annual Notification of Nondiscrimination

Hardee District School Board offers the following career and technical programs, including career academies wherein students may earn industry certification:

Accounting Applications
Agritechnology
Animal Sciences & Services
Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair
Building Construction Technologies
Careers in Public Service
Culinary Arts
Digital Audio Production
Digital Design
Drafting
Drafting (Dual Enrollment)
Electrical Linework (Dual Enrollment)
Electrocardiograph Technician
Nursing Assistant
Public Safety Telecommunication

The district prohibits discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment, and in access to educational programs and activities, and prohibits harassment of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or genetic information (and other protected classes included in the district's nondiscrimination policies).

Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation. The district may assess each student's ability to benefit from specific programs through placement tests and counseling, and, if necessary, will provide services or referrals to better prepare students for successful participation.

Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be directed to:

Mary N. Farr
Director of Student Academic Services
& Federal Programs
Title IX Coordinator
863-767-0662

Melanie Henderson
Director of Human Resources
Title IX Coordinator
863-773-9058

Tamara Taylor-Camilo
Director of Student Services
Section 504 Contact
863-773-2600

Parents' Bill of Rights

Florida House Bill 241

You have the right to expect instruction that:

- Encourages individual responsibility, effort and merit.
- Does not assign guilt or blame based on a student's background or the way God created them.
- Is objective and factual.
- Aligns with Florida's state academic standards and protects students from being made to feel inferior or uncomfortable because of their race, sex or religion.
- Builds resiliency.

As your child progresses through his or her school day, below are some important areas we would like you to be aware of and request that any concerns you experience be reported to the Florida Department of Education.

- Pursuant to Florida law, every Florida school must begin the day with a one-to-two-minute moment of silence. Students may use this time quietly and thoughtfully, and we encourage you to talk with your child about how they might use that time in a meaningful way.
- You can also expect transparency in the instructional materials and training used in your child's classroom. By focusing on core academic subjects and rejecting indoctrination in the classroom, Florida has become a standard-bearer for educational excellence.
- Florida law requires schools to ensure that restrooms and changing areas are designated for exclusive use by boys or girls. Schools may also provide single-user or unisex options. These protections help maintain privacy, dignity and safety for all students.

Parents have a number of additional rights, as summarized below:

- The right to direct your child's education, upbringing, moral and religious training.
- The right to choose the educational setting that is best for your child – public, private, religious or home education.
- The right to review your child's school records at any time.
- The right to make medical decisions for your child and access their medical records.
- The right to give written consent before:
 - Your child's biometric data (like fingerprints) is collected or stored.
 - Any DNA or blood samples are taken, unless required by law or court order.
 - Audio or video recordings of your child are made, with exceptions for school safety, instruction, activities or identification cards.

Parents' Bill of Rights

Florida House Bill 241

Parents have a number of additional rights, as summarized below:

- The right to be promptly notified if any government or school employee suspects a crime involving your child.
- The right to be told if there is any change in your child's physical, emotional or mental health support at school.
- The right to receive notice of any health services offered and choose whether or not your child participates.
- The right to transparency in instructional and library materials:
 - Elementary schools must post, in a searchable format on their websites, a list of all materials in school libraries and reading lists.
 - The Florida Department of Education must publish and regularly update a list of all materials removed or discontinued due to objections.
 - Each school board must have a process that allows parents and residents to object to specific instructional materials and ensures those objections are addressed and resolved.
- The right to ensure classroom instruction and school practices align with state law:
 - Classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in grades prekindergarten through grade 8. If such instruction is provided in grades 9 through 12, it must be age appropriate or developmentally appropriate and consistent with state standards.
 - Public kindergarten through grade 12 employees and contractors must not be required to use preferred pronouns or titles that do not align with a person's biological sex.
 - Students may not be asked to share their preferred pronouns or penalized for choosing not to.
- The right to report a concern to your school principal and, if not resolved, escalate it to your district.
 - If still unresolved, request a neutral Special Magistrate to review the issue and recommend a resolution.
 - These apply to:
 - Student welfare concerns related to health, safety or well-being.
 - Instructional or library materials you believe are inappropriate.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

The School Board recognizes that students possess not only the right to an education but the rights of citizenship as well. Federal and State law prohibits the Board from adopting any policy or rule, or from entering into any agreement, that infringes upon or waives the rights of freedoms afforded to students by the United States Constitution.

In providing students the opportunity for an education to which they are entitled, the District shall attempt to offer nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to their age and maturity. The District shall, at the same time, guarantee that no student is deprived of the basic right to equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, free expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts.

Attendant to the rights guaranteed to each student, however, are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority, and compliance with the procedures and rules of the District.

Since a student who has reached the age of majority possesses the full rights of an adult, they may authorize those school matters previously handled by their parents, but the student also assumes the responsibility for their performance in school, attendance, and compliance with school rules.

All K-12 students in Florida are entitled to a uniform, safe, secure, efficient, and high-quality system of education, one that allows students the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Parents are responsible to ready their children for school; however, neither the State of Florida nor the District can be a guarantor of any individual student's success.

Parental Access at School

Each parent has the right to pick-up, visit, and meet with their student at school, without interference of or the need for consent from the other parent, unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that provides to the contrary. The principal may restrict the times, location, frequency, and length of parent visitations at school, based on legitimate pedagogical or scheduling reasons. The District will abide by enforceable no-contact orders which have been provided to the school.

Educational Decisions

Both parents have an equal right to make decisions about the education and welfare of their student unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that specifies that one of the parents, or someone else, has the sole right to make educational and/or general welfare decisions for the student.

If the parents cannot agree on a significant decision about the student's education or on matters affecting the health, safety, or welfare of the student, the school will take action based on what it considers to be in the best interests of the child.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

Parental Notice

Parents normally receive notice by U.S. Mail of the school's suspension of their student or intended placement of their student in a dropout prevention/academic intervention program. A parent may agree to receive such notices by an alternative method other than U.S. Mail. Such agreement may be made before the need for notice arises or at the time the notice becomes required.

Attendance

A. Termination of Enrollment

A student who attains the age of sixteen (16) years during the school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the District of its receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. (see also Policy 5130 - Withdrawal from School)

B. Married or Pregnant

Students who become or have become married or who are pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other students. (see also Policy 5751 - Parental-Married Status of Students)

C. Compulsory Attendance

Parents of students who have attained the age of six (6) years by February 1st of any school year but who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years must comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have the option to comply with the school attendance laws by attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial, religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home education program; or a private tutoring program. (see also Policy 5112 - Entrance Requirements and Policy 5200 - Attendance)

D. Absence for Religious Purposes

A parent of a student may request and be granted permission for absence of the student from school for religious instruction or religious holidays. (see also Policy 5223 - Absences for Religious Instruction and Policy 5225 - Absences for Religious Holidays)

E. Dropout Prevention and Academic Intervention Programs

The parent of a student has the right to receive written notice by certified mail or other method agreed to by the parent at least five (5) days before a student is initially enrolled in, or at least five (5) days before a student initially receives services under a dropout prevention and academic intervention program. The parent will be notified in writing and entitled to an administrative review of any action by school personnel relating to the student's placement. Thereafter, the parent must be notified annually. The notification must be in the parent's primary language or other mode of communication commonly used by the parent unless clearly not feasible pursuant to F.A.C. 6A-6.0908.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

F. Absence for Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder

A parent of a student may request and be granted permission for absence of the student from school for an appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to Florida law for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Health Issues

A. Notice of Health Care Services

At the beginning of the school year, the District will provide notice to parents of all health care services offered at their student's school and of the option to withhold consent to or decline any specific service. Before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, the District will provide the questionnaire or form to the parent and obtain the permission of the parent.

B. School-Entry Health Examinations

The parent of any student shall be exempt from the requirement of a health examination upon written request stating objections on religious grounds. (see also Policy 5112 - Entrance Requirements)

C. Immunizations

The parent of any student shall be exempt from the school immunization requirements upon meeting any of the specified exemptions. (see also Policy 5320 - Immunizations and Health Examination and Policy 5112 - Entrance Requirements)

D. Biological Experiments

Parents may request that their child be excused from performing surgery or dissection in biological science classes.

E. Reproductive Health and Disease Education

A public school student whose parent makes written request to the school Principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS. (see also Policy 2417 - Comprehensive Health Education)

F. Contraceptive Services to Students

Students may not be referred to or offered contraceptive services at school facilities without the parent's consent.

G. Career Education Courses Involving Hazardous Substances

High school students must be given plano safety glasses or devices in career education courses involving the use of hazardous substances likely to cause eye injury.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

H. Substance Abuse Reports

The parent of a student must be timely notified of any verified report of a substance abuse violation by the student.

I. Short-Acting Bronchodilator Use

Asthmatic students whose parent and physician provide their approval to the Principal may carry a short-acting bronchodilator and components on their person while in school. The school Principal shall be provided a copy of the parent's and physician's approval. (see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*; Policy 5330.04 - *Administration of Short-Acting Bronchodilators and Components by Trained School Personnel*)

J. Epinephrine Use and Supply

A student who has experienced or is at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions may carry an epinephrine auto-injector and self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with written parental and physician authorization.

The School District shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to carry an epinephrine auto-injector for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of an epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this policy.

The District and its employees and agents, including the physician who provides the standing protocol for school epinephrine auto-injectors, are not liable for any injury arising from the use of an epinephrine auto-injector administered by trained school personnel who follow the adopted protocol and whose professional opinion is that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction:

1. unless the trained school personnel's action is willful and wanton;
2. notwithstanding that the parents or guardians of the student to whom the epinephrine is administered have not been provided notice or have not signed a statement acknowledging that the School District is not liable; and
3. regardless of whether authorization has been given by the student's parents or guardians or by the student's physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner.

(see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*)

K. Diabetes Management

The District may not assign a student who has diabetes to a particular school on the basis that the student has diabetes, that the school does not have a full-time school nurse, or that the school does not have trained diabetes personnel.

