Code of Student Conduct

For

Washington County School District

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Revised: July 23, 2026

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I. INTRODUCTION

The primary function of the public schools is to provide educational experiences and opportunities for each student. Education usually takes place in an atmosphere of good order and discipline.

The purpose of this document is to provide information concerning the responsibilities and rights of students. Disciplinary procedures are also included for those who do not accept these responsibilities and rights.

An effort has been made to examine the practices of our schools and develop a fair and consistent Code that should set a tone for an atmosphere conducive to a positive educational experience. Student responsibilities, as well as their rights have been specifically defined. Inherent in this and all other codes is the individual's rights to due process of the law.

II. PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

Following is the philosophical basis upon which the student's responsibilities and rights exists:

- Schools must make available written rules of conduct to students and parents. Students and parents must assume responsibility for knowing and observing both school rules and state laws which govern student conduct.

- School administrators have an obligation under State law to enforce compulsory school attendance laws. Students have an obligation to avail themselves of the opportunity for a free education.

- Schools must provide an educational program based upon the needs of the students and society. Students have the responsibility to utilize their educational experience.

- Schools should provide for opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities. Students should avail themselves of participation in those activities which are of interest to them and for which they qualify.

- Schools must provide an environment which assures respect for persons and property. Students have an obligation to respect the

persons and the property of others.

- Schools have a responsibility to insure the privacy rights of students as specified by law.

- Schools shall provide opportunities for student groups to meet in accordance with rules and scheduled use of facilities.

- Schools have an important role in providing effective avenues for student expression in a wide variety of ways. Students should try to understand the attitudes and viewpoints of the entire school community.

III. STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Students have responsibilities and rights relative to the knowledge and observation of school rules. They also have definite responsibilities and rights in the areas of attendance, right to learn, participation in school programs and activities, respect for persons and property, privacy, assembly and free speech and student publications. Following is a listing of the specific responsibilities relative to the many aspects of their educational experiences.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students are responsible for knowing and observing school rules.

2. Subject to law and rules of the State Board of Education and of the district school board, each student enrolled in a school shall:

   - During the time she or he is being transported to or from school at public expense;

   - During the time she or he is attending school;

   - During the time she or he is on the school premises participating with authorization in a school-sponsored activity; and

   - During a reasonable time before and after the student is on the premises for attendance at school or for authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, and only when on the premises, be under the control and direction of the principal or teacher in charge of the school, and

under the immediate control and direction of the teacher or other member of the instructional staff or of the bus driver to whom such responsibility may be assigned by the principal. However, the State Board of Education or the district school board may, by rules, subject each student to the control and direction of the principal or teacher in charge of the school during the time she or he is otherwise en route to or from school or is presumed by law to be attending school.

3. Students have the responsibility to take advantage of their educational opportunity by attending all classes daily and on time.

4. Students have a responsibility to:

   - Take advantage of the appropriate school programs and not infringe on the rights of others to learn.

   - Involve themselves in the classes in which they are enrolled through participation as directed by the teacher.

   - Involve parents and school personnel in making certain curriculum choices.

5. Student organization officers and representatives have the responsibility to be alert to needs of the school, the concerns of the student body and to work toward the satisfaction of these needs and concerns to the best of their ability.

6. Students have the responsibility to:

   - Respect the persons and property of other students and the school staff.

   - Take care of the property of the school system.

7. Parents, guardians, and eligible students have the responsibility of informing the school and individuals or agencies who are working actively and constructively for the benefit of the student, of any information that may be useful in making appropriate educational decisions.

8. Students have the responsibility not to carry or conceal any such material that is prohibited by law or would detract from the educational process.

9. Students have the responsibility to plan, seek approval, and conduct those activities which are consistent with the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school.

10. Students have the responsibility to accept the rights of other individuals to have differing viewpoints and to express themselves on those issues in which they disagree in a manner which does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the orderly educational process of the school and is not obscene or libelous or in violation of the school rules.

11. Students also have the opportunity to develop responsibility by participating in the student crime watch program which assists in the control of criminal behavior within the schools.

B. RIGHTS

1. Students have a right to expect clear and understandable rules and regulations to be furnished by the school. They may expect these rules, regulations and laws to be enforced fairly with the right of due process afforded.

2. Students have the right to clearly defined information on School Board Rules and individual school policies dealing with attendance.

