

**JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM DISTRICT STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK
2018-2019**

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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

The District's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school or district as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by the regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct. Jasper County will implement the best practices of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) in all schools within the district. PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture and needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Authority of the Principal

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

Teacher Authority

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

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

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

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

Parental Involvement

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contacts is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments.

Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Progressive Discipline Procedures as Related to the Code of Conduct

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

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

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

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

1. WARNING AND/OR CONFERENCE

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

2. CLASSROOM CONSEQUENCES

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

3. BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

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

4. LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

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

5. TIME OUT/ISOLATION

Student may receive time out in opportunity room, alternative learning environment, modified educational environment, etc.

6. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The corporal punishment shall not be excessive or unduly severe. Corporal punishment shall never be used as a first line of punishment for misbehavior unless the pupil was informed beforehand that specific misbehavior could occasion its use. Provided, however, that corporal punishment may be employed as a

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first line of punishment for those acts of misconduct which are so anti-social or disruptive in nature as to shock the conscience. Corporal punishment must be administered by the principal, assistant principal, or certified designee in the presence of a principal or assistant principal, or the principal's designee, who must be informed beforehand and in the presence of the student of the reason for the punishment. The principal, assistant principal or certified teacher who administered corporal punishment must provide the child's parent, upon request, a written explanation of the reasons for the punishment and the name of the principal or assistant principal, or certified teacher, who was present. Such an explanation shall not be used as evidence in any subsequent civil action brought as a result of the corporal punishment. Corporal punishment shall not be administered to a child whose parents or legal guardian have upon the day of enrollment of the pupil filed with the principal of the school a statement from a medical doctor licensed in Georgia stating that it is detrimental to the child's mental or emotional stability. Parents may submit within ten (10) days of the child's enrollment in the school, a letter requesting that corporal punishment not be used with their child.

7. REMOVAL FROM CLASS

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

8. NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS

Parents may be notified via telephone, text, email, note in agenda, mail.

9. PARENT CONFERENCE

Examples include face-to-face conference, telephone, text, and/or email.

10. REFERRAL TO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student may be referred to a school counselor, counselor, social worker, RTI, SST, etc. Parents/Guardians should note that a referral to the school counselor, social worker, or SST (Student Support Team) does not require parental/guardian's consent.

11. CONFISCATION OF ITEMS THAT ARE PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

Possession of personal property that is prohibited, such as but not limited to food, beverages, and electronic equipment, is a violation of the Code of Conduct and confiscation of banned items by teachers and/or the administration is permissible.

12. RESTITUTION

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

13. RESTRICTION FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL EVENTS

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

14. SCHOOL SERVICE

Examples of school service include campus beautification, work detention, special assignments, etc.

15. DETENTION

A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one day's warning, so the parents or guardians can make arrangements for

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transportation.

16. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is the removal of students from their regular classes to be isolated in a highly structured environment, with a limited number of students, in a supervised area during the regular school day. Students have the opportunity to continue their regular classroom assignments during ISS. Parents will be notified when their child is assigned to ISS. Students may be denied the right to attend any school function, practice, or participate in any activity during the period of ISS. The alternative to ISS is out of school suspension and/or alternative school. Any infractions of ISS guidelines may result in OSS (Out of School Suspension) placement.

17. SUSPENSION FOR A PARENT CONFERENCE

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

18. SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

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

19. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION (referral to a disciplinary tribunal)

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

20. PLACEMENT IN AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM

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

21: SEARCHES

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

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

22. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE SCHOOL BUS

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

23. EXPULSION

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

24. REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR JUVENILE COURT OFFICIALS

Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials as required by law or when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include:

- long-term suspension
- expulsion
- permanent expulsion

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

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

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

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BEHAVIOR THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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

1. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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

2. HARASSMENT

Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature, up to and including sexual harassment as used in connection with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

3. ALCOHOL

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

4. ARSON

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

5. ASSAULT/BATTERY

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

6. ATTENDANCE RELATED VIOLATION

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

7. BREAKING AND ENTERING/BURGLARY

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

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8. BULLYING

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

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

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

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

9. BUS MISBEHAVIOR

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

- (1) All provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply to behavior on the school bus, including but not limited to, acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;
- (2) A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to write a school bus behavior contract whenever:
 - o A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or
 - o A student is found to have engaged in physical assault/battery of another person on the school bus.

