



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of the Dade County Board of Education to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Dade County Board of Education has adopted a policy which requires all schools to adopt codes of conduct which require students to conduct themselves at all times in order to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.

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

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

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

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board 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 on 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 Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community. Parents and students are required to acknowledge receipt of the code of conduct.

AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

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



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.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

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

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

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

- Warning and/or conference with a school administrator, counselor, or social worker
- Loss of privileges
- Time out
- Removal from class or activity
- Notification of parents
- Parent conference
- Corporal punishment
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Short-term suspension
- Placement in an alternative education program
- Referral to a disciplinary tribunal for long-term suspension or expulsion
- Suspension or expulsion from the school bus

Referral to law enforcement or juvenile court officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer



any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only 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.

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 are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Cell phones/multi-media/electronic devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal 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.

BEHAVIOR THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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

801	Alcohol: under the influence, possession, or distribution	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
802	Arson	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
803	Battery	Disciplinary action for this event will be at administrator discretion depending upon the severity of the incident and may include suspension or tribunal/waiver. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
805	Computer Misuse	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator and may include conferencing, suspension or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. Other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the



		discipline may be altered accordingly. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
806	Disorderly Conduct/Disruption: an event that significantly disrupts the learning environment	Disciplinary action for this event will be at administrator discretion depending upon the severity of the incident and may include suspension or tribunal/waiver. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
807 Level 1 and Level 2	Drug Possession : Prescribed	1st offense will be 5 days of ISS. 2nd offense will result in suspension until tribunal/waiver. or tribunal/waiver.
807 Level 3	Drugs: Possession, use, or distribution.	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
808	Fighting	1st offense 3-5 days ISS. 2nd Offense 5 days of OSS. 3rd offense will result in tribunal/waiver. or tribunal/waiver.
811	Theft	Immediate restitution for damaged property. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. 5 days of ISS for 1st offense. Further offenses at administrator discretion with possible suspension or tribunal/waiver. If the theft is considered a felony the student will be suspended until tribunal.
814	Sexual Battery	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
815	Sexual Harassment	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator. Discipline may include conferencing, suspension, or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. A student charged with sexual harassment three times during a school year will be suspended until a tribunal/waiver.
816 Level 1	Inappropriate public displays of affection	Progressive discipline will be used for this offense. First offense will result in student/administrator conference. 2nd offense will be 1-3 days of ISS. 3rd and fourth offense will result in 3-5 days of ISS. 5th offense will result in student being placed in OSS until parent/admin conference. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
816 Level 2	Transmitting sexually explicit or suggestive material to other students at school or circulating such material at school through electronic devices or any other manner	1st offense will be 5 days of OSS and parent/administrator conference. 2nd offense will result in suspension till tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted.
816 Level 2 and Level 3	Sex Offenses	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
817	Threat and/or Intimidation	1st offense will be 5 days of ISS. 2nd offense will be 5 days of OSS. 3rd offense will result in OSS until tribunal/waiver. Report to law enforcement as warranted.



818	Possession or use of tobacco in any form or electronic cigarettes	First offense will be 1 day of ISS. Each following offense will be an additional day of ISS. A student violating this offense on the sixth offense will be placed in OSS until parent/administrator conference.
819	Trespassing	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator. Discipline may include conferencing, suspension, or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted.
820	Vandalism: (vandalism or graffiti) during school hours or off-school hours	Immediate restitution for damaged property. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. 5 days of ISS for 1st offense. Further offenses at administrator discretion with possible suspension or tribunal/waiver. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
822	Weapons - Knife	See possession or use of weapon below.
822 - 828	Weapons-other than knife	See possession or use of weapon below.
827	Serious Bodily Injury	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
829	Bullying	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator. Discipline may include conferencing, ISS, OSS, or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. A student charged with bullying three times during a school year will be suspended until a tribunal/waiver.
830	Skippping Class: Being out of class for more than 10 minutes without teacher permission	1st offense will be 1 day of ISS. 2nd offense will be three days of ISS. 3rd Offense will result in 5 days of ISS and parent conference. All offenses over three will result in 10 days of ISS.
830	Skippping School: Leaving campus or being off campus without permission	1st offense will result in 3 days of ISS. 2nd offense will result in 5 days of ISS and parent/administrator conference. All other offenses will result in 10 days of ISS. Students transporting other student off campus without permission will lose driving privileges. A student who uses their own vehicle to skip school will lose driving privileges upon the 2nd offense.
831 831	Violation of school dress code	If possible the student will correct the violation and return to class. If the student is unable to correct the violation they will be isolated as deemed appropriate by an administrator. Students committing the same dress code violation a 2nd time will receive a day of ISS. 3rd violation will be three days of ISS. 4th violation will result in 5 days of ISS and parent/administrator conference. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
832	Cheating on school assignments or other academic dishonesty	1st offense will result in student/administrator conference. The student will be able to redo an alternative assignment. The student will have 3 days of ISS. All other offenses will result in 5 days of ISS and the student receiving a zero.
833	Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives given by teachers,	First offense will be 1-3 days of ISS. 2nd offense will be 3-5 days of ISS. 3rd offense will be OSS until parent/administrator conference. 4th offense will result in 3



