

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Classification of Violations

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into the three classifications of minor, intermediate, and major offenses. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary procedure to be implemented by the principal or designees.

Procedures for the Administration of Formal Disciplinary Action

In the following classes of violations and disciplinary procedures, it is understood that the principal or designee shall hear the student's explanation and consult further with school personnel, if necessary, before determining the classification of the violation.

Each classroom teacher will deal with general classroom disruption by taking in-class disciplinary action, by making a personal call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) when deemed necessary and/or feasible, and/or by scheduling conferences with parent/guardian(s) and other school staff when deemed necessary and/or feasible. Only when the action taken by the teacher is ineffective or the disruption is severe, should the student be referred to the principal or designee. Failure to bring notebook, pencil, books, or required materials and equipment to class; refusal to do homework, or refusal to work in class is not cause for disciplinary referrals. Parents or guardians of students who consistently exhibit poor work habits should be notified by school personnel.

MINOR OFFENSES – CLASS I

- 1.01 Excessive distraction of other students. Any conduct and/or behavior which is disruptive to the orderly educational process in the classroom or any similar grouping for instruction. Examples: talking excessively, interrupting class functions, provoking other students.
- 1.02 Illegal organizations: Any participation in fraternities, sororities, and secret societies which endangers school property, students, or employees, or substantially disrupts the educational process.
- 1.03 Tardiness. Reporting late to school or class.
- 1.04 Use of profane or obscene language.
- 1.05 Non-conformity to dress code. (See File JCDB)
- 1.06 Minor disruption on a school bus.
- 1.07 Inappropriate public display of affection. Is interpreted as any physical contact such as hand holding, arms around waists, etc.
- 1.08 Unauthorized absence from class or school.
- 1.09 Repeated refusal to complete class assignments and failure to bring required instructional materials to class.
- 1.10 Vehicular violations.
- 1.11 Littering of school property.

- 1.12 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting, or assisting another to commit any of the foregoing offenses.
- 1.13 Any other violation which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES – CLASS I

Administrative responses for Class I violations – include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Student conference
- ◆ Parent contact(s)/conference(s)
- ◆ After-school detention
- ◆ Suspension from school/bus
- ◆ Out-of-school suspension not to exceed three (3) days (not to exceed a cumulative total of 10 days per semester for non-special education students and 10 days per academic year for special education students)
- ◆ Corporal punishment
- ◆ Assignment to in-school suspension or Saturday School (alternative to suspension)
- ◆ Principal's probation.

INTERMEDIATE OFFENSES – CLASS II

- 2.00 Electronic communication devices. The possession, except for health or other extraordinary needs (and with prior permission of the principal) of a pocket pager, cellular phone or other electronic communication devices.
- 2.01 Defiance of Board employee's authority. Any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply lawful and reasonable direction or order of a Board employee.
- 2.02 Possession, control, or use of tobacco products. The use of any tobacco products while under school jurisdiction.
- 2.03 Battery upon students. The actual and intentional pushing or striking another student against the will of the other or the intentional causing bodily harm to an individual.
- 2.04 Fighting. Any physical conflict between two or more individuals.
- 2.05 Vandalism. Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$200 to public property or the real or personal property of another.
- 2.06 Stealing – Larceny – Petty Theft. The intentional, unlawful taking and/or carrying away of public, real, or personal property valued at less than \$100 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
- 2.07 Possession of stolen property with the knowledge that it is stolen.
- 2.08 Threats and extortion. The verbal, written, or electronic communication, malicious threatening of injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or any pecuniary advantage whatsoever, or with the intent to compel the person so threatened or any other person to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will. NOTE: Completion of the threat, either by the victim's complying with the demands or the carrying out of the threats against the victim, constitutes a Class III offense.