Student & Parents' Rights

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Diabetic students whose parent and physician provide their written authorization to the school Principal may carry diabetic supplies and equipment on their person and attend to the management and care of their diabetes while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities, to the extent authorized by the parent and physician and within the parameters set forth by State Board of Education rule. The written authorization shall identify the diabetic supplies and equipment that the student is authorized to carry and shall describe the activities the child is capable of performing without assistance, such as performing blood-glucose level checks and urine ketone testing, administering insulin through the insulin-delivery system used by the student, and treating hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia.

The District and its employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to carry diabetic supplies or equipment for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of such supplies and equipment pursuant to this policy. (see also Policy 5330.01 - Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use)

L. Use of Prescribed Pancreatic Enzyme Supplements

A student who has experienced or is at risk for pancreatic insufficiency or who has been diagnosed as having cystic fibrosis may carry and self-administer a prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplement while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities, IF the school has been provided with written authorization from the student's parent and prescribing practitioner.

The District and its employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to use prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of the supplements under this policy. (see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*)

M. Involuntary Examinations of Students

Before a Principal contacts a law enforcement officer for possible removal of a student from school for involuntary examination, the Principal must verify that the school has used de-escalation strategies and initiated outreach to a mobile response team, unless the Principal reasonably believes that any delay in removing the student will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others.

The Principal shall make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent of a student before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity to be taken to a receiving facility for an involuntary examination pursuant to F.S. 394.463. Reasonable attempt to notify means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the Principal to make contact with the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact whom the student's parent or guardian has authorized to receive notification of an involuntary examination. At a minimum, the Principal must take the following actions:

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

1. Use available methods of communication to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact including, but not limited to, telephone calls, text messages, e-mails, and voicemail messages following the decision to initiate an involuntary examination of the student;
2. Document the method and number of attempts made to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact, and the outcome of each attempt.

The Principal who successfully notifies any other known emergency contact may share only the information necessary to alert such contact that the parent or caregiver must be contacted. All such information must be in compliance with Federal and State law.

The Principal may delay the required notification for no more than twenty-four (24) hours after a student is removed if:

1. the Principal deems the delay to be in the student's best interest and if a report has been submitted to the central abuse hotline, pursuant to F.S. 39.201, based upon knowledge or suspicion of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. (see also Policy 2410 - School Health Services); or
2. the Principal reasonably believes that such delay is necessary to avoid jeopardizing the health and safety of the student.

N. Sun-protective Measures in School

A student may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician's note or prescription if the product is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to limit ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

O. Face Covering and Quarantine Mandates in Response to COVID-19

Neither the Board nor any agent or employee of the Board may:

1. require a student to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose. However, a parent, at the parent's sole discretion, may allow their child to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose;

This prohibition does not apply to safety equipment required as part of a course of study consistent with occupational or laboratory safety requirements. See Policy 8450.01, Protective Facial Coverings During Pandemic/Epidemic Events.

2. prohibit a student from attending school or school-sponsored activities, prohibit a student being on school property, or subject a student to restrictions or disparate treatment, based on an exposure to COVID-19, so long as the student remains asymptomatic and has not received a positive test for COVID-19.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

P. Medication to Relieve Headaches

A student may possess and use a medication to relieve headaches while on school property or at a school-sponsored event/activity without a physician's note or prescription if the medication is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to treat headaches.

Discipline

A. Suspension

A student may be suspended only as provided by policy of the District. A good faith effort must be made to immediately inform the parent by telephone of the student's suspension and the reason. Each suspension and the reason must be reported in writing within twenty-four (24) hours to the parent by United States mail or other method agreed to by the parent. A good faith effort must be made to use parental assistance before suspension unless the situation requires immediate suspension. (see also Policy 5610 - *Removal, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Placement, and Expulsion of Students*)

A student with a disability may only be recommended for suspension or expulsion in accordance with State Board of Education rules.

B. Expulsion

Public school students and their parents have the right to written notice of a recommendation of expulsion, including the charges against the student and a statement of the right of the student to due process. (see also Policy 5610 - *Removal, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Placement, and Expulsion of Students*)

C. Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment of a student may only be administered by a Principal within guidelines set by the Principal and according to District policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the school Principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present. (see also Policy 5630 - *Corporal Punishment and Use of Reasonable Force and Restraint*)

1002.20(4)(c) The parent must provide consent before corporal punishment may be administered.

The District will review its policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline once every three (3) years during a regular or special Board meeting. The Board shall take public testimony at the Board meeting. If such Board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the Board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

Safety

Students who have been victims of certain felony offenses by other students, as well as the siblings of the student victims, have the right to be kept separated from the student offender, both at school and during school transportation.

Student & Parents' Rights

School Board of Hardee County Policy 5780

Educational Choice

A. Public School Choices

Parents may seek whatever public school options are applicable and available to students in the School District.

Options also include the public educational choice options of the Hope Scholarship Program (see Policy 2371 - Hope Scholarships), the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. (see also Policy 2370 - Educational Options, Policy 2370.01 - Virtual Instruction, and Policy 5113 - School Choice Options Provided by Federal Law)

B. Private School Choices

Parents may seek private educational choice options under certain programs established under F.S. Chapter 1002.

C. Home Education

The parent may choose to place the student in a home education program, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 9270 - Home-Education Programs)

D. Private Tutoring

The parent of a student may choose to place the student in a private tutoring program in accordance with State law.

E. New Worlds Scholarships

The parent of a student in kindergarten through grade 5 who (1) exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring administered pursuant to F.S. 1008.25 (2) has a substantial reading deficiency identified under F.S. 1008.25 or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent Statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment, (3) exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring administered pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, or (4) has a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia as identified under F.S. 1008.25, or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent Statewide, standardized Mathematics assessment may seek a scholarship in accordance with State law. The District will notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results from the standardized coordinated screening and progress monitoring pursuant to F.S. 1008.25.

F. Request to Transfer to Different Classroom Teacher

Although parents do not have a right to choose a specific classroom teacher, parents may request that their child be transferred to a different classroom teacher. As part of the request, the parent must state with specificity the grounds supporting the request. Requests must be in writing.

All requests for a student to be transferred to another classroom teacher shall be

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considered by the Principal or his/her designee. The Principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent in writing as to whether the request is approved or denied. If denied, the Principal or his/her designee shall specify the reasons for the denial.

G. Request to Transfer to In-Field Classroom Teacher

A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that their child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. Although parents do not have a right to choose a specific classroom teacher, parents may request that their child be transferred.

All requests for a student to be transferred to another classroom teacher shall be considered by the principal. The principal shall notify the parent in writing as to whether the request is approved or denied.

If an in-field teacher for the student's course and grade level is employed by the school and the transfer would not violate maximum class size requirements, the request shall be approved.

ACCEL Options

Parents may request student participation in Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options, including whole-grade promotion, midyear promotion or subject matter acceleration. If the parent selects one of these ACCEL options and the student meets eligibility and procedural requirements in the student progression plan, the student will have the opportunity to participate in the ACCEL option.

Nondiscrimination

All education programs, activities, and opportunities offered by the District are available without discrimination on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), color, ethnicity, national origin sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes"). (see also Policy 2260 - *Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity* and Policy 2260.01 - *Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability*)

Exceptional Students

Parents may enroll their eligible child in gifted or special education. (See also Policy 2460 - *Exceptional Student Education*)

A. Notice and Due Process

Parents of students with disabilities and parents of students in residential care facilities are entitled to notice and due process. (see also Policy 2460 - *Exceptional Student Education*)

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B. Graduation

Students with disabilities are provided the opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard high school diploma. Certain students with disabilities may be awarded a special diploma upon high school graduation. (see also Policy 2623 - *Student Assessment*)

C. Meetings with District Personnel

Parents of students with disabilities, or eligible students with disabilities, may be accompanied by another person of their choice at any meeting with District personnel. District personnel will not object to the attendance of such adult or discourage or attempt to discourage through any action, statement, or other means, parents or an eligible student, from inviting another person of their choice to attend any meeting. Parents, eligible students, or other individuals invited to attend such meetings by parents or eligible students on school grounds shall sign in at the front office of such school as a guest. Parents, or eligible students, and District personnel shall sign the form at the meeting's conclusion which states whether or not any District personnel have prohibited, discouraged, or attempted to discourage the parents, or eligible student from inviting a person of their choice to the meeting pertaining to their child's, or their own, educational environment, placement, or discipline.

Blind Students

Students who are blind have the right to an individualized written education program and appropriate instructional materials to attain literacy.

Limited English Proficient Students

Limited English proficient students have the right to receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction designed to develop the student's mastery of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English as rapidly as possible. The students' parents have the right of parental involvement in the ESOL program.

Students with Deficiencies in Reading and Math

The parent of any K-3 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, and the parent of any K-4 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, shall be immediately notified of the student's deficiency and consulted in the development of a plan, as described in F.S. 1008.25 and Policy 5410.01 - Promotion, Acceleration, Placement, and Retention.

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Pledge of Allegiance

A student will be excused from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or the Declaration of Independence, upon written request by the student's parent, in accordance with State law. See also Policy 8800, *Religious and Other Ceremonies and Observances*.

Student Records

A. Each parent has an equal right of access, right to waive access, right to challenge and hearing and right of privacy in the education records of their student who is a minor or a dependent adult pursuant to law, unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that provides to the contrary. (see also Policy 8330 - *Student Records*)

B. A student is not required to provide their social security number as a condition for enrollment or graduation. (see also Policy 8330 - *Student Records*)

C. The school will not collect, obtain or retain information on the political affiliation, voting history, religious affiliation or biometric information of a student, parent or siblings.

Student Report Cards

Students and their parents have the right to receive student report cards on a regular basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic performance in each class or course, the student's conduct, and the student's attendance.

Student Progress Reports

Parents shall be informed at regular intervals of the academic progress and other needed information regarding their child, including ways they can help their child to succeed in school. (see also Policy 5420 - *Reporting Student Progress*)

Student & Parents' Rights

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Student Accountability and School Improvement Rating Reports

Parents of public school students are entitled to an easy-to-read report card about the school's grade designation or, if applicable, school's improvement rating, and the school's accountability report, including the school financial report.