	administrators, or other school staff: willful refusals to follow school rules	days of OSS with a parent conference. 5th offense will result in suspension until a disciplinary tribunal/waiver is held. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
833	Classroom and school disturbances	First offense will be 1-3 days of ISS. 2nd offense will be 3-5 days of ISS. 3rd offense will be OSS until parent/administrator conference. 4th offense will result in 3 days of OSS with a parent conference. 5th offense will result in suspension until a disciplinary tribunal/waiver is held. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
833	Accessory: Causing, helping, advising or encouraging another student to violate the student code of conduct	The disciplinary action taking for this offense is the same as if the student committed the offense themselves. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
833	Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words or indecent exposure	Progressive discipline will be used for this offense. Discipline will be at the discretion of the administrator depending upon the severity of the incident. Possible outcomes are parent student conference, ISS, OSS, and tribunal/waiver. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
833	Driving or parking permit violations	The disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administration. Consequences may include fines, loss of student privileges, suspension, and tribunal. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
833	Giving false information to school officials	First offense will be 1-3 day of ISS. 2nd Offense will be 3-5 days of ISS with administrator/parent conference. 3rd offense will be suspension until tribunal/waiver. Students committing this offense who have committed other disciplinary offenses will have that considered and the discipline may be altered accordingly.
833	Providing false information about school personnel	1st offense 1-10 days of OSS. 2nd offense suspension until tribunal/waiver. Report to law enforcement as warranted.
833	Use during prohibited times of cell phone or other electronic communication device, except for reasons approved by an administrator or teacher	1st offense will be handled by the teacher. 2nd and further offenses will be turned over to administration. Administrators will confiscate the device and return to the student at the end of the day. Beginning with the administrator referral the students will receive on day of ISS per referral to the administrator.
833	Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
833	Extortion or attempted extortion	1st offense 5 days of ISS. Restitution is to be made before the student returns to class. 2nd offense suspension until tribunal.
833	Criminal law violations/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.
833	Harassment	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator. Discipline may include conferencing, suspension, or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. A student charged with harassment three times during a school year will be suspended until a tribunal/waiver.
833	Gambling	1st offense 1-3 days of ISS. 2nd offense 5 days of ISS. 3rd offense suspension until parent conference.
833	Violence directed toward a school employee	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
833	Threat and/or Intimidation to a school employee: may include but not limited to profanity and insults directed towards staff	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator and may include conferencing, suspension or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted.
833	Taunting	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator and may include conferencing, suspension or tribunal.
833	Hazing	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator. Discipline may include conferencing, suspension, or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted. A student charged with hazing three times during a school year will be suspended until a tribunal/waiver.
834	Fireworks Possession	Immediate suspension until tribunal/waiver. Law enforcement will be notified.
835	Gang Related Offenses	Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administrator and may include conferencing, suspension or tribunal. Law enforcement will be notified as warranted.
836	Repeated Offenses: Willful and persistent violations of the student code of conduct	Suspension until tribunal.

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 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.

Students who possess any weapon or hazardous object as described above in either paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 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.

