

VI. Students

6.1 *Admissions and Attendance*

- 6.1.1 Compulsory Attendance and Entrance Age – All persons between the age of six (6) and seventeen (17) years of age are required by state law to attend school for the minimum number of scholastic days prescribed by the State Board of Education unless the person holds a certificate of exemption issued by the Superintendent or is otherwise exempt under state law.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-28-3 (1975)]

6.1.2 Admission to Schools

- a. *Resident Students* – School-age children who reside within the municipal limits of the City of Midfield, Alabama, may be admitted to Midfield City Schools. For purposes of this policy, the residence of the student will be the residence of the custodial parent or legal guardian. If custody of the child is shared, alternating, or unclear, or if the child does not reside with a custodial parent or legal guardian, the domicile or actual physical residence of the child will control, except when there is evidence that the claimed residence of the child is not his actual residence, or that the claimed residence is fraudulently given as a means of avoiding or violating admission, enrollment, attendance, and residency standards and requirements.
- b. *Non-resident Students* – The Board may permit students who do not reside within the Midfield City School District to attend schools within the school system. The Board may establish criteria for admission of non-resident students, and may require the payment of tuition as a prerequisite to enrollment. The Board will not provide transportation to and from school or homebound instruction outside of the municipal limits of the City of Midfield.
- c. *Homeless Students* –
- (i) *Enrollment.* Homeless students will be permitted to enroll without regard to residency status and will not be denied services offered to other students in the school system. Homeless students may also be entitled to other accommodations under federal law.

Homeless students will continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless for the duration of their homelessness, or for the remainder of the academic year if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year. Otherwise, a

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homeless student may be enrolled in any school in the system that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is living are eligible to attend.

- (ii) *Dispute Resolution.* When a dispute arises regarding school placement, the system will immediately enroll the homeless student in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, pending resolution of the dispute. The school will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the decision, a statement of the right to appeal, and the procedure for appealing the placement decision. The principal of the school will notify the Board's Homeless Liaison of the dispute.
 - (iii) The Homeless Liaison will expeditiously carry out the system's dispute resolution procedures as detailed in the Board's homeless student plan.
- d. *Students Expelled or Suspended from Other School Systems* – Any student who is under suspension or expulsion from another school system or a private, parochial, or other school will not be permitted to enroll until the student has satisfied the conditions for readmission set by the expelling or suspending board or authority in addition to generally applicable admission requirements established by the Board, which may include temporary attendance at the alternative school.
- e. *Required Documentation* – The following enrollment procedures will be utilized for all new students entering the school system:
 - a) Students entering Kindergarten or transferring from another state will be required to complete an Enrollment Form. Returning students may be asked to complete an Enrollment Form.
 - b) A social security number (SSN) may be requested as part of the enrollment procedure but it is NOT required for enrollment and disclosure is voluntary. Any request for a student's SSN must (a) state that the disclosure of a SSN is voluntary, (b) provide the statutory or other legal authority under which it is seeking the number, and (c) explain the purpose for collecting the number. If a SSN is not provided, the student will be assigned a temporary identification number and a request for a Unique Student Identifier that will be used for all student information transfers and tracking of information will be submitted.

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- c) A birth certificate is NOT required for enrollment. The school district may request a birth certificate for age verification, but other forms of documentation such as religious, hospital, or physician's documents showing date of birth; a baptismal certificate; an entry in a family Bible, an adoption record; an affidavit from a parent; previously verified school records, etc. will carry equal value. Further, Midfield City Schools may not deny a child enrollment if the student enrolling possesses a document indicating a foreign place of birth.
- d) An Alabama Driver's License is NOT required for proof of residency. The school system may requests a driver's license, but must accept other forms of documentation such as utility bill or residential lease.
- e) The SSN should not be a required field on any other school document, such as those utilized in conjunction with extracurricular activities, athletics, or other school purposes unless the SSN is otherwise required by law for participation in the activity or program.

Returning students may be asked to submit any necessary information in order to ensure a safe and academically challenging learning environment.

- f. *Placement of Students* – The Board will determine the placement of newly enrolled students in accordance with state law.

6.1.3 Attendance Zone and Class Assignment

- a. *Attendance Zone Assignment* - Students will be assigned to the school serving the attendance zone in which his parent(s) or legal guardian reside(s). A student whose parent or legal guardian moves from one attendance zone to another during the school year will be transferred to the school attendance zone in which the new residence is located. The student may be permitted to remain in the school attendance zone that serves the former residence until the end of the semester with the approval of the Superintendent. A parent or legal guardian who has documented plans to move to a new attendance area during the first or second grading period of the school year may have his child enrolled in the school serving the new residence upon approval by the Superintendent.
- b. *Class Assignment* - Principals will assign students to classes in keeping with school accreditation standards and any procedures or criteria that may be established at the system or school level.

- 6.1.4 Absences and Excuses - Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. Absences will be designated as excused or unexcused. Excused absences will be permitted for the following reasons:

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Personal illness
Hospitalization
Emergency
Death in immediate family
Court subpoena
Religious holidays
Absences approved by the principal

Documentation supporting an excused absence must be submitted within three (3) days of the absence or the absence will be deemed to be unexcused. Excessive unexcused absences may result in a loss of academic credit or referral of the matter to juvenile or other appropriate legal authorities for investigation.