High School Athletics

A. Eligibility

A student is eligible in the school in which they first enrolls each school year, the school in which the student makes himself/ herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in practice before enrolling, or the school to which the student has transferred with approval of the Board, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 2431 - *Interscholastic Athletics*)

B. Medical Evaluation

Students must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year before participating in athletics, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 2431 - *Interscholastic Athletics*)

Extra-Curricular Activities

A. Eligibility

Students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. (see also Policy 2430 - *District-Sponsored Clubs and Activities*)

B. Home Education Students

Home education students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the public school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school.

C. Charter School Students

Charter school students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies unless such activity is provided by the student's charter school.

D. Florida Virtual School Full-Time Students

Florida Virtual School full-time students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the public school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies.

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Instructional Materials

A. Core Courses

Students are entitled to adequate instructional materials in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature.

B. Curricular Objectives

The parent of each student has the right to receive effective communication from the School Principal as to the manner in which instructional materials are used to implement the school's curricular objectives.

C. Sale of Instructional Materials

Upon request of the parent of a student, the Principal will sell to the parent any instructional materials used in the school.

D. Dual Enrollment Students

Instructional materials purchased by the District or a Florida College System institution board of trustees on behalf of dual enrollment students is available to the dual enrollment students free of charge.

E. Parent Access to Instructional Materials

Parents have the ability to access their child's instructional materials and may object to the use of a specific instructional material or contest the adoption of instructional material (See Policy 2520 - *Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials*).

Juvenile Justice Programs

Students who are in juvenile justice programs have the right to receive educational programs and services, in accordance with State law.

Parental Input and Meetings

A. Meetings with School District Personnel

Parents may be accompanied by another adult of their choice at a meeting with School District personnel.

B. District Educational Facilities Program

Parents and other members of the public have the right to receive proper public notice and opportunity for public comment regarding the District's educational facilities work program, in accordance with State law.

C. Parent-Teacher Associations and Organizations

Parents have the right to participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations that are sanctioned by the Board or by the Florida Department of Education.

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Transportation

A. Transportation to School

Students are provided transportation to school in accordance with the provisions of State law. (see also Policy 8600 - *Transportation*)

B. Hazardous Walking Conditions

Students in grades K-6 are provided transportation if they are subjected to hazardous walking conditions, in accordance with State law.

C. Parental Consent

Each parent of a public school student must be notified in writing and give written consent before the student may be transported in a privately owned motor vehicle to a school function in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 8660 - *Alternative Transportation Methods*)

Orderly, Disciplined Classrooms

Students will be in orderly, disciplined classrooms conducive to learning without the distraction caused by disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students. (see also Policy 5600 - *Student Discipline*)

Economic Security Report

Prior to registration, each middle school and high school student or the student's parent will be provided a two (2) page summary of the Department of Economic Opportunity's economic security report of employment and earning outcomes and electronic access to the report.

Student & Parents' Rights

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Safe Schools

Parents of District students will be timely notified pursuant to procedures adopted by the Superintendent of threats and the following unlawful acts or significant emergencies that occur on school grounds, during school transportation, or during school-sponsored activities:

- A. Weapons possession or use when there is intended harm toward another person;
- B. Murder, homicide, or manslaughter;
- C. Sex offenses, including rape, sexual assault or sexual misconduct with a student by school personnel;
- D. Natural emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
- E. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

Parents of District students have a right to access school safety and discipline incidents as reported pursuant to F.S. 1006.07 (9).

Parental Notification of Arrests of Employees

Notwithstanding F.S. 1012.31(3)(a)1 and 1012.796(4), within twenty-four (24) hours after a law enforcement agency provides the Superintendent with written notification pursuant to F.S. 1012.797 that a District employee has been arrested for a felony or a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance, the Principal shall notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific charges against the employee.

Teachers' Bill of Rights

House Bill 1035

Section (s.) 1015.05, F.S., Right to control the classroom, allows teachers to:

- A. Establish classroom rules of conduct.
- B. Establish and implement consequences, which are designed to change behavior, for infractions of classroom rules of conduct.
- C. Have disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable or disruptive students removed from the classroom for behavior management intervention.
- D. Have violent, abusive, uncontrollable or disruptive students directed to appropriate school or district school board personnel for information and assistance.
- E. Assist in enforcing school rules on school property, during school-sponsored transportation and during school-sponsored activities.
- F. Request and receive information relating to the disposition of any referrals to administration for a violation of classroom rules of conduct or school rules.
- G. Request and receive immediate assistance in classroom management if a student becomes uncontrollable or in the case of an emergency.
- H. Request and receive training and other assistance to improve his or her skills in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution and related areas.
- I. Press charges if there is a reason to believe that a crime has been committed on school property, during school-sponsored transportation or during school-sponsored activities.

Parents' Role

The home and the school need to cooperate and work together to help each child achieve his or her highest potential in life. One of the school's primary responsibilities is to provide a quality education in a safe environment for all students. Some of the parents' responsibilities includes the following:

- A. Understand and support this Code of Student Conduct. Discuss it with your child and advise the principal annually in writing if you object to the use of paddling (corporal punishment).
- B. Teach your child self-respect, respect for the law, respect for the authority in the school, and respect for the rights and property of others.
- C. Show a positive attitude toward the school and toward your child's learning progress.
- D. Make certain your child attends school all day, every day unless the child is ill.
- E. Know your child's school, its staff, and its curriculum.
- F. Work closely with school personnel to solve any disciplinary or academic problems.
- G. Teach your child to dress properly and neatly, and to be clean and well groomed.
- H. Make sure the school has your correct home and work telephone numbers, the home address, and an emergency contact person.
- I. Supervise smaller children attending extracurricular school activities especially athletic events. Although the school will provide law enforcement, crowd control and proper supervision, the care of children attending an event is the responsibility of the parent.

Students' Role

The home and the school need to cooperate and work together to help each child achieve his or her highest potential in life. One of the school's primary responsibilities is to provide a quality education in a safe environment for all students. Some of the students' responsibilities includes the following:

- A. Observe all school rules or suffer the consequences of unacceptable behavior. Students will be familiar with the District Code of Student Conduct and the school Student Handbook.
- B. Show respect to all other students and school personnel.
- C. Respect and protect school facilities, properties, and materials.
- D. Attend school and all classes on a regular basis.
- E. Participate in educational opportunities, completing classroom assignments and homework to the best of their abilities.
- F. Consider and respect the divergent point of view of others. Be sure that personal expressions (speech, written or symbolic) do not infringe on the rights of others.
- G. Understand the teachers' grading systems, monitoring their own progress in each class.
- H. Keep their persons and property free of dangerous or illegal objects, materials, and substances.
- I. Abide by the rules of extracurricular activities - display school spirit and good sportsmanship.
- J. Respect the rights of others to participate in patriotic or religious activities.
- K. Seek personal, academic, and vocational counseling.
- L. Cooperate with school personnel in cases involving disciplinary actions, following prescribed steps for an appeal and accepting final decisions.
- M. Dress in a way not offensive to others.
 - Assemble so as not to disrupt the educational process.
 - Take an active interesting student government.
 - Seek medical advice when a health condition affects school attendance.
 - Provide the school with all information relevant to making educational decisions.

Teachers' Role

The home and the school need to cooperate and work together to help each child achieve his or her highest potential in life. One of the school's primary responsibilities is to provide a quality education in a safe environment for all students.

The teacher will inform every student of the classroom discipline plan to be used in that teacher's room. That plan will be compatible with the school plan and this District Code of Student Conduct.

The classroom plan will include a series of steps with punishment increasing if the problem persists. The teacher will provide instruction in proper conduct, explaining the punishments for misconduct. This instruction will stress RESPECT.

STEP 1: When a student fails to follow the rules, the teacher will proceed through the steps listed in the classroom discipline plan.

STEP 2: If the misconduct is repeated, the teacher will attempt to contact the parent and record the result.

STEP 3: The teacher will refer the student's case to a guidance counselor, a school nurse, or other appropriate personnel to seek positive intervention.

STEP 4: If the classroom problem persists or the misconduct has become a major disruption, the teacher will refer the student to an administrator who will determine the punishment according to the Student Code of Conduct and advise the teacher of the action taken. Parents will be contacted and notified of student misconduct and actions taken.

Principals' Role

The home and the school need to cooperate and work together to help each child achieve his or her highest potential in life. One of the school's primary responsibilities is to provide a quality education in a safe environment for all students.

The administrators at each school will, with the assistance of faculty and staff, develop an approved School Discipline Plan based on this Code, the age of the student body, and the school's philosophy. Emphasis will be placed on teaching respect.

Principals have statutory powers which permit their determining disciplinary action appropriate to student misconduct. (See F.S. 1006.09) Principals must protect the student's rights of due process and appeal.

Principals will make a reasonable attempt to contact student's parents or guardians to involve them in the investigation of cases that may lead to a recommendation of expulsion for their child.

The principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to immediately inform a student's parent or guardian by telephone of a student's suspension and the reasons for the suspension. Each suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall be reported in writing, by mail, or hand delivered within 24 hours to the student's parents or guardian. Each suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall also be reported in writing within 24 hours to the superintendent.

Principals will make a reasonable effort to contact the parent or guardian of a student who may be placed in personal or legal jeopardy due to interview, investigation or interrogation by a police officer. This does not include questions concerning any other matter pertaining to school or a school-related activity or event.

Principals must release a student to law enforcement officers when a warrant is presented for the student's arrest. In this case, the principal should make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent or guardian.

It is understood that disciplinary decisions are based on the judgment of the individual administrator according to the details of each specific case. This Code defines minimum punishments to be assigned for certain serious violations of the rules, but the punishment is determined by the principal or his designee. The principal or his designee may assign more than the minimums indicated in this Code.

The student's record may be considered. Punishment will be increasingly severe if rules are broken repeatedly or habitually. Repeated disruptive behavior may constitute "defiance of authority."

The principal is required to report certain infractions to law enforcement authorities and may press charges with the State Attorney if the violation warrants such action.