Verbal assault, including threats of violence or bodily harm and/or sexual assault or harassment, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions: Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.

Physical assault or battery, including sexual battery, of other students, or persons attending school-related functions: possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.

Physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel:

(1) Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an act of physical violence against a teacher or other school personnel: Expulsion for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools for acts of physical violence found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or physical harm was in defense of himself or herself, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21; or the Board may authorize the student to attend alternative school for the period of the expulsion; provided, however, that 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.

(2) Possible punishments may include expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension for students found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another.

OTHER BEHAVIORS THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES THAT MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE CHART ABOVE

Disrespectful conduct, including use of vulgar or profane language, toward teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions

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.

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

Violating the school's/school system's acceptable use of the Internet/electronic resources agreement/policy

Possession or use of tobacco in any form or electronic cigarettes

Damaging or defacing personal property, including the property of another student or any person legitimately at the school, or school property (vandalism or graffiti) during school hours or off-school hours.

Possession and/or use of fireworks or any explosive

Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat

Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives;

Disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff

Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words or indecent exposure

Use during prohibited times of cell phone or other electronic communication device, except for reasons approved by an administrator or teacher

Gambling or possession of gambling devices

Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student Any student (or parent or friend of a 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.

Cheating on school assignments or other academic dishonesty

Unexcused absence, chronic tardiness, skipping class, leaving campus without permission, failure to comply with compulsory attendance law

Bullying: 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.

Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts.

Willful and persistent violations of the student code of conduct.

Criminal law violations/Off-campus misconduct: A student whose conduct on or 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.

Bus Expectations

Be Respectful

- of the school bus
- of the school bus driver
- of your
- of others

Use Self-control

- waiting for the bus
- loading the bus
- during the bus route

Safety is PRIORITY

- for yourself
- for the bus driver
- for ALL students on the bus

Possible Consequences for Bus Misconduct

- Warning
- Parent/guardian contact by bus driver / Director of Transportation
- Parent/guardian conference with bus driver, Director of Transportation, and/or school administrator
- Reassigned seating as prescribed by bus driver / Director of Transportation
- Behavior contract signed by student, parent/guardian, bus driver, Director of Transportation, and/or school administrator
- Short term removal from the school bus
- Long term removal from the school bus



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 form a school bus behavior contract whenever:

- A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or
- A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus.

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.

School Administration is not limited to the above actions. School Administration may utilize other disciplinary measures to ensure bus safety and proper conduct. All school rules apply on the bus and will be disciplined in accordance to school and board policy. School Administration will take into account the best interest of the student and the school system in considering all disciplinary actions.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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



Bullying: In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, 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.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student: A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

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

Detention: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work or time missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school.

Disciplinary Tribunal: School officials appointed by the School District to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

Dress Code: Acceptable standards of dress code as explained in the student handbook or through other means.

Drug: The term drug does not include prescriptions issued to the individual, aspirin or similar medications and/or cold medications that are taken according to product use recommendations or that are allowed under board policy or school rules. Caffeine pills are considered drugs. The Dade County Board of Education has adopted a student medication policy that can be found at the following link: <https://goo.gl/P0xmpf>

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 or hearing officer in accordance with Code Section 20-2-754.

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



Fireworks: Any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

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

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

Physical Violence: Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another: or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another.

Suspension: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer). 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.

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

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

Weapon: The term weapon is defined in Georgia's criminal Code Section 16-11-127.1, but for the purpose of this code of conduct includes any object that is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well being.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES

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

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal 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.

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.

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.

SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them. The following school sponsored clubs will be in operation during this school year, for which information is provided regarding the name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor and a description of past or planned activities. You, as the parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. For your convenience, a form is included in this handbook if you do not wish for your student to participate in the club you have designated on the form. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation.



Parental Opt-Out of Club Participation Form

Student Name _____

School _____

I hereby acknowledge receipt of information regarding student clubs that are scheduled to be operational at the school during the current school year. I understand that if a club for which information has not been provided is started after this information is distributed, I will be provided the club information at that time and my written permission will be required prior to my student's participation.

I wish to withhold permission for my child to participate in the student club(s) listed below:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____