- 6.1.5 Truancy - Parents or guardians are required to ensure that students under their care, custody or control attend school regularly. Habitual or excessive absence from school will require Board officials to refer the matter to juvenile authorities or to initiate truancy proceedings.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-28-1, *et seq.* (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02]

6.2 *Alternative Education* – The Midfield Board of Education provides an alternative school program to accommodate “at-risk” students who have experienced social and academic difficulty, as well as, behavior and attendance problems in the traditional classroom setting.

- a. Purpose - The purpose of the alternative school is to provide:
- (i.) Continuous academic and behavioral support for students utilizing the district’s resources and maintaining the academic standards of the district
 - (ii.) A meaningful alternative to suspension and/or expulsion of a student
 - (iii.) Successful student transition to the regular school assignment, when possible.
- b. Eligibility Criteria- Alternative education placement may be utilized for the following students:
- (i.) Elementary (3rd and 4th), Middle and High school students
 - (ii.) The student who has been assigned based on code of conduct or Board policy violations (Class III) for which assignment to the alternative school is authorized under the code.

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- (iii.) The student who has an Individual Education Program (IEP) and the IEP team has determined that a change in placement is warranted. Alternative school can only be utilized after all other school-based strategies have been unsuccessfully implemented and must be done in conjunction with the hearing officer in determining the duration of the alternative assignment and approved by the Superintendent.
 - (iv.) The student who is under suspension or alternative education placement from another school system or a private, parochial, or other school who has not satisfied the conditions for readmissions into a traditional setting by the suspending board or authority.
 - (v.) The student who is re-enrolling to a Midfield City Schools after completion of an expulsion from a Midfield City school or another school district.
- c. Notification – The Hearing Officer shall notify the parents of their child’s assignment to the alternative school once a decision has been reached. The information shall include length and reason for the assignment, expected behavior of the student and notification that assignment may be extended depending upon the attitude and cooperation of the student. The duration of the alternative assignment shall be as provided in applicable Midfield Board of Education Code of Conduct as decided by the hearing officer and approved by the Superintendent. This information will be provided to the parent in a meeting as well as in writing.
 - d. Extracurricular Participation- Students assigned to the alternative school shall not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to sports activities.
 - e. Academic Work- The regularly assigned teachers from the student’s base school will provide academic assignments in the core areas. Students who are assigned to the alternative school shall also receive a curriculum that stresses skills in recognizing and managing anger, alternatives to aggression (verbal and physical assault), strategies for developing self-control and personal responsibility, skills for getting along with others, success through academic achievement, and skills for success in the workplace.
 - f. Cell Phone Policy- Cell phones are prohibited for students placed in alternative school. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action.
 - g. Dress Code Policy- The Midfield Board of Education dress code policy must be followed while in attendance at the alternative school. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action.

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Procedures and forms for the alternative school program will be implemented and approved by the Midfield Board of Education.

- 6.3** *Withdrawals* – No student of compulsory attendance age will be permitted to withdraw from school except in accordance with state law and any withdrawal procedures that may be developed by the Superintendent.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02]

6.4 *Student Fees, Fines, and Charges*

Reasonable fees, fines, and charges not prohibited by law may be established by the Superintendent. All such fees, fines, and charges will be collected and accounted for in accordance with the procedures, rules, and regulations to be developed by the Board.

6.5 *Concussions*

Drawing on such medical and other authoritative publications and resources as may be available, the Board will:

- a. Develop materials and information that are designed to educate students and their parents or guardians about the nature of concussion and brain injury and the risks of continuing to participate in athletics after receiving a concussion or brain injury;
- b. Suitably summarize such materials on a concussion and head injury information sheet which is to be provided annually to current and prospective student athletes and their parents or guardians. Prior to the student's participation in practice or competition, the head coach of the team must obtain and keep on file a copy of the information worksheet signed by the team member and his or her parent or guardian.
- c. Develop a program designed to educate coaches on how to learn to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The training shall be provided by qualified medical personnel or persons with special expertise in recognizing and responding to concussions and brain injuries, and shall be offered to every coach prior to the beginning of practice for the athletic team that he or she coaches.
- d. Promulgate or otherwise inform coaches of the statutory requirement that a youth athlete must be removed "from participation and may not return to play the day of the injury and until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician."

The Board may use information and forms prepared by the Alabama High School Athletic Association as they may be revised from time to time, but nothing in any such

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materials should be interpreted or otherwise understood to create a duty or standard of care on the part of any person charged with its implementation.

[Reference: Ala. Code §22-11E-2 as amended by Act of Alabama 2012-314]

6.6 *Extracurricular Activities*

6.6.1 General – Students may be offered an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and organizations. Extracurricular activities must meet the following criteria:

- a. The organization or activity must be approved by the school principal and must have an assigned faculty supervisor or sponsor;
- b. The organization or activity must promote or serve the intellectual, cultural, personal, or physical development of the student in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of public education, the Board’s legal mandate, mission statement, policies, and regulations, and with applicable requirements of state and federal law;
- c. The organization or activity must operate under and subject to general supervision of school officials; and
- d. The nature of the organization and its activities are not inconsistent with and do not interfere with instructional activities or requirements.

Student participation or membership in such organization activities may be governed by the specific policies of the organization and is subject to review and approval by the principal.