Hardee County Sheriff's Role



HARDEE COUNTY **SHERIFF** VENT CRAWFORD

Statewide, crimes committed by juveniles have increased by an alarming rate, with the severity of these offenses becoming a major concern. The Hardee County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to maintaining safety and order within our schools for students, faculty, and staff. Students must understand that the Hardee County Sheriff's Office is committed to enforcing civil and criminal laws both on and off campus.

While social media provides a wide range of benefits, it is often misused and/or abused by juveniles, leading to serious consequences. For instance, State Statute 836.10 prohibits individuals from making electronic treats to kill, inflict bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting. Unfortunately, we frequently encounter situations where students record threatening videos and later claim, "It was a joke," or "I was kidding," when law enforcement responds. Let me be clear, whatever reason you choose to communicate the written or electronic record, it is a second-degree felony, and you will be taken to jail. A second-degree felony can be punishable for up to 15 years in prison. Because of the "joke," your engagement in such conduct has life-altering repercussions and will affect your future education and career opportunities.

Furthermore, Statute 386.212 prohibits smoking and vaping by individuals under the age of 21 in, on or within 1000 feet of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight. Our deputies spend a significant amount of time confiscating and investigating vape pens in our schools. These are just two examples of civil and criminal offenses that have increased and have taken a toll on law enforcement and school staff personnel. We maintain a zero-tolerance policy regarding these issues.

The Hardee County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Hardee County School District and parents, is committed to ensuring that our schools remain a safe environment for learning. Together, we will take decisive action to uphold these standards and protect our community.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Vent Crawford".

Vent Crawford
Hardee County Sheriff

Notifications

1 FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“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 of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to their respective school guidance counselor a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. A list of addresses for each school is included on the last page of this Code of Conduct. 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. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write their respective school guidance counselor; clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. 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 advise them 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 consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official 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 district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Notifications

(4) The right to challenge District noncompliance with a parent's or eligible student's request to amend the records through a hearing.

(5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by The Hardee County School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. DOE
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

(6) If any official or employee of the District refuses to comply with statutory privacy provisions, an aggrieved parent or student who receives injunctive relief may be awarded attorney fees and court costs. (7) The right to obtain a copy of the District's policy and administrative procedures on student records.

(7) The right to obtain a copy of the District's policy and administrative procedures on student records.

2 Florida Student Identification

When a student enrolls in a public school in this state, the district school board shall request that the student provide his or her social security number and shall indicate whether the student identification number assigned to the student is a social security number. A student satisfies this requirement by presenting his or her social security card or a copy of the card to a school enrollment official.

However, a student is not required to provide his or her social security number as a condition for enrollment or graduation. The Commissioner of Education shall assist school districts with the assignment of student identification numbers to avoid duplication of any student identification number.

The department shall establish a process for assigning a Florida student identification number to each student in the state, at which time a school district may not use social security numbers as student identification numbers in its management information systems.

Notifications

3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION USE

Summary of School Board of Hardee County Policy 7540.03

Acceptable Use: Use of the Internet and email must be in support of education and research that is consistent with the educational goals and policies of the School Board of Hardee County.

Privileges: The use of the Internet and email is not a right, but a privilege, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege. School and district administrators will determine inappropriate use and their decision is final.

Etiquette: You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Be polite. Do not use vulgar or obscene language. Students should not reveal their private address or phone number or those of others. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private.

Warranties: The HCSB makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet.

Vandalism: Vandalism (malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, intranet, internet or other networks or equipment) will result in cancellation of privileges or other appropriate punishment. This includes the creation of, or the uploading of, computer viruses on the Internet or host site.

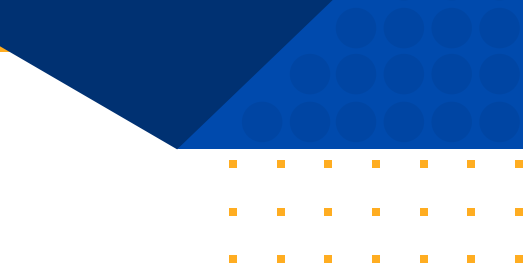
Security: If you identify a security problem, you must notify a system administrator immediately.

Do not show or identify the problem to others. Do not use another individual's account or give your account number to anyone else. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied Internet access.

All terms and conditions in this policy are applicable to all users of the Internet, email, and other networks.

You may contact a school or district administrator if you are interested in obtaining a complete copy of the School Board Hardee County Policy

Notifications



All terms and conditions in this policy are applicable to all users of the internet, email, and other networks.

You may contact a school or district administrator if you are interested in obtaining a complete copy of the HCSB Policy

Safety Guidelines for Students. Student users are expected to protect themselves by following these guidelines:

- a. Do not reveal any personal information of yours or that of any other person (name, address, phone number)
- b. Never share your password with anyone.
- c. Student users shall promptly disclose to their teacher or another school employee any message the user receives that is inappropriate or makes the user feel uncomfortable.
- d. Student users shall receive or transmit communications using only HCSB approved and HCSB managed communication systems.
- e. Students shall not use e-mail in connection with junk e-mail, spamming or any mass mailing.
- f. Students shall not create a false identity or otherwise attempt to mislead others as to the identity of the sender or the origin of the message.
- g. Students shall not transmit unlawful, harassing, libelous (gossip), abusive, threatening, harmful, vulgar, obscene or otherwise objectionable material of any kind.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying procedures may have their user privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for use of District devices that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying procedures (i.e.: School Board Policy 7540.03)

Notifications

4 Student Records

Hardee County schools annually notify all parents and guardians of students enrolled that they have a right to review their child's record, challenge the content that may be incorrect or misleading, receive a copy of the record, or waive their right of access to confidential information. Written permission is required for disclosure of educational records except as provided by Federal Regulation. These rights are transferred to the student at age 18 or upon his attendance at a post-secondary school.

Students may waive their rights to inspect and review confidential letters and statements or recommendations requesting admission to any educational agency or institution, an application for employment, or the receipt of an honorary recognition. All such waivers must be executed by the student regardless of age.

Hardee County schools will forward, without consent, educational records to schools and school systems in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Florida Statute, Section 513, Public Law 93-380(as amended), provides that an educational institution may, without authorization from parents, guardians, or eligible students, release "Directory Information." Directory information includes the following:

Student's name, address, telephone listing if not an unlisted number, date and place of birth, a major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent educational institution attended by student, photographs in the school year book and similar information.

If any parent, guardian, or student above the age of 18 years objects to the release of such information, he/she shall make known the objections, in writing, to the Superintendent within the first 30 days of the school year. The School Board shall release directory information only after 30 days' public notice has been given.

Notifications

5 Photographs & Publications

From time to time, Hardee County Public Schools photograph or video tape students, and occasionally post student-produced work online for public recognition. Local media often utilize these photographs and videotapes, and/or work, or come on campus with school permission to photograph or videotape students.

Surveillance video tapes are also used on buses and in certain areas of school campuses. If the parent does not wish photographs and/or video tapes of his/her child(ren) released or doesn't want their children(s) work posted online, he/she must notify the school Principal in writing within 30 calendar days of the beginning of the school year. The principal will then take every reasonable effort to ensure such photographs or video taken for the school yearbook or similar publications are excluded.

Students may be videotaped on buses and in some other situations for security and safety purposes; these video tapes may be utilized as evidence for certain disciplinary procedures. Additionally, students may be videotaped by school personnel for diagnostic/educational purposes; these tapes would be maintained in a student's record and available to the parent. Parental notice restricting photographs or video tapes will not apply to the use of these photographs or video tapes for disciplinary procedures.

Hardee County Public Schools may use these photographs and video tapes for an indefinite period of time unless this authorization is revoked in writing. However, if revoked, Hardee County Public Schools shall not be required to recall affected publications, photographs, video tape, and other recorded images then in use.

Notifications

6 Fortify FL

Florida Statute 943.082 states that if, following an investigation, it is determined that a person knowingly submitted a false tip through FortifyFL, the internet protocol (IP) address of the device on which the tip was submitted will be provided to law enforcement agencies for further investigation, and the reporting party may be subject to criminal penalties under Section 837.05, F.S. In all other circumstances, unless the reporting party has chosen to disclose his or her identity, the report will remain anonymous.



Notifications

7

Wireless Communications Devices

Florida House Bill 1105

A student may possess a wireless communications device while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function; however, elementary and middle school students may not use a wireless communications device during the school day. High school students may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. A high school teacher shall designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time. Each district school board shall adopt rules governing the use of a wireless communications device by a student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function.

Notifications

8

FOCUS



FOCUS Parent Portal

Child's Assignment Grades • Class Grade • Attendance • Referrals
Progress Monitoring Results • Teacher Communication
Report Cards • Interim Report Cards
Beginning of the Year Forms, such as Student Emergency
and Health Information

How to Register

- <https://focus.hardee.k12.fl.us/focus/outh>
- Click "I DO NOT have an Account Registered on the Parent Portal"
- Fill in required fields and hit "Submit"

Reset Password

- If your email is already registered or you forgot your password:
 - Visit <https://focus.hardee.k12.fl.us/focus/outh>
 - Click "I have Forgotten My Password and would like to retrieve it"

Once an Account is Created

Linking Existing Student Accounts

IMPORTANT

Once linking is completed, you must bring your ID to the school of enrollment for verification.

- Click "I have an Account Registered on the Parent Portal but would like to ADD A CHILD"
- Log in with your Parent Portal Account
- Fill in required fields
- Click "Add Student"
- Repeat for each child
- Click "I am FINISHED adding students. Please take me to the Portal."

Notifications

9 Attendance and Truancy

Attendance Procedures

It is the position of the School Board of Hardee County that students must attend school on a regular and timely basis to maximize educational opportunities offered in Hardee County Schools.

Recognizing this can be achieved successfully through combined efforts of parents and schools. These procedures outline strategies and interventions to maximize student attendance thereby creating more opportunities for student success. These procedures are applicable for all K-12 students in the Hardee County School District. The superintendent may approve exceptions to this policy for special programs.

Purpose

The purpose of this attendance procedure is to foster responsibility and reliability on the part of the parents to enforce school attendance and students to attend all classes. Students will acknowledge greater emphasis on attendance at school because grades/credits in their classes will be contingent upon their regular school attendance.