- 2.09 Trespassing. The willful entering or remaining in any structure, conveyance, or property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or having been authorized, licensed, or invited, is warned by an authorized person to depart and refuses to do so.
- 2:10 Possession of fireworks or firecrackers.
- 2:11 Offensive touching of another person.
- 2:12 Written or verbal propositions to promote sexual acts.
- 2:13 Use of obscene manifestations (verbal, written, physical) toward another person.
- 2:14 Directing obscene or profane language to a Board employee or visitor. Verbal assault upon a Board employee or visitor.
- 2:15 Leaving premise without permission.
- 2:16 Cheating – serious or repeated violations.
- 2:17 Unauthorized absence from class or school.
- 2:18 Threat, harassment or intimidation of a student. The intentional, unlawful threat by word or act to do violence to another student, coupled with an apparent ability to do so or doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in person that such harm is likely. Harassing behavior will include unwanted, unwelcome and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a substantial disruption of or material interference in the educational process.
- 2.19 Loitering. Remaining in the restroom, cafeteria, hallway, parking lot, gym areas, or any other unauthorized area.
- 2.20 Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources.
- 2.21 Possession of pocket knife.
- 2.22 Violation of the conditions of Principal's probation.
- 2.23 Gambling. Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value.
- 2.24 Intentionally providing false information to Board employee. Including, but not limited to, forgery of parent's(s) name(s); intentionally providing false information to parents, such as changing grades.
- 2.25 Cyberbullying. The willful and repeated use of electronic device(s), such as computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices to demean, threaten, offend, or harm the victim, and which takes place on school property, on school bus, at a school-sponsored function or elsewhere where it causes or reasonably threatens a substantial disruption of or material interference with classwork or other school activities. Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, willful and repeated use of email, text messages, picture messaging, video messaging, instant messaging, social networking sites, and all other forms of electronic communication to harass, intimidate, or threaten another student.
- 2.26 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting or assisting another to commit any of the foregoing offenses.
- 2.27 Any other offense which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES – CLASS II

Administrative responses for Class II violations include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Parent contact(s)/conference(s)
- ◆ Legal action
- ◆ Corporal punishment
- ◆ Out-of-school suspension not to exceed five (5) days (not to exceed a cumulative total of 10 days per semester for non-special education students and 10 days per academic year for special education students)
- ◆ Assignment to the Alternative Placement
- ◆ Assignment to in-school suspension or Saturday school (alternative to suspension)

MAJOR OFFENSES – CLASS III

- 3.01 Drugs and alcohol. Unauthorized possession, transfer, use, or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, or other intoxicant of any kind. For purposes of this policy, the phrase “alcoholic beverages” includes, but is not limited to, any drinks, beverages, powders, or substances that are or can be used to deliver intoxicating alcohol to a person consuming or using the same.
- 3.02 Arson. The willful and malicious burning of any part of a building or its contents.
- 3.03 Battery upon Board employee. The threatening by word or act or the unlawful and intentional touching or striking of a Board employee against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a School Board employee.
- 3:04 Robbery. The taking of money or other property from the person which may be the subject of larceny from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault or putting in fear of same.
- 3:05 Stealing – Larceny – Grand Theft. The intentional unlawful taking and/or carrying away of property valued at \$100 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
- 3:06 Burglary of school property. The breaking into, entering, or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein during the hours the premises are closed to the public.
- 3:07 Criminal mischief. Willful and malicious injury or damages at or in excess of \$200 to public property, or real property belonging to another.
- 3:08 Possession of firearms. Any firearm (including a starter gun) which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device.
- 3:09 Discharging of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, pellet gun or BB gun, or any other device on school property.
- 3:10 Possession of weapons. Any knife, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or any other weapon, instrument, or other object capable of causing bodily harm, or with the intent to be armed.
- 3:11 Bomb threats. Any such communication(s) directed to a School Board employee which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment.
- 3:12 Explosives. Preparing, possessing, or igniting on School Board property explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.

- 3:13 Sexual acts. Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to, battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape.
- 3:14 Aggravated battery. Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon.
- 3:15 Inciting or participating in major student disorder. Leading, encouraging, or assisting in major disruptions which result in destruction or damage of private or public property; personal injury to participants or others.
- 3:16 Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system.
- 3:17 Igniting fireworks and/or firecrackers.
- 3.18 Sexual Harassment.
- 3.19 Written or Verbal Propositions to Promote Sexual Acts.
- 3.20 Threats of Death or Serious Bodily Harm. The verbal, written or electronic communication of a threat to kill or do serious bodily harm to another person.
- 3.21 Violation of the Conditions of Principal's Probation.
- 3.22 Soliciting, procuring, causing, encouraging, aiding, abetting or assisting another to commit any of the foregoing offenses.
- 3.23 Any other offense which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES - CLASS III

Administrative responses for Class III violations include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Out-of-school suspension not to exceed 10 days (not to exceed a cumulative total of 10 days per semester for non-special education students and 10 days per academic year for special education students)
- ◆ Expulsion
- ◆ Legal action
- ◆ Assignment to Alternative Placement

NOTE: Due to the serious nature of Class III violations it may be necessary to remove a student immediately from school property. In such event, the procedures spelled out in the out-of-school suspension policy should be followed.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL

ADOPTED: November 5, 1978, REVISED: June 16, 1994 REVISED: June 7, 2005 ;
REVISED: May 21, 2009; REVISED: May 17, 2012;
REVISED: May 1, 2014

LEGAL REF.: Ala. Code § 16-1-14 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-1-24.1 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-28-12 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-28A-3 (1975).