6.6.2 Athletics – Participation in Board sanctioned athletic programs will be on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Board and any athletic association of which the Board is a member. Schools may establish terms and conditions for participation in such programs as long as school eligibility criteria are not inconsistent with system-wide eligibility or participation criteria, rules, regulations, or standards established by any athletic association or organization of which the Board is a member, or any rule, principle, or provision of applicable law.

6.6.3 Academic Ineligibility – The Board prescribes the following regulations for eligibility in this school system to participate in all extracurricular activities.

Students entering Grades 10 through 12 must, for the immediate preceding school year, have passing grades of at least a 70 composite numerical average and earn the appropriate number of credits in each of six (6) subjects that total six (6)

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Carnegie units of credit, including four (4) credits form the four (4) core subjects composed of English, science, social studies, and mathematics.

- a. Physical education may count as only one (1) unit per year.
- b. No more than two (2) Carnegie units may be made up during summer school. If a unit(s) or subject(s) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for the unit(s) or subject(s) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
- c. Eligibility will be determined on the first day of the local school year and will remain in effect for one (1) complete school year. Students ineligible at the beginning of an academic year may become eligible at the end of the first semester if they meet all academic requirements at that time. *Bona fide* transfers may be dealt with according to the rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for sports and rules to be developed by this Board of Education as they pertain to other extracurricular activities.
- d. Each eligible student involved in athletics must meet the definition of a regular student as defined by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.
- e. Any student who earns more than four (4) credits in the core curriculum in any given year or who accumulates a total in excess of the required four (4) per year may be exempt from earning the four (4) core courses in the succeeding year as long as that student remains on schedule for graduation with his/her class.

Students entering Grades 8 and 9 must, for the immediately preceding school year, have a passing grade in five (5) subjects with a composite numerical average of 70 with all other rules applying the same as to students in Grades 10 – 12.

Students promoted to the seventh grade for the first time are eligible.

For the purposes of this subsection, extracurricular activities associated with athletics are defined as those recognized and sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, and other extracurricular activities are defined as those that are sanctioned by a public school that are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course(s). Regular curricular activities are defined as those that are required for satisfactory course completion. School sponsors are required to submit a request for each curricular activity that occurs outside the regular school day and/or school to the principal, Superintendent, and the local Board of Education for approval. Each request for full participation

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by all students, regardless of academic standing, in a curricular activity will be granted if the principal, Superintendent, and the local Board of Education approve participation in the activity as an extension of a course(s) requirement(s) and it is an event sanctioned by a state/national subject matter association. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this policy, student participation in extracurricular activities offered by the school through math, science, band, choral, music, and other courses at events such as athletic events (pre-game, game, halftime, or other breaks), club conventions, parades, amusement park trips and competitions, trips by tour companies, performance at various meetings, etc. are extracurricular, and students academically ineligible under this policy will not be allowed to participate.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02(19)]

6.7 *Off-Campus Events*

Student participation in and travel to off-campus events, concerts, functions, and activities, and the use of school buses or other transportation for such purposes may be authorized under and subject to the following terms and conditions:

- a. The destination is an activity, event, or function that services a *bona fide* educational or related extracurricular purpose, or is an athletic event or function sponsored or sanctioned by the school or the school system and the state athletic association;
- b. Adequate information regarding the trip (e.g., destination, duration, purpose, educational purpose, mode of transportation, nature and extent of student participation) has been provided to the principal, program director, and Superintendent.
- c. Adequate arrangements are made for supervision and other risk management considerations (e.g., parental permission, medical treatment authorization, special insurance requirements);
- d. Properly certified and qualified drivers have been selected and arrangements for the costs of the trip (e.g., salary, fuels, maintenance, lodging) have been made; and
- e. If the trip is within Jefferson County, approval of the trip is obtained from the Superintendent. If the trip is outside of Jefferson County, approval of the trip is obtained from the Board.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop additional specific requirements for participation in and travel to and from official events and activities that are consistent with the terms of this policy.

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6.8 *Student Publications*

The Superintendent is authorized to develop rules and regulations regarding student publications. Student publications are subject to and will be expected to meet standards associated with responsible journalism. The principal and student publication sponsor are responsible for the content of such publications.

6.9 *Student Employment (Work Release)*

Off school campus student employment during regular school hours may be authorized under and subject to the following terms and conditions:

- a. The employment does not violate state or federal law;
- b. The employment does not conflict with the student's academic coursework;
- c. The employment is necessary for the student to continue in school;
- d. Written approval is obtained from the student's parent or legal guardian and the Superintendent or his designee;
- e. Other rules, regulations, and requirements, including those pertaining to early dismissal or checkout, are observed; and
- f. Other rules and regulations that may be developed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

6.10 *Equal Educational Opportunities*

No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status.

6.11 *Title IX*

6.11.1 Prohibition – In accordance with Title IX (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*), the Board strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in its programs or activities, including sexual harassment, as defined by law and Board policy. Sexual harassment complaints should be filed and reviewed under the Board's student sexual harassment policy. All other complaints under Title IX will be filed and reviewed according to the Board's general complaint and grievance procedures.

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6.11.2 Title IX Coordinator – The Superintendent is authorized and directed to designate a Title IX Coordinator, whose duties will include but not be limited to receiving and responding to Title IX inquiries and complaints.