3. Students have a right to participate in the appropriate school programs at all levels of instruction and in an atmosphere conducive to the teaching-learning process.

4. Students have the right under the direction of a faculty advisor to:

   - Form and operate within their respective schools, appropriate student organizations.

   - Seek office and participate in activities and organizations regardless of race, sex, color, creed, or political beliefs.

5. Each student has the right to expect:

   - That his or her person and property will be respected by other students and the school staff.

   - The school property to be safe, clean, attractive and well maintained.

6. Students have the right to:

   - Be protected by legal provisions which prohibit the release of personally identifiable information to other than legally authorized persons and to inspect, review and challenge such information as provided by law.

   - Privacy in their personal possessions unless the principal has a reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is concealing material, which possession of, is prohibited by law.

7. Students have the right to assemble peacefully on school grounds or in a school building. Exercise of this right shall be denied when it substantially and directly endangers physical health or safety, damages property, or disrupts the school program.

8. Students have the right to express themselves and to petition and survey student opinion in accordance with the established procedures.

IV. LEGAL BASIS FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE

There are several state laws which grant authority in the area of developing a Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. This code is consistent with the Washington County School Board Policies. The Policies and Procedures should be consulted regarding a specific area as it relates to the rights and responsibilities of students.

School Board Policy 5.32 - Zero Tolerance for School Related Crimes, explains that it is essential that schools be safe and orderly to provide environments that foster learning and high academic achievement. The District shall strive to protect students, staff, visitors and volunteers from harm and to protect victims of crime from further victimization. This policy applies to conduct on School District property, school or

District provided transportation and at any school or District sponsored activity. This policy implements the zero tolerance policy as outlined in Florida Statutes and State Board of Education rules.

A. AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD {1006.07}

The School Board acting as the board shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

1. **STUDENT WELFARE**

   Provide for the proper accounting for all children of school age for the attendance and control of students at school; for proper attention to health, safety and other matters relating to the welfare of children in the following fields, as prescribed in Chapter 1003, Florida Statutes.

2. **CONTROL OF STUDENTS {1006.07(1)(a)(b)}**

   a. Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are exempted from the provisions of Chapter 120. Expulsion hearings shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and are exempt from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must be given notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect to have the hearing held in compliance with that section.

   b. Require each student at the time of initial registration for school in the school district to note previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, and juvenile justice actions the student has had.

   c. Have the authority as the school board of a receiving school district to honor the final order of expulsion of a student by any state or out-of-state public district school board or private school, or lab school, for an act which would have been grounds for expulsion according to the receiving district school board's code of student conduct, in accordance with the following procedures:

      - A final order of expulsion shall be recorded in the records of the receiving school district.

- The expelled student applying for admission to the receiving school district shall be advised of the final order of expulsion.

- The district school superintendent of the receiving school district may recommend to the district school board that the final order of expulsion be waived and the student be admitted to the school district, or that the final order of expulsion be honored and the student not be admitted to the school district. If the student is admitted by the district school board, with or without the recommendation of the district school superintendent, the student may be placed in an appropriate educational program at the discretion of the district school board.

3. **CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT {1006.07(2)}**

Adopt a code of student conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for secondary schools and distribute to all school administrators, at the beginning of every school year, and is available on-line at www.wcsdschools.com. A district may compile the code of student conduct for elementary schools and the code of student conduct for secondary schools in one publication and distribute the combined codes to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians at the beginning of every school year. Each code of student conduct shall be developed by the school board; elementary or secondary school teachers and other school personnel, including school administrators; students; and parents or guardians. The code of student conduct for elementary schools shall parallel the code for secondary schools. Each code shall be organized and written in language which is understandable to students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school year in student classes, school advisory councils, and parent and teacher associations. Each code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school board and be made available in the student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall include, but not be limited to:

- Consistent policies and specific grounds for disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, any disciplinary action that may be imposed for the

possession or use of alcohol on school property or while attending a school function or for the illegal use, sale or possession of controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, of the Florida Statutes.

- Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline.

- An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities.

- Notice that illegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances, as defined in chapter 893, Florida Statutes, by any student while such student is upon school property or in attendance at a school function is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

- Notice that the possession of a firearm, a knife, a weapon, or an item which can be used as a weapon by any student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function is grounds for disciplinary action and may also result in criminal prosecution.