Compulsory School Attendance: FS 1003.21(1) and (2) (a)

Habitually truant is a child (age 6-16) who has accumulated 15 (or more) unexcused absences within ninety (90) calendar days, with or without knowledge of justifiable consent of parent /guardian. (F.S. 984.03)

Schools: Must contact the parent/guardian in a timely manner regarding any unexcused absence or absence for which the reason is unknown. Parent/guardian must provide documentation to excuse the absence.

Teachers: Will report any student with five (5) unexcused absences or reasons unknown within a calendar month or fifteen (15) absences within ninety (90) days to the principal or designee.

Principal/Assistant Principal/ or Designee: If the principal or assistant principal determines a pattern of nonattendance, he/she shall schedule a Child Study Team meeting with parent/guardian to determine intervention strategies and to inform parents about attendance state laws and district policies/procedures in order to circumvent further truancy proceedings. Senate Bill (SB) 1344 Amends s. 1003.26, FS., authorizing that certain meetings with parents may be conducted virtually or by telephone.

Notifications

9

Attendance and Truancy

After fifteen (15) days of unexcused absences, principal/assistant principal/or designee will prepare attendance documentation for court and complete a truancy referral. A truancy petition will be filed in truancy court.

Attendance documentation WILL include:

1. Attendance chart showing # of days missed and grade report.
2. Notification from student's primary teacher of a pattern of non-attendance reported to school principal or designee (emails or written notification)
3. Invitations to Child Study Team meetings and documentation of all meetings – These meetings can be conducted virtually or by telephone . (Clearly label if parent does not participate!)

Witness list that will include child study team members and anyone who physically met with or spoke with parent.

The Child Study Team SHALL implement the following:

Frequent attempts at communication between the teacher and family

Evaluation for Alternative Education Programs

Attendance Contract

Provide Intervention Strategies

Report the case to the district school superintendent when all reasonable efforts to resolve nonattendance have been exhausted.

A truancy referral will be delivered by law enforcement and sent to parent by return receipt mail stating that criminal prosecution is being sought for non-attendance.

Truancy Court: Once students are active in truancy court, attendance meetings are no longer required by the school (Now handled by outside agencies). Attendance will still be monitored in order to report back to the judge as requested.

Notifications

10 Dress & Grooming

SBHC Policy 5511

The School Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a reasonable dress code in order to promote a safe and healthy school setting and enhance the educational environment. The dress code shall be incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct.

Accordingly, the Superintendent shall establish such grooming procedures as are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such procedures shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

1. present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school, including by way of communicating threats of harm or depictions of harmful conduct directed at others;
2. interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program, including dress that promotes or depicts illegal activity, such as illegal drug use, underage alcohol consumption, or similar activities;
3. cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
4. prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Notifications

10 Dress & Grooming

1006.07 FI Statute

While on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, a student is prohibited from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment.

Any student who violates this dress code policy is subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1. For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal shall call the student's parent or guardian.
2. For a second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and the school principal shall meet with the student's parent or guardian.
3. For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s. 1003.01(13) for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, and the school principal shall call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

Multi-Tiered System of Support

Within the MTSS framework, The School Board of Hardee County (SBHC) will utilize and implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as well as mental health screenings. It is a mechanism that works cohesively with the overall MTSS framework and provides support that is designed for both General Education students and students receiving Exceptional Student Educational (ESE) services.

The School-Wide PBIS process emphasizes the creation of systems that support the adoption and durable implementation of evidence-based practices and procedures, and fit within ongoing school reform efforts.

School-Wide PBIS is an interactive approach that includes opportunities to correct and improve four key elements:

Outcomes: academic and behavior targets that are endorsed and emphasized by students, families, and educators.

Practices: interventions and strategies that are evidence based.

Data: information that is used to identify status, need for change, and effects of interventions.

Systems: supports that are needed to enable the accurate and durable implementation of the practices of PBIS.

It is important to remember that it is not required that each student “progress through each tier”. The tiers are fluid, and the goal is for students to remain (or return) to Tier 1 for the most success. Different situations and life events can cause a student to need more intensive interventions for periods of time (i.e., parent divorce, illness, natural disaster, academic difficulties, and mental health disorder). This could result in a student moving into Tier 2 or even Tier 3. However, as intervention is delivered with fidelity, this student can move back to Tier 1 levels of support to ensure equity in access to core instruction and the least restrictive environment possible for the student’s success.

Discipline

SBHC 5500 Policy

Respect for law and for those persons in authority shall be expected of all students. This includes conformity to school rules as well as general provisions of law affecting students. Respect for the rights of others, consideration of their privileges, and cooperative citizenship shall also be expected of all members of the school community.

Respect for real and personal property; pride in one's work; achievement within the range of one's ability; and exemplary personal standards of courtesy, decency, and honesty shall be maintained in the schools of this District.

The Principal shall notify all school personnel as to their obligation to report to the Principal those acts and/or crimes which pose a threat to school safety. School personnel must also properly document the disposition of any such incident.

Zero Tolerance Policy

This policy minimizes the victimization of students, staff, and volunteers and requires that necessary steps be taken to protect the victim of any violent act from any further victimization. In a disciplinary action, there is a rebuttable presumption that the actions of a student who intervened, using only the amount of force necessary, to stop a violent act against a student, staff, or volunteer were necessary to restore or maintain the safety of others.

The School Board has zero tolerance for conduct that poses a threat to school safety. Zero tolerance policies must apply equally to all students and are not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct.

Florida law requires that students found to have committed one of the following offenses:

- A. bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in F.S. Chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation, or possessing a firearm at school; or
- B. making a threat or false report, as defined by F.S. 790.162 and 790.163, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity;

shall be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one (1) full year and shall be referred to mental health services identified by the District and to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

Discipline

The Superintendent may consider the one (1) year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request that the Board modify the requirement by assigning a student to a disciplinary program or second chance school. The Superintendent's request for modification must be in writing and may only be presented to the Board for consideration if the student and/or the student's parent(s) agree in writing to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. The Board may approve the request if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system. If a student committing either of the offenses enumerated above is a student who has a disability, the Board shall comply with applicable State Board of Education rules for the discipline of such students.

The District shall enter into agreements with local law enforcement specifying procedures so that acts that pose a threat to school safety, whether committed by a student or adult, are reported to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

The school's threat management team will consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based on previous acts or the severity of an act that would pose a threat to school safety.

SBHC Policy 5630 - CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND USE OF REASONABLE FORCE AND RESTRAINT

A teacher or other member of the staff shall assume such authority for the control of students who are assigned to him/her by the principal or designee and shall keep good order in the classroom.

Corporal Punishment

Pursuant to State law, if the principal determines that corporal punishment is necessary, it may be administered by the principal in accordance with established guidelines.

The guidelines shall include requirements that corporal punishment be administered by the specific staff members authorized by the principal to administer such punishment. The guidelines shall also require that it be administered in the presence of another adult, and that the adult in whose presence it is administered be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the corporal punishment. The guidelines shall further require that the principal shall, upon parental request, provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present. The guidelines may include other requirements and conditions under which corporal punishment may be administered.

Discipline

Additionally, pursuant to State law, the School Board shall review the portion of this policy authorizing corporal punishment once every three (3) years at a public meeting where the Board takes public testimony or when the portion of this policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

1002.20(4)(c) The parent must provide consent before corporal punishment may be administered.

Reasonable Force and Restraint

Instructional staff as well as support staff, within the scope of their employment, may use and apply reasonable force and restraint to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon or within the control of the student, in self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property.

Furthermore, administrators, instructional staff members, and support staff members shall not be criminally or civilly liable for any action carried out in conformity with State Board rule and/or Board policies regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students, including, but not limited to, any exercise of authority granted by this policy.

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

The School Board recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, suspension, disciplinary placement, or expulsion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this District, and one that cannot fairly be imposed without due process.

No student is to be removed, suspended, expelled, or excluded from an activity, program, or a school unless his/her behavior represents misconduct as specified in the student/parent handbook approved by the Board. The handbook shall also specify the procedures to be followed by school officials. In determining whether a student is to be suspended or expelled, District administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. In addition to the procedural safeguards and definitions set forth in this policy and the student/parent handbook, the procedures set forth in Policy 5605 shall apply to students identified as disabled under the IDEA and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

For purposes of this policy and the Superintendent's administrative procedures, the following shall apply:

1. Suspension, also referred to as out-of-school suspension, means the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days and remanding of the student to the custody of the student's parent, with specific homework assignments to complete.
2. Serious breach of conduct includes, but is not limited to, willful disobedience, open defiance of the authority of a member of the staff, actual or threatened violence against persons or property, or any other act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school.
3. Expulsion means the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school for a period of time and under conditions set by the Board not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one (1) additional year of attendance.
4. Disciplinary placement means the involuntary separation of a student from his/her regular school or traditional education setting and benefits attached to such placement to a separate alternative school or disciplinary setting with continued educational services.

REMOVAL FROM CLASS

1. Referral
2. A teacher has the authority to refer a disruptive student to the Principal's office to maintain effective discipline in the classroom and may recommend an appropriate consequence with the Student Code of Conduct. Disruptive behavior will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. assault on staff or students,
 - b. threat(s) or violence,
 - c. willful disregard of a teacher's directions, interfering with the class or activity,
 - d. malicious vandalism,
 - e. possession of weapons of any type,
 - f. continuing use of profane language or obscene gestures, and
 - g. instigation of violence or mass disobedience to legitimate directions.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

After determining that the student has violated the Student Code of Conduct, the Principal shall respond either by employing the teacher's recommended consequence, or by imposing a more serious disciplinary action, if the student's overall behavioral history warrants it.

If the Principal determines that disciplinary action other than that recommended by the teacher is appropriate, the Principal should consult with the teacher before taking disciplinary action. If the Principal deviates in any way from the teacher's recommendation, the Principal must provide the reasons for any such deviation in writing to the teacher.

If the Principal determines that the student has not violated the Student Code of Conduct, the Principal may not impose any discipline.