6.12 *Student Sexual Harassment*

6.12.1 Sexual Harassment Prohibited – Sexual harassment in any form that is directed toward students is prohibited. Persons who violate the policy will be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences up to and including termination (for employees) and expulsion (for students) as dictated by the nature and severity of the violation and other relevant considerations. If appropriate, the circumstances constituting the violation may be reported to law enforcement agencies or child welfare agencies for further investigation and action.

6.12.2 Definition – For purposes of this policy, sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communications of a sexual nature, and any other gender-based harassment, whether initiated by students, school employees, or third parties, when:

- a. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student’s education, including any aspect of the student’s participation in school-sponsored activities, or any other aspect of the student’s education;
- b. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student’s academic performance, participation in school-sponsored activities, or any other aspect of the student’s education;
- c. The conduct has the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student’s academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment.

The following are examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment, depending on the circumstances:

- a. Verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature, including graphic comments, the display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, and sexual propositions;
- b. Repeated unwelcome solicitations of sexual activity or sexual contact;
- c. Unwelcome, inappropriate sexual touching;

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- d. Demands for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment or threats with regard to the student’s educational status.

6.12.3 Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures –

Reporting - Any student who believes that he or she has been or is being subjected to any form of sexual harassment or has knowledge or sexual harassment involving other students should promptly report the matter to a teacher, counselor, assistant principal or other school official, who, in turn should promptly apprise the Superintendent or the Director of Student Services of the reported incident. A student may choose to make his or her report of sexual harassment to a person of the same sex as the student. Complaints may be brought on a student’s behalf by a parent, guardian, teacher, other school official, or third party. Under no circumstances shall a student be required to present the matter for investigation or resolution to the person who is alleged to have committed the harassment.

Local Investigation and Resolution - Some cases are most appropriately resolved by investigation and disposition at the school site in accordance with applicable disciplinary guidelines. In such cases, the principal may attempt to investigate and attempt to resolve the matter without resorting to formal procedures. If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student or other complaining party, the student or his /her representative should contact the Superintendent or the Director of Student Services immediately.

Formal Complaint Procedure

- a) Persons Responsible for Receiving and Investigation Formal Complaints- This Superintendent is responsible for receiving and investigating formal complaints of sexual harassment. The Director of Student Services is an additional official to which formal complaints can be reported. If the Superintendent is unavailable or is the subject of the complaint, the alternate should be contacted regarding the formal complaint.

- 1. The Superintendent may be reached at the following address:
Midfield Board of Education
417 Parkwood Street
Midfield, AL 35228
(205) 923-2262
dsanders@midfield.k12.al.us

- 2. The Director of Student Services may be reached at the following

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address:

Midfield Board of Education
417 Parkwood Street
Midfield, AL 35228
(205) 923-2262
jjenkins@midfield.k12.al.us

If complaint is reported by electronic mail, please call to confirm receipt.

- b) *Complaint form, contents* - Formal complaints should be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and describes the circumstances surrounding the alleged harassment. Harassment complaints that cannot be made in writing should be memorialized by the Superintendent or designated alternate official. If the incident involves a student who is the victim of a sexual crime, law enforcement and other authorities may be contacted prior to having the student complete a formal statement.
- c) *Investigation* - The Superintendent or designee will promptly, adequately, and impartially investigate the complaint. The complainant and subject of the complaint will be allowed to present the names of witnesses and other evidence. The witnesses identified will be interviewed and provided assurances regarding confidentiality and nonretaliation. The Superintendent may review the results of any investigation with legal counsel or other appropriate officials make any findings that are supported by the investigation, and recommend appropriate action based on these findings. The investigation should be initiated promptly and normally be completed within thirty (30) days. However, if either law enforcement or a child welfare agency is involved, the investigation may be stayed until the completion of their investigation and prosecution.
- d) *Notification* - The complainant and subject of the complaint will receive written notification of the outcome of the investigation.
- e) *Action* - If there is a finding of sexual harassment, the Board will take remedial action as necessary to address and resolve any found incident of sexual harassment and take steps to prevent the recurrence of any discrimination.
- f) *Review by the Superintendent and the Board* - A complaining party who is not satisfied with the investigation or resolution of the complaint may request that the Superintendent take additional or different action or prevent the complaint

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to the Board for its review and action. In such case, the Board will render a final decision as soon as possible.

Confidentiality - To the maximum extent possible, the Board will keep the complaint and investigation confidential. Complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

Retaliation Prohibited - Title IX prohibits retaliation against any individual who files a complaint or participates in a complaint investigation.

Providing False Information - Any student who falsely and in bad faith accuses another of sexual harassment or who otherwise knowingly provides false information regarding sexual harassment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Penalties for Violation - Any student who sexually harasses another student or person in violation of the Board's sexual harassment policy, or who refuses to cooperate with the Board's investigation into allegations of sexual harassment, will be subject to punishment in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

6.12.4 Initial Confrontation of Accused Harasser Not Required – A student who invokes the harassment complaint procedure will not be required to present the complaint to the accused or suspected harasser for resolution. Students will be permitted to report allegations of suspected harassment to any appropriate Board administrator, teacher, counselor, or employee, and such persons have a duty to promptly refer such allegations to the Superintendent or to take such action as may be required by the procedures established under “Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures Authorized” (6.11.3) above. In no case will any employee who is the subject of a complaint be permitted to conduct, review, or otherwise exercise decisionmaking responsibility in connection with the processing of the complaint.