- Notice that violence against any school district personnel by a student is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

- Notice that violation of school board transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop, by a student is grounds for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a school bus and may be grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

- Notice that violation of the school board's sexual harassment policy by a student is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by

the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

- Notice that policies to be followed for the assignment of violent or disruptive students to an alternative education program.

- Notice that any student who is determined to have brought a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation, or to have possessed a firearm at school, will be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full year and referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system. District school boards may assign the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose of continuing educational services during the period of expulsion. District school superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request the district school board to modify the requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school if the request for modification is in writing and it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system.

- Notice that any student who is determined to have made a threat or false report, as defined by ss.790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity will be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full year and referred for criminal prosecution. District school boards may assign the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose of continuing educational services during the period of expulsion. District school superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request the district school board to modify the requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system.

- Notice that in order to promote responsibility of the student in reporting criminal behavior in the schools, they will be asked to participate in the student crime watch program.

B. AUTHORITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT {1006.08} {1001.51(25)}

The district school superintendent shall recommend plans to the district school board for the proper accounting for all students of school age for the attendance and control of students at school and for the proper attention to health, safety, and other matters which will best promote the welfare of students. Each district school superintendent shall fully support the authority of his or her principals, teachers, and school bus drivers to remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and the school bus and, when appropriate and available, to place such students in an alternative educational setting. When the district school superintendent makes a recommendation for expulsion to the district school board, he or she shall give written notice to the student and the student's parent of the recommendation, setting forth the charges against the student and advising the student and his or her parent of the student's right to due process as prescribed by ss.120.569 and 120.57(2). When district school board action on a recommendation for the expulsion of a student is pending, the district school superintendent may extend the suspension assigned by the principal beyond 10 school days if such suspension period expires before the next regular or special meeting of the district school board.

The district school superintendent shall fully support the authority of each teacher and school bus driver to remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and the school bus and the school principal to place such students in an alternative educational setting, when appropriate and available.

C. AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL {1006.09}

Subject to law and to the rules of the state board and the district school board, the principal in charge of the school or the principal's designee shall develop policies for delegating to any teacher or other member of the instructional staff or to any bus driver transporting students of the school responsibility for the control and direction of students.

1. **SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS**

   The principal or the principal's designee may suspend a student only in accordance with the rules of the district school board. The principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to immediately inform a student's

parent or guardian by telephone of a student's suspension and the reasons for the suspension. Each suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall also be reported in writing within 24 hours to the student's parent or guardian by United States mail. Each suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall also be reported in writing within 24 hours to the superintendent. A good faith effort shall be made by the principal or the principal's designee to employ parental assistance or other alternative measures prior to suspension, except in the case of emergency or disruptive conditions which require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious breach of conduct as defined by rules of the district school board. Such rules shall require oral and written notice to the student of the charges and an explanation of the evidence against him or her prior to the suspension. Each student shall be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the story. No student shall be suspended for unexcused tardiness, lateness, absence, or truancy. The principal or the principal's designee may suspend any student transported to or from school at the public expense from the privilege of riding on a school bus for violation of school board transportation policies, which shall include a policy regarding behavior at school bus stops, and the principal or the principal's designee shall give notice in writing to the student's parent or guardian and to the superintendent within 24 hours. School personnel shall not be held legally responsible for suspension of students made in good faith.

2. **RECOMMENDING EXPULSION**

The principal or the principal's designee may recommend to the superintendent the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct, including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open defiance of authority of a member of his staff, violence against person or property, or any other act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school. Any recommendation of expulsion shall include a detailed report by the principal or his designated representative on the alternative measures taken prior to the recommendation of expulsion.

The principal or the principal's designee shall include an analysis of suspensions and expulsions in the Public School Accountability Report.