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The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other code of conduct violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

- (3) Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus; and
- (4) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

10. COMPUTER TRESPASS

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

11. CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATION/OFF-CAMPUS MISCONDUCT

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

12. CHRONIC DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM STUDENT

Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Jasper County defines chronic disciplinary behavior demonstrated by a student as three or more offenses of a similar nature, requiring administrative action, committed during the same school year.

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

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13. DISOBEDIENCE/INSUBORDINATION

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

14. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

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

15. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

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

16. DRESS CODE VIOLATION

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

17. DRIVING OR PARKING VIOLATIONS ON CAMPUS

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

18. DRUGS

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

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

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement officials regarding illegal drugs or substances thought to be illegal drugs.

19. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Use of electronic/communication devices, except for reasons approved by an administrator, teacher, or authorized designee, during prohibited times, in a manner that causes a disruption or impedes student learning. Examples of electronic/communication devices include, but are not limited to: cell phone, tablet, chrome books, iPad, devices used for unauthorized audio/video recordings, etc. The Jasper County Charter System permits the use of personal technology for instructional purposes, as designated by the administrator or teacher. Use of personal technology during non-instructional time will be determined by the school administrators so as to preserve a safe and orderly learning environment. Electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, iPods, iPads, CD players, laser pointers, laptops, etc. are brought to school at a student's personal risk. School system employees will not search for or conduct an

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investigation to locate lost or stolen items unless it is necessary to enforce the rules of the school.

20. EXTORTION/THREATS

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

21. FAILURE TO REPORT MEDICATION

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

22. FIGHTING/PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

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

23. GAMBLING

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

24. HOMICIDE

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, killing of one human being by another, killing a person through negligence. Students who violate this rule shall receive a 10 day out of school suspension and will be referred to the disciplinary tribunal. School officials shall contact law enforcement officials.

25. INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

Participation in physical contact that is not considered physically threatening.

26. INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

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

27. INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

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

28. INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL COMMENTS

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

29. INCITING, ADVISING, OR COUNSELING

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

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30. INDECENT EXPOSURE

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

31. KIDNAPPING

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

32. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

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

33. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST A SCHOOL SYSTEM EMPLOYEE

Committing physical violence against a school system employee as defined in GA Code 20-2-751.6, as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided for in GA Code 16-3-21.

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

34. POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS

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

35. POSSESSION/USE OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL

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

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36. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION

Students may not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student. Any student (or parent/friend of student) who believes a student has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school. This offense includes giving false information to school staff.

37. ROBBERY

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

38. RUDE/DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR

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

39. SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

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

40. SEXUAL BATTERY

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

41. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, demands or physical contact which creates a hostile environment.

42. THEFT/LARCENY

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

43. THREATENING A SCHOOL SYSTEM EMPLOYEE

Verbal assault, including threats of violence or bodily harm and/or sexual assault or harassment, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel. This offense includes touching, striking, pushing, or threatening the person, bodily or psychologically, as well as the property of any school system employee

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through action, verbal, written or electronic means. Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon some teacher or other school personnel.

44. THREATENING/INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOR

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

45. TOBACCO/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Intentional possession, use, or distribution of tobacco in any form or electronic cigarettes on school property, at a school related function/event, or on a school bus.

46. TRESPASSING

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

47. VANDALISM

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

48. WEAPON – HANDGUN

49. WEAPON – KNIFE

50. WEAPON – RIFLE/SHOTGUN

51. WEAPON - OTHER

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

- (1) Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
- (2) Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any

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nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

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