The Principal shall notify the teacher of any decision regarding discipline, or lack thereof, and interventions provided to a student to address the behavior.

The teacher may request a conference with the Principal and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the student being returned to his/her classroom. A disruptive student will not normally be returned to the classroom where he/she exhibited the disruptive behavior before such a conference occurs.

1. Removal
2. Pursuant to F.S. 1003.32, a teacher may remove from his/her class a student whose behavior the teacher determines interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with other students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn.
3. The principal may not return a student who has been removed by a teacher to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the Placement Review Committee established herein determines that such placement is the best or only available alternative.
4. The teacher and the Placement Review Committee must render decisions within five (5) working days of the removal of the student from the classroom.
5. In accordance with State law, each school shall establish a Placement Review Committee(s) to determine if a student is to be returned to a teacher's class after that student has been removed by the teacher and the teacher has withheld consent for that student to be returned to the teacher's class. Committee membership shall be as set forth in State law. The Placement Review Committee(s) will be selected during preschool planning.
6. A teacher, who removed a student from his/her class and who has withheld consent for the return of that student to his/her class, shall not serve on the committee when the committee makes its decision regarding the return of the student.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL OR SUSPENSION FROM RIDING SCHOOL BUS

When a student's actions are so disruptive to himself/herself or to the school as to violate law, Board policies, or school rules, the student may be suspended by the Principal. A student who is suspended shall not be allowed to attend his/her regular classes or school-sponsored activities for a prescribed number of days not to exceed ten (10). The principal or designated representative may refer the student during the period of the suspension to in-school suspension, a center for special counseling or shall remand the student to the custody of his/her parent or guardian.

The principal may suspend a student from school for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days with advance approval from the Superintendent, the student may be suspended for more than three (3) days but not to exceed ten (10) days. Before suspending a student, except in emergencies or disruptive conditions that require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious breach of conduct, the principal or designee shall make a good faith effort to employ parental assistance or alternative methods of dealing with the student and shall document such efforts.

In no case shall a teacher suspend a student from school or class, nor shall a bus driver suspend a student from riding a school bus. A student may not be suspended for unexcused tardiness, lateness, absence, or truancy.

Before a suspension, the Principal will hold an informal hearing to give the student oral and written notice of the charges and an explanation of the evidence against him/her. The student will then have an opportunity to explain his/her side of the story. The hearing will be held on the day of the alleged infraction unless it would be impossible or unreasonably difficult to do so.

The Principal will make a good-faith effort to contact the student's parent or guardian by telephone immediately after making the decision to suspend.

The Principal will send formal written notice to the student's parent or guardian by U.S. Mail, or other method agreed to by the parent, informing of the length of the suspension and the reasons for it. The Principal will also report each suspension to the Superintendent in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the student is informed of the suspension.

Except in the event of emergencies, all out-of-school suspensions shall begin at the end of the school day of the infraction, unless the parents or guardians have been notified and are able to pick up the student at school. The school will provide homework assignments for the student to complete.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

In cases of extremely disruptive or dangerous behavior, persons or groups involved may be immediately suspended and ejected from the school campus without the necessity of a prior hearing. In such instances, each student shall be afforded an informal hearing before the Principal prior to the expiration of the third day of suspension.

A student shall be given the opportunity to make up schoolwork and course requirements missed while absent due to out-of-school suspension. The student shall have a reasonable amount of time up to five (5) school days following suspension to complete the school work missed and shall do so on his/her own initiative.

When Board action on a recommendation for the expulsion of a student is pending, the superintendent may extend the suspension assigned by the principal beyond ten (10) school days if such suspension expires before the next regular or special meeting of the Board.

In the case of students with disabilities, suspensions shall be pursuant to the procedures outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

DELAYED ADMISSION

The Board authorizes the superintendent to delay the admission of a student who has been suspended by another public or private school for an act that would have been grounds for suspension according to the Board-adopted *Student Code of Conduct* for a period equal to that of the suspension.

School Work Assigned During Out-of-School Suspension

Credit will be given for work missed due to out-of-school suspension provided the student completes and submits all required assignments upon return to school.

DISCIPLINARY REASSIGNMENT AND EXPULSION

The Board recognizes that disciplinary placement and expulsion from the educational program of the schools are the most severe sanctions for a student in this District and that either one cannot fairly be imposed without due process.

A principal may recommend to the Superintendent the disciplinary placement or expulsion of a student who has committed a serious breach of conduct. A recommendation of disciplinary placement or expulsion will include a detailed report on the student's actions and alternative measures taken before the recommendation.

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

A student and his/her parent or guardian will be given written notice of the principal's recommendation and the reasons therefore and an opportunity to meet with the Superintendent to answer the charges.

The Superintendent, after reviewing the facts and circumstances of the student's misconduct and the principal's recommendation, may accept, reject, or modify the principal's recommendation. The Board will decide on a recommended expulsion of any student and on a recommended disciplinary placement of any student who has been determined to have brought to, or possessed at, school a firearm or weapon, as defined in F.S. Chapter 790, or to have made a threat or false report, as defined by F.S. 790.162 and 790.163.

When the Superintendent makes a recommendation for disciplinary placement or expulsion to the Board, written notice shall be given to the student and his/her parent or guardian of the recommendation setting forth the charges against the student, with a summary of the factual, legal, and policy grounds for the recommendation, and advising the student and his/her parent or guardian of their right of due process, including the right to a hearing.

When making a determination whether or not a student will be expelled or permanently excluded under this policy, the Superintendent shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - *Information Management* (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

All students who are recommended for disciplinary placement or expulsion shall undergo screening to determine if they may be a student with a disability and due the procedural rights and safeguards afforded such students.

A parent or adult student may make a written request for a hearing within ten (10) days from receipt of the Superintendent's notice.

Disciplinary Placement and Expulsion Hearings

The hearing will be conducted by the entire Board.

All parties will be given reasonable notice of the hearing of not less than fourteen (14) days; however, the fourteen (14) day requirements may be waived by the Board without the consent of the parties.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

Failure to timely request a hearing or failure to appear at a hearing after notice of the date and time of the hearing shall be deemed to be a waiver of any hearing on the matter. However, upon presentation of good and sufficient reasons for non-appearance, the presiding officer may direct that the hearing be re-scheduled.

Hearings will be conducted in accordance with Florida statutes and the Uniform Rules of Procedure. Reasonable flexibility in method or order of presentation shall be permitted. No parent or adult student shall be prohibited from presenting reasonable matters because of insubstantial procedural irregularities. A parent or adult student may be represented at the hearing by an adult, whether as legal counsel or qualified representative. Disciplinary placement and expulsion hearings are exempt from the public meetings law; however, the parent may elect to have the hearing held as a public meeting.

No Disputed Issue(s) of Material Fact

If there is no disputed issue of material fact, the parent or adult student, or their counsel, will have the opportunity at the hearing to present written or oral evidence in opposition to the proposed action or a written statement challenging the propriety of the proposed action.

Disputed Issue(s) of Material Fact

If there is a disputed issue of material fact, all parties will have an opportunity at the hearing to respond, to present evidence, and argument on all issues involved, to conduct cross-examination and submit rebuttal evidence, to submit proposed findings of fact and orders.

Findings of fact shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence and shall be based exclusively on the evidence of record and on matters officially recognized.

All parties may submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and memoranda on the issues within a time designated by the Board.

Board Action

At the conclusion of the hearing, or at a later time designated by the Board, the Board will consider all the evidence and argument presented and by majority vote will decide whether to uphold the superintendent's recommendation or to impose a different penalty or no penalty.

Discipline

SBHC Policy 5610 - REMOVAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINARY PLACEMENT, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

Final Order

The Board will enter a written final order, including findings of fact and conclusions of law separately stated. The final order will include a ruling on each exception filed, if any, in accordance with Florida statutes.

The final order will be served on all parties.

Appeal

A party may seek judicial review of the final order in accordance with F.S. 120.68.

Denial of Admission

A student seeking to enroll in a District school who has been expelled by an in-state or out-of-state public district school board, private school, or lab school for an act that would have been grounds for expulsion according to the Board-adopted *Student Code of Conduct* may be denied admission to the District's school for a period equal to that of that expulsion.

Prior to making a recommendation regarding admission or denial thereof, the Superintendent may offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

The Superintendent may recommend that the Board honor the final order of expulsion from the student's previous district of attendance and deny admission to the student, or that the Board waive the final order of expulsion and admit the student.

Acting upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board may deny the admission of a student who has been expelled by any in-state or out-of-state public district school board or private school for a period equal to that of the expulsion for an act that would have been grounds for expulsion according to the Board-adopted *Code of Student Conduct*. A final order of expulsion shall be recorded in the records of the District, and the student and his/her parents shall be advised of the final order of expulsion.

However, the Board may, with or without the Superintendent's recommendation, waive the expulsion, admit the student, and direct that s/he be placed in an appropriate educational program.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy and ensure compliance with applicable statutes. A copy of this policy is to be made accessible to students and parents in the District's online policy manual and shall be provided in hard copy to students and parents upon request. Key provisions of this policy should also be included in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Search & Seizure

SBHC Policy 5771

The School Board recognizes that the privacy of students or their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be the subject of search upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object is contained therein. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

Administrators are authorized to arrange for the use of a breath-test instrument for the purpose of determining if a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. It is not necessary for the test to determine blood-alcohol level since the Board has established a zero tolerance for alcohol use.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices, when the Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs or devices may be present in a school. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on school property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

Search & Seizure

SBHC Policy 5771

Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal who shall seek the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

Any search of a student's personal belongings, including a purse, backpack, or bookbag, must be conducted discreetly to maintain the privacy of the student's personal items within such belongings. Personal items that are not prohibited on school grounds must be immediately returned to the student's personal belongings.

The principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made of them. The principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The district complies with all federal and state laws pertaining to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities may be subjected to short-term or long-term removals depending on the disciplinary infraction of the Code of Conduct. A short-term removal is one in which a student with a disability is removed from a school up to ten (10) school days within a school year. Short-term removals do not require the school to provide services identified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan, or to conduct a manifestation determination meeting.