3. **RECOMMENDING SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FOR FELONY COMMITTED OFF SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY**

Suspension proceedings, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, may be initiated against any pupil enrolled as a student who is formally charged with a felony or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, by a proper prosecuting attorney for an incident which allegedly occurred on property other than public school property, if that incident is shown, in an administrative hearing with notice provided to the parents or legal guardian or custodian of such pupil by the principal of the school pursuant to rules promulgated by the State Board of Education and to rules developed pursuant to 1001.54, Florida Statute, to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare in the school in which the student is enrolled. Any pupil who is suspended as the result of such proceedings may be suspended from all classes of instruction on public school grounds during regular classroom hours for a period of time, which may exceed 10 days, as determined by the superintendent. Such suspension shall not affect the delivery of educational services to the pupil, and the pupil shall be immediately enrolled in a daytime alternative education program, where appropriate. If the pupil is not subsequently adjudicated delinquent or found guilty, the suspension shall be terminated immediately. If the pupil is found guilty of a felony, the superintendent shall have the authority to determine if a recommendation for expulsion shall be made to the school board; however, such suspension or expulsion shall not affect the delivery of educational services to the pupil in any residential or nonresidential program outside the public school. Any pupil who is subject to discipline or expulsion for unlawful possession or use of any substance controlled under chapter 893 Florida Statute shall be entitled to a waiver of the discipline or expulsion:

- If he divulges information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who supplied such controlled substance to him, or if he voluntarily discloses his unlawful possession of such controlled substance prior to his arrest. Any information divulged which leads to such arrest and conviction is not admissible in evidence in a subsequent criminal trial against the pupil divulging such information.

- If the pupil commits himself, or is referred by the court in lieu of sentence, to a state-licensed drug abuse program and successfully completes the program.

4. **RECOMMENDING SUSPENSION/EXPULSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

   Any recommendation for the expulsion of a disabled student shall be made in accordance with the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education, and the Washington County School Board Policies and Procedures.

5. **STUDENT DETENTION, SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

   a. Any instructional or administrative staff member shall be authorized to temporarily detain and question a student under circumstances which reasonably indicate that such student has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violation of Florida Statutes or School Board rules. No student shall be temporarily detained longer than is reasonably necessary.

   b. The Legislature finds that the case law of this state provides that relaxed standards of search and seizure apply under the State Constitution to searches of students' effects by school officials, owing to the special relationships between students and school officials and, to a limited degree, the school officials' standing in loco parentis to students. Accordingly, it is the purpose of this section to provide procedures by which school officials may search students' effects within the bounds of the case law established by the courts of this state.

   c. If a principal of a public school or a school employee designated by the principal, has reasonable suspicion that a student is concealing or has concealed stolen or illegal property or contraband on his/her person, or within his/her locker or other student storage space, an administrative staff member may search the personal property.

   d. Stolen or illegal property, which is, seized during a search of the personal property of the student or his/her locker or other student storage area shall be given to law

enforcement authorities, when appropriate.

e. The school board shall cause to be posted in each public school, a place readily seen by students, a notice stating that a student's locker or other storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion, for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.

f. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of metal detectors or specially trained animals in the course of an authorized search.

The following provisions shall apply to canine searches for screening for illegal substances:

a. Canine sniffers shall be used primarily for school purposes to bring disciplinary action against students who are found in possession of illegal substances.

b. Parents, students, School Board employees, and the public shall be informed that public school campuses, including, but not limited to, buildings, parking areas, athletic and recreational areas, and lockers are School Board property and no one using said property, whether as a student or in any other capacity, has the expectation of privacy in or around said property.

c. Students shall be informed that automobiles, trucks, vans, or other transportation means located or operated on School Board property is a privilege granted by the School Board and students whose vehicles are so located shall not have any expectation of privacy in or around said vehicles.

d. The Superintendent or designee shall determine at what times and in which schools the canine sniffers shall be utilized. The school principal or designee shall be notified each time the canine sniffers are brought on campus.

(1) The canine sniffers shall be controlled and directed at all times by qualified handlers from the Sheriff's Department or local police departments.

(2) Searches shall be conducted at the qualified handler's direction in cooperation with the School Board's administrative personnel.

(3) School Board administrative personnel shall be responsible for necessary parental notification, student disciplinary action, student due process, and public relations related to such searches.

(4) Custody, analysis, and disposal of the illegal substance shall be the responsibility of law enforcement.

e. The primary purpose of the canine sniffer program shall be to refer students to police authorities for criminal prosecution. The circumstances in some cases may make it advisable to refer that case to law enforcement due to the serious nature of the offense, dangerous nature or sizable amount of the contraband seized, past school disciplinary or criminal record of the suspect, or serious disruption of school that has occurred or is likely to occur. The decision to refer a case to police authorities shall be made by the school principal, after consultation with the qualified handler and Superintendent or designee.

f. Annual written notice of this policy shall be included in the Code of Student Conduct and in the school student/parent handbook.

g. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to be used in search and seizure situations.

D. AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER {1003.32}

Subject to law and to the rules of the district school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any school shall have such authority for the control and discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the principal or his or her designated representative and shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in which he is assigned to be in charge of students.

In accordance with this section and within the framework of the district school board's code of student conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel shall have the authority to undertake any of the following actions in managing student behavior and ensuring the

safety of all students in their classes and school and their opportunity to learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom.

1. Establish classroom rules of conduct.

2. Establish and implement consequences, designed to change behavior, for infractions of classroom rules.

3. Have disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students removed from the classroom for behavior management intervention.

4. Have violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students directed for information or assistance from appropriate school or district school board personnel.

5. Assist in enforcing school rules on school property, during school-sponsored transportation, and during school-sponsored activities.

6. Request and receive information as to the disposition of any referrals to the administration for violation of classroom or school rules.

7. Request and receive immediate assistance in classroom management if a student becomes uncontrollable or in case of emergency.

8. Request and receive training and other assistance to improve skills in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution, and related areas.

9. Press charges if there is a reason to believe that a crime has been committed on school property, during school-sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities.

10. Use reasonable force, according to standards adopted by the State Board of Education, to protect himself, herself, or others from injury.

E. AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER {1006.10}

1. The school bus driver shall require order and good behavior by all students being transported on school buses.

2. The district school board shall require a system of progressive discipline of transported students for actions, which are prohibited by the code of student conduct. Disciplinary actions including suspension of students from riding on district school board owned or contracted school buses, shall be subject to district school board policies and procedures and may be imposed by the principal or the principal's designee. The principal or the principal's designee may delegate any disciplinary authority to school bus drivers except for suspension of students from riding the bus.

3. The school bus driver shall control students during the time students are on the school bus, but shall not have such authority when students are waiting at the school bus stop or when students are en route to or from the school bus stop except when the bus is present at the bus stop.

4. If an emergency should develop due to the conduct of students on the bus, the school bus driver may take such steps as are immediately necessary to protect the students on the bus.

5. School bus drivers shall not be required to operate a bus under conditions in which one or more students pose a clear and present danger to the safety of the driver or other students, or the safety of the bus while in operation. The district school board shall have measures in place designed to protect the school bus driver from threats or physical injury from students.

F. STUDENTS SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF SCHOOL {1003.31}

Subject to law and rules of the State Board of Education and of the district school board, each student enrolled in a school shall:

- During the time she or he is being transported to or from school at public expense;

- During the time she or he is attending school;

- During the time she or he is on the school premises participating with authorization in a school-sponsored activity; and

- During a reasonable time before and after the student is on the premises for attendance at school or for authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, and only when on the premises, be under the control and direction of the principal or teacher in

charge of the school, and under the immediate control and direction of the teacher or other member of the instructional staff or of the bus driver to whom such responsibility may be assigned by the principal. However, the State Board of Education or the district school board may, by rules, subject each student to the control and direction of the principal or teacher in charge of the school during the time she or he is otherwise en route to or from school or is presumed by law to be attending school.

- There is a rebuttable presumption that the term "reasonable time" means 30 minutes before or after the activity is scheduled or actually begins or ends, whichever period is longer. A school or district school board may, by policy or other formal action, assume a longer period of supervision.

G. LIABILITY OF TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL {1006.11(2)}

Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment, a teacher or other member of the instructional staff, a principal or the principal's designated representative, or a school bus driver shall not be civilly or criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity with the State Board of Education and district school board rules regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students, including, but not limited to, any exercise of authority under s. 1003.32 or s. 1006.09.

V. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A. SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Since misconduct of any degree or frequency is undesirable and not conducive to a positive learning environment for all, students shall understand that certain consequences are applicable to their behaviors. Because some behaviors are more serious and disruptive than others, the frequency, nature and degree of the misconduct will determine the specific disciplinary action which will be taken.