6.12.5 Notice of Policy to be Promulgated – The Superintendent will promulgate and disseminate this policy and the complaint procedures to the schools and will take such other steps and measures as may be reasonably available and expedient for informing the school community of the conduct prohibited by this policy and the recourse available to students who believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment.

6.13 *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment*

6.13.1 Consent – The Board will obtain parental consent before students are required to participate in a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas

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("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):

- a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s);
- b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- c. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- e. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- f. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent(s); or
- h. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

6.13.2 Notice and Option to Opt Out – Parents will be provided notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any of the following:

- a. Any survey that is designated to obtain protected information from a student, regardless of the source of funding;
- b. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, that is administered by the school or its agent, and that is not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law; and
- c. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or for the purpose of selling or otherwise distributing the information to others.

6.13.3 Inspection – Parents will be allowed to inspect, upon request and before administration or use, the following:

- a. Protected information surveys of students;
- b. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- c. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

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6.13.4 Special Provisions for Certain Students – Students who are at least 18 years old and emancipated minors under state law will be allowed to take the above actions in lieu of their parents or guardians.

6.13.5 Additional Policies and Procedures Authorized – In consultation with parents, the Superintendent is authorized to develop additional policies, and arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The Board will directly notify parents of these policies and procedures at the beginning of each school year and after any substantive changes are approved.

[Reference: 20 U.S.C. §1232h; 34 CFR Part 98]

6.14 *Student Records*

Educational records as defined by law or Board policy will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by law. Except where the context requires otherwise, the term “educational records” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(4). Copies of such records may likewise be provided to the extent required and under circumstances specified by applicable law or regulation. The Superintendent is authorized to establish administrative standards and procedures respecting access to such records, including a schedule of reasonable charges for the reproduction thereof. Parents will be provided required annual notification regarding educational records through the student handbook or by other appropriate means.

[Reference: 20 U.S.C. §1232g(a)(4); 34 CFR 99.3]

6.15 *Student Health Services*

The Board may offer limited student health services that are designed to address minor medical issues that may arise during the school day or to assist with special or chronic health problems. In cases of acute or contagious illnesses, parents or guardians may be notified and required to pick up the student. If a parent or guardian is not available, the principal or school nurse may contact the Department of Public Health. School officials are authorized to take reasonable and appropriate steps to provide or arrange for the provision of emergency medical services to students who require immediate medical attention. In case of illness or accidental injury not requiring immediate medical attention, standard first aid procedures may be followed. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and promulgate procedures, rules, and regulations concerning the taking, administration, and handling of medication at school consistent with state law and appropriate health standards.

6.14.1 Anaphylaxis Preparedness Policy - This policy is adopted in compliance with state law for the provision of an Anaphylaxis Preparedness Program for Midfield

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City Schools. Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction which can develop within minutes of exposure to an allergen. It can occur the first time an individual is exposed to the allergen. Midfield City Schools finds that an Anaphylaxis Preparedness Policy is important to the safety and well-being of its students who are at risk of anaphylaxis as well as staff and visitors to Midfield City Schools.

It is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment in any school that is open to the general community. Consequently, Midfield City Schools will promote an allergen- aware school environment through three (3) levels of anaphylaxis prevention: Level I Primary- Education; Level II - Secondary- Prompt detection and response; and Level III Tertiary- Student specific Interventions. With the support of Midfield City Schools' administrators and principals, its licensed school nurses will have primary responsibility for initiating levels of anaphylaxis prevention on behalf of Midfield City Schools, as follows:

Level I - Primary Prevention will include education programs that address food allergies and anaphylaxis through appropriate classroom and individual instruction for faculty, staff and students.

Level II - Secondary Prevention will include appropriate efforts to identify and assist with management of chronic illness related to allergens. Upon identification, appropriate interventions will be made a part of a student's Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP). Appropriate school personnel will be provided instruction and a copy of a student's IHP on a need-to-know basis.

Level III - Tertiary Prevention will include development of a planned response to anaphylaxis in Midfield City Schools. School nurses will be responsible for collaborating with a physician (who for purposes of this policy shall be deemed to be an agent of Midfield City Schools) to develop and maintain an appropriate protocol for emergency response. The protocol will include the following:

- a. An anaphylaxis training program for school nurses and/or a reasonably adequate number of unlicensed school personnel, conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment, or such other medication administration program approved by the State Department of Education and the State Board of Nursing. This training may be conducted in person or online and at a minimum should cover:
 1. Techniques on how to recognize symptoms of severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis,