A long-term removal is one in which a student with a disability:

- is suspended for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days, or
- has been suspended for more than ten (10) cumulative days in the school year, or
- is subject to expulsion.

A long-term removal of a student with a disability requires the following:

- The school will schedule a manifestation determination meeting with the relevant members of the IEP or Section 504 team including the parent and student. At this meeting, the team reviews the student's IEP or Section 504 plan, the student's file, teacher observations, and relevant information provided by the student and student's parents. Following this review, the IEP or Section 504 team shall determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.
- If the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined in the same manner as non-disabled students, including removal to an alternative education setting or expulsion with services.
- If the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the District shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and implement a behavior intervention plan (BIP) for the student to address the behavior giving rise to discipline. The student shall be returned to his/her original placement unless the parent and District agree to different placement as a behavioral intervention. A student with a disability may be removed to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty five (45) school days without regard to whether the student's behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his/her disability if the student: (a) carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or at a school function; (b) knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs at school, or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or (c) has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

Additional requirements for the suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities are detailed in the District's Exceptional Student Program Policies and Procedures, and Florida Department of Education Rule 6A-6.03312. Any time a significant change in placement (such as an exclusion of more than ten (10) consecutive days) is being considered, the parent(s) or guardian of a student with a disability shall be provided a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students with disabilities and written notice, or the procedural safeguards and parent rights for Section 504.

Discipline

This list of infractions and possible consequences is not to be viewed as a threat to those students who are good citizens. On the contrary, this list is given to everyone as information, stating alternatives available to those concerned with the smooth operation of Hardee County's schools. This section is offered to students and parents in the belief that full knowledge of school rules and regulations helps avoid accidental violations and promotes good school citizenship. These rules and regulations apply to all school activities and school properties. It is understood that these are minimum consequences. If the situation arises that the punishment does not adequately address the offense, the principal or his designee may choose to adjust the severity of the punishment.

School boards may assign more severe consequences than normally authorized for violations of the Code of Student Conduct (Rule 6AER94-3(5),FAC), "when the offender appears motivated by hostility toward the victim's real or perceived race, religion, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, natural origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or disability."

The school principal is responsible for monitoring the administration of student discipline to ensure that discipline is administered equitably without regard to "real or perceived race, religion, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or disability." He or she is required to review school discipline data with the school advisory council on at least an annual basis in developing school improvement plans to maintain a safe and healthy school environment that protects the civil rights of all students.

The expectation is that the principal or the assistant principal will contact and/or conference with the parent or guardian of any offense in the Student Code of Conduct. If the situation arises that the punishment does not adequately address the offense, the principal or assistant principal may choose to adjust the severity of the punishment.

The school based Threat Management Team may investigate and determine the level of the threat and incident by adhering to the Florida Model guidelines as set forth by the FLDOE.

The Pioneer Career Academy is a school for primarily secondary students that serves as an alternative to out-of-school suspension or expulsion. The average enrollment period at Pioneer Career Academy is six (6) months. Placement in the Academy may result from those violations that list expulsion or out-of-school suspension as possible resultant measures.

If a student becomes a chronic discipline problems [more than three (3) office referrals], the discipline assigned for subsequent offenses may be more severe than what is normally dictated by strict interpretation of the policy.

Discipline

THREAT/INTIMIDATION

- instilling fear in others

An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or nonverbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically or through any other means. Threats made that cause a major school disruption will have harsher consequences.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Second Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Second Offense Up to three (3) days OSS
Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation for expulsion	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation for expulsion

Discipline

Simple Battery

An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to five (5) days OSS and parent conference	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS and parent conference	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS and parent conference
Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion

Discipline

Aggravated Battery

A battery where the attacker intentionally or knowingly causes more serious injury as defined in Rule 6A-1.0017(8)(g), such as: great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; uses a deadly weapon; or, where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Fighting

- mutual combat, mutual altercation

When two or more persons mutually participate in use of force or physical violence that requires either physical intervention or results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention. Lower-level fights, including pushing, shoving, or altercations that stop on verbal command are not required to be reported in SESIR.

*Instigator will receive harsher punishment if determination can be made.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense One(1) day OSS	First Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or OSS	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS
Second Offense Up to three (5) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion
Third Offense Up to five (10) days OSS and parent conference before returning	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	

Discipline

Hazing

Any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6 through 12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. 'Hazing' includes, but is not limited to: (a) pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student to participate in illegal or dangerous behavior, or (b) any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.

K-5	6-8	9-12
Not Applicable	First Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or OSS	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS
	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion
	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	

Discipline

Kidnapping

- abduction of an individual

Forcibly, secretly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his/her will and without lawful authority.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Sexual Battery (Rape)

- attempted or actual

Forced or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or foreign object. Both males and females can be victims of sexual battery.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Sexual Assault

- attempted or actual

An incident that includes fondling, indecent liberties, child molestation, or threatened rape. Both males and females can be victims of sexual assault.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Sexual Harassment

- undesired sexual behavior

Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing conduct can include verbal or nonverbal actions, including graphic and written statements, and may include statements made through computers, cellphones, and other devices connected to the Internet.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days of ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days of ACE
Second Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (3) days OSS	Second Offense Up to three (3) days OSS
Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS

Discipline

Sexual Offenses-Other

- undesired sexual behavior
- lewdness, indecent exposure

Other sexual contact, including intercourse, without force or threat of force. Subjecting an individual to lewd sexual gestures, sexual activity, or exposing private body parts in a lewd manner. (Law enforcement must be notified to investigate.)

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Homicide

- murder, manslaughter

The unjustified killing of one human being by another.

K-5	6-8	9-12
Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Weapons Possession

- possession of firearms and other instruments which can cause harm

Possession of a firearm or any instrument or object as defined by Section 790.001(6) and (13), F.S., that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Confiscation, suspension, ten (10) days OSS, recommend expulsion, referral to SRO	First Offense Confiscation, suspension, ten (10) days OSS, recommend expulsion, referral to SRO	First Offense Confiscation, suspension, ten (10) days OSS, recommend expulsion, referral to SRO

Discipline

Other Weapons

Knives or objects that can be used to injure. Including but not limited to; hunting knives, pocket knives, razor knives, chains, metal knuckles, explosives, pipes, ice picks, electric weapons, or any other item used as a weapon.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with confiscation referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with confiscation referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with confiscation referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion

Discipline

Dangerous Objects

Mace, pepper spray, cigarette lighters, and other objects used in a threatening or intimidating way, or used to cause a disruption as determined by the principal or his designee.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Confiscation, principal's judgment, referral to SRO	First Offense Confiscation, referral to SRO and up to five (5) days ACE	First Offense Confiscation, referral to SRO and up to five (5) days ACE
Second Offense Confiscation, principal's judgment, referral to SRO	Second Offense Confiscation, referral to SRO and up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS	Second Offense Confiscation, referral to SRO and up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS
Third Offense Confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Third Offense Confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Third Offense Confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO and possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion

Discipline

Drug Use/Possession

- illegal drug possession or use

The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Drug Sale/Distribution

- illegal sale or distribution of drugs

The manufacture, cultivation, purchase, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance or substance represented to be a drug, narcotic, or controlled substance.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Alcohol

- possession, use, or sale

Possession, sale, purchase, distribution, or use of alcoholic beverages. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. Alcohol incidents cannot be Drug-related.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Tobacco

- cigarettes or other forms of tobacco/nicotine to include vape

The possession, sale, purchase, distribution, or use of tobacco or nicotine products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation by any person under the age of 21. Tobacco incidents cannot be Drug-related.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Confiscation, principal's judgment	First Offense Confiscation, up to two (2) days ACE	First Offense Confiscation, up to five (2) days ACE
Second Offense Confiscation, Up to three (3) days ACE or OSS	Second Offense Confiscation, Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Confiscation, Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Confiscation, Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Confiscation, up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Confiscation, up to five (5) days OSS

Discipline

Matches/Lighters

Possession, use of or displaying of fire igniting materials in a non-threatening manner.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Confiscation and principal judgement	First Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) day ACE or lunch detention	First Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) days ACE or lunch detention
Second Offense Confiscation and principal judgement	Second Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) day ACE or lunch detention	Second Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) day ACE or lunch detention
Third Offense Confiscation and principal judgement	Third Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) day ACE or lunch detention	Third Offense Confiscation, up to one (1) day ACE or lunch detention

Discipline

Disruption on Campus-Major

- major disruption of all or a significant portion of campus activities, school-sponsored events, and school bus transportation

Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Examples of major disruptions include bomb threats, inciting a riot, or initiating a false fire alarm.

(Any person found to be guilty of making a false threat could face criminal prosecution.)

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Felonies

Students charged with a felony on property other than public school property and shown to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare in the school.

K-5	6-8	9-12
Parent conference (School-based hearing) and possible OSS until court of jurisdiction determines guilt or innocence or dismissal of charge. (If adjudicated guilty of the felony, the student may be recommended to the superintendent for expulsion.)	Parent conference (School-based hearing) and possible OSS until court of jurisdiction determines guilt or innocence or dismissal of charge. (If adjudicated guilty of the felony, the student may be recommended to the superintendent for expulsion.)	Parent conference (School-based hearing) and possible OSS until court of jurisdiction determines guilt or innocence or dismissal of charge. (If adjudicated guilty of the felony, the student may be recommended to the superintendent for expulsion.)

Discipline

Robbery

- using force to take something from another

The taking or attempted taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the person or owner of the money or other property under the confrontational circumstances of force, or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. A key difference in Grand Theft and Robbery is that Robbery involves violence, a threat of violence or assault, and putting the victim in fear.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Burglary

- illegal entry into a facility
- Unlawful entry into or remaining in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime therein.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Theft To knowingly obtain, use or endeavor to obtain or use the property of another either permanently or temporarily. This includes school property such as books, equipment, or fundraising products (less than \$750 value)		
K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO
Second Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	Second Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	Second Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO
Third Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	Third Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	Third Offense Restitution or confiscation, up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO

Discipline

Grand Theft

- taking of property from a person, building, or vehicle
- \$750 threshold

The unauthorized taking of the property of another person or organization, including motor vehicles, valued at \$750 or more, without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Incidents that fall below the \$750 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies. Thefts of property of any value that involve a use of force, violence, assault, or putting the victim in fear must be reported as Robbery.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS, and referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS, and referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS, and referral to SRO
Second Offense Restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion, and referral to SRO	Second Offense Parent notification, restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion, and referral to SRO	Second Offense Parent notification, restitution, up to ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion, and referral to SRO

Discipline

Trespassing

To enter or remain on school grounds/campus, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event/off campus, without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Only incidents involving a student currently under suspension or expulsion, or incidents where any offender (student or non-student) was previously issued an official trespass warning by school officials, or where any offender was arrested for trespass are required to be reported in SESIR. Trespass incidents that did not have a prior official warning, did not result in arrest, or did not involve students under suspension or expulsion should be reported as locally defined incidents according to district policies.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to one (1) day OSS or detention or principal's judgment and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to one (1) day OSS or ACE and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to one (1) day OSS or ACE and referral to SRO
Second Offense Up to two (2) days OSS and referral to SRO	Second Offense Up to two (2) days OSS or ACE and referral to SRO	Second Offense Up to two (2) days OSS or ACE and referral to SRO
Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS and referral to SRO	Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS and referral to SRO	Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS and referral to SRO

Discipline

Vandalism/Criminal Mischief

- destruction, damage, or defacement of school or personal property
- less than \$1,000

Willfully and maliciously injuring or damaging by any means any real or personal property belonging to another, including, but not limited to, the placement of graffiti thereon or other acts of vandalism thereto. Incidents that fall below the \$1,000 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Parent notification, restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO	First Offense Parent notification, restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO	First Offense Parent notification, restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO
Second Offense Parent notification, Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO	Second Offense Parent notification, Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO	Second Offense Parent notification, Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO
Third Offense Parent notification, ten (10) days OSS, referral to OSS	Third Offense Parent notification, ten (10) days OSS, referral to OSS	Third Offense Parent notification, ten (10) days OSS, referral to OSS

Discipline

Criminal Mischief

- destruction, damage, or defacement of school or personal property
- \$1,000 threshold

Willfully and maliciously injuring or damaging by any means any real or personal property belonging to another, including, but not limited to, the placement of graffiti thereon or other acts of vandalism thereto. Incidents that fall below the \$1,000 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO	First Offense Restitution, up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO
Second Offense Restitution Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO	Second Offense Restitution Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO	Second Offense Restitution Up to ten (10) days OSS, referral to SRO

Discipline

Arson

- intentionally setting a fire on school property

To intentionally damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents. Fires that are not intentional, that are caused by accident, or do not cause damage are not required to be reported in SESIR.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

Extortion

Obtaining something of value through use of future threat of harm .

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Up to one (1) day OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS

Discipline

USE OF THREATENING, DISPARAGING OR DEMEANING LANGUAGE

Words which are spoken solely to harass, injure, or intimidate other people, such as name calling, racial slurs, or other derogatory statements.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Up to one (1) day OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE or three (3) days OSS

Discipline

Misuse of Emergency Equipment Tampering, destruction, or unjustified activation of a fire extinguisher		
K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment, up to three (3) days OSS for grades 3-5 and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO
Second Offense Up to five (5) days OSS, referral to SRO	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS and referral to SRO
Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with referral to SRO	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with referral to SRP	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS with referral to SRO

Discipline

Fireworks

Possession and/or igniting fireworks, firecrackers, or other explosive or noisemaking devices.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment, time out, detention	First Offense Up to ten (10) days ACE	First Offense Up to ten (10) days ACE
Second Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days OSS
Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS

Discipline

DISRESPECT TO STAFF/DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY (INSUBORDINATION)

Disrespectful language or action directed toward school district employees.
Refusing to obey directions given by a school authority.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Time out, detention, or up to one (1) day OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to two (2) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS

Discipline

Harrassment

Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose. Instances of Harrassment that are chronic or repeated in nature should be evaluated for Bullying or Bullying-related.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Up to two (2) days OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS

Discipline

Bullying

- intimidating behaviors that are repeated, intentional, and involve a power imbalance

Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. Bullying includes instances of cyberbullying, as defined in Section 1006.147(3)(b), F.S. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, repetitive instances of teasing, social exclusion, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, harassment, public or private humiliation, or destruction of property. If the physical harm or psychological distress is not the result of systematic or chronic behavior, evaluate for Harassment.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Up to two (2) days OSS	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS

Discipline

OBSCENITY/VULGARITY/PROFANITY TO EMPLOYEES

Directing obscene, vulgar, profane, or disparaging language to school district employees or volunteers on or off school property.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to two (2) days OSS	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS
Second Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Second Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS
Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	Third Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS

Discipline

VERBAL ASSAULT TO AN EMPLOYEE

Seriously threatening by word or act to inflict harm or injury and having the ability to do so. No physical contact is necessary.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Up to ten (10) days OSS	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS
Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion
Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Third Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion	Third Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion

Discipline

BATTERY ON SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

The physical use of force or violence by an individual against a school district employee with or without injury

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	First Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO
Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with possible recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Second Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO
Third Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Third Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO	Third Offense Ten (10) days OSS with recommendation to superintendent for expulsion and referral to SRO

Discipline

USE OF PROFANE/VULGAR/OBSCENE LANGUAGE and/or BEHAVIOR

The use of words or actions which are offensive to community standards, and have no serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to one (1) day ACE	First Offense Up to one (1) day ACE
Second Offense Principal's judgment	Second Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	Second Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Third Offense Up to one (1) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE

Discipline

GENERAL DISRUPTION - CONDUCT OR SPEECH

Conduct or speech(verbal, written, or symbolic) which materially and substantially disrupts the orderly educational process including but not limited to classroom work, school activities, school functions and violations of teacher's classroom rules. The use of objects such as electronic communication devices, cellular phones, laser pointers, radios, iPods or other digital sound and/or video reproducing devices, or any other recreational devices will constitute a violation under this section.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Principal's judgment	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Second Offense Up to five (5) days ACE
Third Offense Up to one (1) day OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE	Third Offense Up to five (5) days ACE

Discipline

Bus Conduct

Any offense committed by a student on a county-owned or contracted bus, or at the bus stop, shall be punished in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school. Bus infractions are considered to be serious and students engaging in such activities can expect to face the following consequences.

K-5	6-8	9-12
Level 1 First Offense Warning	Level 1 First Offense Warning	Level 1 First Offense Warning
Second Offense Seat assignment or up to one (1) day bus suspension	Second Offense Seat assignment or up to three (3) days bus suspension	Second Offense Seat assignment or up to three (3) days bus suspension
Third Offense Up to three (3) days bus suspension	Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS	Third Offense Up to three (3) days OSS

Discipline

Bus Conduct

Any offense committed by a student on a county-owned or contracted bus, or at the bus stop, shall be punished in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school. Bus infractions are considered to be serious and students engaging in such activities can expect to face the following consequences.

K-5	6-8	9-12
Fourth Offense Up to five (5) days bus suspension	Fourth Offense Five (5) or more days bus suspension	Fourth Offense Five (5) or more days bus suspension
Level 2 Level 2 includes more serious misbehavior on the bus such as fighting, disrespect, obscene language, etc. These infractions will result in discipline consequences listed in the student handbook and may include the consequences for bus misconduct listed in Level 1.	Level 2 Level 2 includes more serious misbehavior on the bus such as fighting, disrespect, obscene language, etc. These infractions will result in discipline consequences listed in the student handbook and may include the consequences for bus misconduct listed in Level 1.	Level 2 Level 2 includes more serious misbehavior on the bus such as fighting, disrespect, obscene language, etc. These infractions will result in discipline consequences listed in the student handbook and may include the consequences for bus misconduct listed in Level 1.

Discipline

Misuse of Automobiles

Driving on school property carelessly without due caution so as to endanger persons or property. This includes excessive speed, reckless driving, driving without a license and racing.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Not Applicable	First Offense Not Applicable	Minimum Penalty Warning Maximum Penalty Loss of driving privileges for the remainder of the schoolyear plus restitution for any damages

Discipline

Gambling

Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value. This excludes lawful approved fundraising by school sanctioned organizations.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to one (1) day ACE	First Offense Up to one (1) day ACE
Second Offense Principal's judgment	Second Offense Up to one (1) day ACE	Second Offense Up to one (1) day ACE
Third Offense Principal's judgment	Third Offense Up to (2) days ACE	Third Offense Up to (2) days ACE

Discipline

Forgery

Students' falsely making, altering, or counterfeiting documents intended for school use. This includes students signing parents and/or school personnel names to notes, report cards, permission forms etc. Also includes students signing or writing notes for friends.

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Principal's judgment	First Offense Up to One (1) day of ACE	First Offense Up to One (1) day of ACE
Second Offense Principal's judgment	Second Offense Up to one(1) day ACE	Second Offense Up to one(1) day ACE
Third Offense Principal's judgment	Third Offense Up to two (2) days ACE	Third Offense Up to two (2) days ACE

OBSCENE / PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

SPossession, display, or distribution of any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced or sound or video recording defined in FS. 847.001

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Confiscation and Principal's judgment	First Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE	First Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE
Second Offense Confiscation and Principal's judgment	Second Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE or one (1) days OSS	Second Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE or one (1) days OSS
Third Offense Up to one (1) days OSS	Third Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE or one (1) days OSS	Third Offense Confiscation and up to three (3) days ACE or one (1) days OSS

Discipline

Hardee District Dress Code with respect to gang affiliation

In addition to each individual school's Board approved dress code policy, each student in the Hardee County Public Schools will abide by the following:

"No student on or about school property shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang." [upheld in Olesen v.

Board of Education of School District No. 228 (676 F. Supp. 820 1987)]

K-5	6-8	9-12
First Offense Verbal Warning, principal's judgment	First Offense Up to three (3) days in ACE	First Offense Up to three (3) days in ACE
Second Offense Up to one (1) day detention/OSS or principal's judgment	Second Offense Up to three (3) days of OSS	Second Offense Up to three (3) days of OSS
Third Offense Up to three (3) days detention/OSS or principal's judgment	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS	Third Offense Up to five (5) days OSS

Contact Information



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