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2. Standards and procedures for storage and administration of an auto-injectable epinephrine, and
 3. Emergency follow-up procedures.
- b. Maintenance of at least two (2) doses of auto-injectable epinephrine (hereinafter called ‘unassigned or stock epinephrine’) in each school, to be administered by a school nurse or unlicensed school personnel who is authorized and trained in the administration of epinephrine to any student, staff member or school visitor believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school premises. (This is an objective goal. This goal shall not be interpreted as a requirement imposed on Midfield City Schools unless funding is provided by the State of Alabama for maintaining supplies of stock epinephrine at this level. See Ala. Code §16-1-48(e).
 - c. Supplies of unassigned or stock epinephrine maintained under this policy shall be stored, and expired stock epinephrine shall be replaced according to generally accepted standards and this policy.
 - d. School nurses and/or administrators should maintain documentation of faculty and staff training, dates when stock epinephrine is obtained, used, and replaced after expiration, student IHP’s related to anaphylaxis risk or prevention, and any anaphylaxis interventions undertaken by school nurses or trained personnel. These records should be maintained in accordance with record retention policies applicable to similar school records.
- 6.14.2 Parental Responsibility - Parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/or who may be at risk for anaphylaxis are expected to provide the school with written instructions from the student’s health care provider for anaphylaxis preparedness and prevention and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order on an annual basis. This information should be recorded in the student’s IHP.
- 6.14.3 Policy Limitations - This anaphylaxis policy is not intended to replace student specific orders or parent provided individual medications. In the event that the student with a known diagnosis of anaphylaxis and a current prescription of an auto- injectable epinephrine (but not supplied to the school), utilizes the school stock epinephrine, the family shall be responsible for replacing the school supply of epinephrine, no later than the end of the following business day. This policy does not extend to activities off school grounds (including transportation to and

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from school, field trips, etc.) or outside of the academic day (sporting events, extra-curricular activities, etc.).

6.14.4 Immunity - Ala. Code §16-1-48(d) provides immunity for a school that possesses and makes available auto-injectable epinephrine, and any of its employees, agents, trainers or other trained personnel, from suit and civil liability resulting from any act or omission in rendering of services, care, assistance, training or supervision, or any failure to act or provide for or arrange for treatment, care, assistance, training or supervision by any school. Neither this policy nor any act or omission of, nor assumption of any duty by any such person shall be construed to waive or abrogate the immunity provided by the statute.

Ala. Code §16-1-48

6.16 Student Conduct

The Superintendent will prepare and present to the Board for adoption and periodic revision a Code of Student Conduct (“CSC”), with input from teachers, school personnel, students, parents and guardians, and other members of the education community and, as appropriate, the community at large. The CSC will comprehensively describe the rules and standards of conduct and discipline that will be maintained and enforced within Midfield City Schools. The CSC will set forth the specific grounds for disciplinary action, the penalties, sanctions, or consequences that may be imposed for a violation of the CSC, the methods and procedures by which violations of the CSC will be determined, and any appeal or review procedures that are available to students. The CSC will incorporate applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and the hearing and appeal procedures specified in the CSC will conform to applicable statutory and constitutional standards and requirements. The CSC may be incorporated in a student handbook and will be made available to all teachers, school personnel, students, parents and guardians at the beginning of each school year. The CSC will be deemed an extension of Board policy and will have the force and effect thereof.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §§16-28-12, 16-28A-1 to 3 (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02, 290-8-9-.09]

6.17 Searches (Students)

- a. *Board Property* – All school system property, facilities, and grounds may be entered, inspected, and searched for any lawful purpose by Board officials or their designees at any time, without prior notice and to the fullest extent permitted by law. The right to enter, inspect, and search includes and extends to (but is not limited to) Board owned or controlled offices, desks, file cabinets, lockers, computers, files, documents, data, and devices however and wherever kept, stored, or maintained.
- b. *Personal Property* – Personal property, including but not limited to vehicles, purses, wallets, gym bags, book bags, cell phones, computers, and “personal

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digital assistant” (PDA) devices may be searched by authorized school officials, including school principals or their designees, when reasonable suspicion exists that the property contains prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety or welfare of the school community.

- c. *Personal Searches* – Students may be searched whenever reasonable suspicion exists that the student possesses prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety and welfare of the school community. Student searches must be conducted by a school administrator in the presence of another certified school employee and may include a private pat down of the student, a search of personal items and clothing, or a more thorough search upon specific approval of the Superintendent. Personal searches will be conducted with due regard for the age and gender of the student. Searches that require physical contact between the school official and the student, removal of clothing, or examination of the student in a way that would implicate privacy concerns must be conducted and witnessed by officials of the same gender as the student and in a way that preserves the dignity of the student to the extent practicable under the circumstances. Refusal to submit to a search or to cooperate in a search as provided in this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.
- d. *Use of Recovered Items* – Property, material, substances, information, or records that are obtained, discovered, or recovered as a result of a search may be retained and used for any lawful purpose.

6.18 Corporal Punishment

The Board does not permit the use of corporal punishment as a consequence for inappropriate behavior provided that school personnel are not prohibited from using appropriate physical contact or intervention in response to emergencies or other circumstances reasonably requiring such action.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-28A-2 (1975)]

6.19 Physical Restraint and Seclusion – The Board requires that all schools and programs within the school district comply with the State Board of Education Rule 290-3-1-.02(1)(f) regarding the use of "seclusion" or "restraint," as those terms are defined within the rule.

- 6.19.1 Physical Restraint – This policy is not intended to prevent the use of physical restraint in limited circumstances where a student is in immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions, including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques. Physical restraint is prohibited as a form of discipline or punishment.

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The Board recognizes that in determining when and how to implement this policy and procedures related to it, educators will be required to exercise their professional judgment and discretion. Therefore, this policy is not intended to be construed as imposing ministerial duties on individual employees. Further, it is not intended to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

For schools and programs within the school district that use physical restraint as defined the State Board of Education rule, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement written procedures governing its use, which shall include, at minimum, the following:

- a. Positive Behavioral Interventions will be used to de-escalate, if possible, before initiating restraint.
- b. When a pattern of aggressive behavior is established, training in therapeutic restraint will be provided for staff involved with the student.
- c. When possible, a third party will assist by monitoring the safety of the student.
- d. Documentation of the use of physical restraint will be submitted to the building administrator and appropriate central office personnel and upon request, the Alabama Department of Education.
- e. If the behavior of a special education student indicates that mechanical restraint should be used, the IEP team will convene.
- f. A school nurse will see the student as soon as possible after the restraint on the day of the restraint.
- g. Staff will notify the parent on the day of the restraint and send home written notification of the restraint, within a timely manner, not to exceed one (1) school day after the restraint.
- h. Staff will meet to debrief after the restraint. Debriefing will include assessing steps taken to de-escalate the behavior both before and during the restrain

6.19.2 Seclusion – The Board of Education also prohibits the use of seclusion, as that term is defined in State Board of Education Rule 290-3-1-.02(1)(f).

[Reference: ALA. ADMIN. CODE §§290-3-1-.01, 290-3-1-.02]

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6.20 *Student Suspension (including Students with Disabilities)*

In order to maintain order, minimize the risk of potential personal injury, property damage or disruption, or to permit an orderly investigation and evaluation of a suspected violation of school or school system rules, standards, or policies, principals may temporarily suspend a student pending a conference with the parent or guardian of the student and a final disciplinary decision. Suspension may also be imposed as a disciplinary measure as provided in the Code of Student Conduct. Suspensions will be counted as excused absences. Make up work will be permitted for such absences unless permitting such work under the circumstances would be impractical or impossible, would serve no purpose, would place school personnel at risk of harm, or would be unreasonable in light of the grounds for the suspension. Suspension of students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) and its implementing regulations.

6.21 *Student Expulsion (including Students with Disabilities)*

Students may be expelled from school for offenses serious enough to warrant such action as provided in Code of Student Conduct or other Board disciplinary policies. Students who are recommended for expulsion may be suspended until such time as the Board meets to consider the recommendation for expulsion. Reasonable notice of the proposed action, the reasons therefore, and an opportunity to be heard will be afforded to the student and the student’s parent or guardian prior to a final decision by the Board regarding expulsion. The Superintendent will notify the student or the student’s parent or guardian, in writing, of any action taken by the Board. The term of an expulsion may extend to the maximum permitted by law. The Board may impose such reasonable limitations on the student’s right to re-enroll in the school system following expiration of expulsion as may be permitted by law. A student who withdraws from school prior to the Board’s consideration of a proposed expulsion may not re-enroll in the school system until the Board holds a hearing or other appropriate proceedings regarding the recommended expulsion. Expulsion of students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) and its implementing regulations.

6.22 *Electronic Communication Devices*

The possession and use of personal, wireless communication devices by students is permitted, however cell phones brought to school must be stored appropriately, either in the student’s locker, personal vehicle and/or designated place assigned by the administrator. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited during the school day (which is usually the time students arrive at school until dismissal) and anytime students are being transported on a school bus unless specific permission is given by a certificated school board employee. Use of cell phones for educational purposes must be documented in a certificated employee’s (teacher’s) lesson plan. If cell phone use is not documented in the teacher’s lesson plan, then it is prohibited from being used in the classroom. School

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officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any such device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or other school rules.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-1-27 (1975)]

6.23 *Student Religious Liberties at School*

Student Religious Liberties at School- The Midfield City of Education may not discriminate against students or parents on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression. The Board shall treat a student’s voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the Board treats a student’s voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the Board. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student’s viewpoint to be expressed in coursework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments, a public school may not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student’s academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the coursework or assignment.

1. Students in Midfield City Schools may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during, and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression. Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, “see you at the pole” gatherings, or other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the students’ expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the group, the Board may not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. The Board may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.
 - a. Students in public schools may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same

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manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.

2. If any student has a food preference based on their religious beliefs, Midfield City Board of Education will accommodate for those dietary needs as long as there is a statement on file in their school's Child Nutrition office prior to meals being prepared. Parents can request the Diet Prescription for Meals from the local school CNP Manager. The completed form should be returned to the school CNP Manager as soon as possible.
3. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize this Board, its Superintendent, officers, members administrators, and/or employees to require any student or person to participate in prayer in any other religious activity or to violate the constitutional rights of any student or person.
4. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of the Board, its Superintendent, officers, members, administrators and/or employees to do any of the following:
 - a. Maintain order and discipline in the schools in a content and viewpoint neutral manner.
 - b. Protect the safety of students, employees, and visitors of the schools, and
 - c. Adopt and enforce policies and procedures regarding student speech at school provided that the policies and procedures do not violate the rights of students as guaranteed by the United States and Alabama constitutions and laws.
5. The provisions of this policy shall apply to all religions. Nothing herein shall be construed as establishing a particular religion nor as prohibiting the free exercise of a particular religion.

(Reference: Code of Alabama, § 16-1-20.5)

6.24 Drivers' License

- 6.24.1 Drivers' License – Unless exempted from the requirement by Board policy, a person under the age of 19 years may not under state law obtain a driver's license or a learner's permit without being enrolled in school or meeting alternative criteria established by law. Additionally, a driver's license may be suspended or revoked if a student withdraws or fails to attend school. Students may be exempted or excused from otherwise applicable statutory requirements if their withdrawal or nonattendance is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the

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student. Circumstances beyond the control of the student may be found with respect to:

- a. Students who are mentally or physically unable to attend school;
- b. Students who are regularly and legally employed in compliance with the provisions of the Child Labor Law; and
- c. Students who, because of the lack of public transportation, are compelled to walk more than two miles to attend a public school.

Students who are denied a driver's license by virtue of their nonenrollment may appeal a decision affecting the student's eligibility for a driver's license to the Superintendent. The appeal should be in writing and filed with the school principal within 15 days of the decision from which the appeal is taken, and should set forth the reasons on which the appeal is based. An appeal should be promptly forwarded to the Superintendent for review and final decision.

6.24.2 Administrative Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures to implement the provisions of this policy and to comply fully with state law.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-28-40, *et seq.* (1975)]

6.25 *Student Parking Privileges – Substance Abuse Policy*

In order to promote the safety and welfare of students and others who work on or visit school campuses, to encourage the development of safe and responsible driving practices, and to serve the general purposes of maintaining a drug and alcohol free school environment, students will be granted the privilege of driving and parking on school property only if they are free of the effects of alcohol or other illegal or controlled substances. Accordingly, any student who desires to drive a vehicle on school property or park on school property may be required to submit to periodically or randomly administered sobriety or drug tests as a condition to issuance of a permit authorizing the operation or parking of a motor vehicle on school grounds. Principals may impose reasonable additional conditions or requirements for the privilege of driving or parking a vehicle on school property including, for example, conditions relating to maintenance of academic and attendance standards and the payment of fees. Principals may also establish priorities for issuance and assignment of parking permits. The Board reserves the right to require that sobriety or drug tests or screenings be passed as a condition to maintaining parking or vehicle permits, or privileges relating to use of a motor vehicle. Such testing or screening may also be performed whenever a school official observes or is made aware of circumstances that provide reasonable suspicion or belief that the student has used alcohol, illegal drugs, or other substances in violation of the Board's substance abuse policies. All such testing or screening will be performed in accordance

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with local, state and federal laws and procedures that are developed by the Superintendent for approval by the Board.

6.26 *Student Competitive Extracurricular Activity Substance Abuse Policy*

In order to promote the safety and welfare of students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities, to insure that such participation is neither impaired nor any risk of injury exacerbated, to provide incentives to students to maintain safe and healthful practices, and to promote a school environment that is free of alcohol and illegal drugs or controlled substances, the Board reserves the right to require any student who participates in extracurricular competitive programs or activities to submit to sobriety tests or screening for illegal drugs or controlled substances prior to, during, or following a competitive event, practice, competition, or at any other time while the student is under the supervision of the school system. Such testing or screening may also be performed whenever a school official observes or is made aware of circumstances that provide reasonable suspicion or belief that the student has used alcohol, illegal drugs, or other substances in violation of the Board's substance abuse policies. All such testing or screening will be performed in accordance with local, state and federal laws and procedures that are developed by the Superintendent for approval by the Board.

6.27 *Harassment, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited*

6.27.1 Prohibition - No student shall engage in or be subject to harassment, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by the Board in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

6.27.2 Definitions –

- a. The term “harassment” as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics set forth in Section 6.23.2(b) below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
 1. Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
 2. Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.

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3. Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
 4. Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
 5. Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
- b. The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
 - c. The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
 - d. The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefits, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.
 - e. The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Midfield City School system.

6.27.3 Description of Behavior Expected of Students -

- a. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.
- b. Violence, threats of violence, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on

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one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim of such conduct:

1. The student's race;
2. The student's sex;
3. The student's religion;
4. The student's national origin; or
5. The student's disability.

6.27.4 Consequences for Violations – A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

6.27.5 Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures – Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board approved complaint forms available at the principal and/or counselor's office. The complaint must be signed by the student alleging the violation or by the student's parent or legal guardian and delivered to the principal or the principal's designee either by mail or personal delivery. At the request of the complaining student or the student's parent or legal guardian, incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will, in their sole discretion, determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal's designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or the principal's designee will undertake an investigation of the complaint. The investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence and will be conducted in a reasonably prompt time period taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.

The person reporting the violation may, upon request, be given an explanation of the outcome of the investigation and of any steps taken to prevent a recurrence of the violation, subject to any limitations on the disclosure thereof that may be imposed by law. A person reporting a violation who is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal the decision in writing to the local Superintendent.

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Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the principal or the principal's designee will inform the student's parent or guardian of the report.

6.27.6 Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules, and Forms – This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes.

6.27.7 Construction of Policy – This policy is supplemental to other Board policies and procedures and does not repeal, replace, or supersede any other prohibition on harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation found elsewhere in Board policy or procedure, including the Code of Student Conduct. This policy shall not be construed to allow harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation for any reason not specifically listed in this policy or to prohibit the Board from disciplining students for acts of harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically listed herein. Students who engage in harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically covered by this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

[Reference: Ala. Code §16-28B-1, *et seq.* (1975)]

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