1. Acts that pose a threat to school safety are those acts that endanger the life or safety of a student, staff member or other person on campus or at a school or District sponsored activity. Such acts include but are not limited to:

   - Aggravated battery;
   - Armed robbery;
   - Arson;

- Battery or aggravated battery on a teacher or other school personnel;
- Kidnapping or abduction;
- Murder;
- Manslaughter;
- Possession, use or sale of a controlled substance;
- Possession, use or sale of any explosive devise;
- Possession, use or sale of any firearm or weapon;
- Sexual battery;

2. Acts that are considered less serious misconduct which disrupt the educational process but do not pose an immediate danger to the life or safety of an individual. Such acts include but are not limited to:

- Bus misconduct;
- Defiance of authority;
- Disruption, minor;
- Dress code violation;
- Electronic devices (cell phone, smart watch, smart glasses, etc.) violation;
- Fighting (reference SESIR and fighting defined);
- Forgery;
- Horseplay;
- Leaving campus without permission;
- Lying or misrepresentation of the truth;
- Profanity;
- Vehicle parking violation
- Possession and/or use of tobacco and tobacco related products

B. ACTION/CONSEQUENCES FOR MISCONDUCT

Depending on the seriousness and frequency of the misconduct, certain disciplinary procedures will be followed. For those behaviors, which are less serious, any of the following actions may be taken.

1. Actions for Less Serious Misconduct other than Tobacco

- Conference with parents
- Conference with student
- Detention
- Letter to parents
- Loss privileges
- Lunchroom detention

- Phone parent(s)
- Probation
- Restitution for property damaged/stolen
- Room changed
- Campus clean up
- Sent home
- Silent lunch
- Warning/reprimand
- Write bus rules

Note: Consequences for Dress Code Violations will be addressed as shown above except for offenses that are addressed in Section VII of the Student Code of Conduct related to Florida Statues 1006.07, 1006.15 and 1002.23(7).

Repeated occurrences of less serious behaviors may be dealt with in the same manner as misconduct of a more serious nature. Following are disciplinary actions listed in alphabetical order that may be taken for such behaviors and should be considered in addition to any of the above-mentioned actions.

2. Actions for Tobacco Related Misconduct

- First offense
  - Notification of parent/guardian
  - Assignment to ISS program – 2 days
  - Completion of tobacco education program in ISS OR citation/ticket issued by law enforcement as defined by law

- Second offense
  - Notification of parent/guardian
  - Citation/ticket issued by law enforcement as defined by law and Completion of tobacco education program in ISS if not completed after first offense
  - Assignment to ISS program – 3 days

- Third offense
  - Notification of parent/guardian
  - Citation/ticket issued by law enforcement as defined by law
  - Assignment to ISS program – 4 days

- Fourth offense
  - Notification of parent/guardian
  - Citation/ticket issued by law enforcement as defined by law
  - Referral for placement in alternative education program for

45 days

3. **Action for Misconduct of a More Serious Nature/Repeated Occurrences of Less Serious**
   - Assignment to campus cleanup
   - Assignment to detention
   - Expulsion by the School Board
   - Extension of suspension
   - In school suspension
   - Out of school suspension
   - Recommendation for expulsion
   - Recommendation to the Alternative Education Program
   - Referral to juvenile authorities
   - Removed from class
   - Suspend bus privilege

Specific disciplinary procedures are developed by each school and are a part of the student handbook. Each school level handbook must be approved by the Washington County School Board and must be consistent with the district Code of Conduct and implemented in a fair, consistent and systematic manner. This will assure that all persons involved will be aware of their responsibilities and rights, but also of the consequences for misconduct.

Some of the violations of school rules are also violations of the laws in the Criminal Code of the State of Florida. If students violate these laws, not only will they be subject to suspension/expulsion from school, but the local law enforcement officials will be contacted and the student's misconduct will also be handled by these authorities.

The District shall report to the appropriate law enforcement agency any act that poses a threat to the safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons on school property or at school events or is a serious violation of law. The following acts when committed on School District property or at a District activity shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency:

- Alcohol violation;
- Alcohol, sale or distribution;
- Arson;
- Battery;
- Bomb or biochemical threat;
- Breaking and entering or burglary;

- Disruption of school, major;
- Drug use, sale or distribution;
- Explosives, possession or use;
- Extortion;
- False alarm;
- Firearms violation;
- Gang-related activity;
- Hate crime;
- Illegal organization, membership;
- Robbery;
- Sexual battery;
- Sexual harassment;
- Sexual misconduct;
- Sexual offense including sexting;
- Stalking;
- Trespassing;
- Weapons violation;
- Any felony as defined by Florida Statutes.

C. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PROHIBITED

School personnel are required to report to the principal or principal's designee any suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student of any controlled substance, any counterfeit controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, or model glue. School personnel are exempt from civil liability when reporting in good faith to the proper school authority such suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student. Only a principal or principal's designee is authorized to contact a parent or legal guardian of a student regarding this situation. Any student who sells, possesses or is under the influence of intoxicating beverages, and/or any controlled or harmful substances on school board property or at any school sponsored activity shall be suspended for a minimum of ten school (10) days, may be recommended for alternative education placement, and may be expelled from school for the remainder of the school year. However, the student may also be expelled for all or a portion of the following school year. Any student possessing or under the influence of controlled substances as defined herein shall have a mandatory hearing before the School Board, prior to expulsion.

D. WEAPONS PROHIBITED

Any student who has or carries any gun, pistol, sword, knife, razor, or any other item intended as a weapon, on the school grounds, into any school building, or on a school bus or at any school sponsored activity or who has such items on his/her person or in an

automobile or other vehicle parked on the school grounds or adjacent thereto, shall be suspended and may be expelled from school. **In the case of a firearm**, the student will receive an automatic ten (10) day suspension by the principal and will be recommended by the superintendent for expulsion by the Board. If it is determined the student brought the firearm to school, the student shall be expelled from the regular school program for a period of not less than one (1) year with or without continuing educational services. In all cases, regarding firearms the Board will be notified at the time of suspension and a referral of the student will be made by the school administrator to the criminal justice system or the juvenile justice system. Referrals to the School Resource Officer are deemed to meet the requirement of the referral to the appropriate justice system.

E. VIOLENCE AGAINST SCHOOL BOARD PERSONNEL PROHIBITED

Notice that violence against any district school board personnel by a student assault or battery on specified officials or employees are in violation of Section 784.081 F.S., and is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

F. VIOLATION OF TRANSPORTATION POLICIES PROHIBITED

Notice that violation of district school board transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop, by a student is grounds for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a school bus and may be grounds for disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

G. SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

Violation of the district school board's sexual harassment policy by a student is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

H. SEXTING OR ELECTRONICALLY SENDING EXPLICIT MESSAGES OR PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES

The act of electronically sending sexually explicit messages or photographs of oneself is generally referred to as "sexting." There are no statutes that specifically address sexting. Under current law, a person who "sexts" another could be charged with one of the

various statutes that prohibit the creation, possession, and transmission of child pornography. In recent years, there have been increasing accounts of minors engaging in sexting. These minors may be sentenced for engaging in sexting and being registered as a sexual offender.

The bill (Chapter 2011-180, Laws of Florida) creates a section relating to sexting. The offense of sexting is defined as a minor who knowingly:

- Uses a computer, or any other device capable of electronic data transmission or distribution, to transmit or distribute to another minor any photograph or video of any person which depicts nudity as defined in statute and is harmful to minors.

- Possesses a photograph or video of any person that was transmitted or distributed by another minor, which depicts nudity as defined by statute and is harmful to minors.

A minor does not violate this section if all of the following apply:

- The minor did not solicit the photograph or video.
- The minor took reasonable steps to report the photograph or video to the minor's legal guardian or to a school or law enforcement official.
- The minor did not transmit or distribute the photograph or video to a third party.

The transmission or distribution of multiple photographs or videos prohibited by this section is a single offense if the photographs or videos were transmitted or distributed within the same 24-hour period. The possession of multiple photographs or videos that were transmitted or distributed by a minor prohibited by this section is a single offense if the photographs or videos were transmitted or distributed by a minor in the same 24-hour period.

A minor who is in violation of these provisions commits a noncriminal violation for a first violation, punishable by 8 hours of community services, or, if ordered by the court, a $60 fine. The court may also order the minor to participate in training. Repeat offenses may result in the minor being prosecuted for committing a first degree misdemeanor or third degree felony. This section does not prohibit the prosecution of a minor for a violation of any law if

the photograph or video depicts sexual conduct or sexual excitement, and does not prohibit the prosecution of a minor for stalking.

I. THREAT OR FALSE REPORT PROHIBITED

Any student who is determined to have made a threat or false report, as defined by ss.790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity shall be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one (1) full year and referred for criminal prosecution.

J. HAZING PROHIBITED

Any student who is determined to have committed the act of hazing as defined in 1006.135 F.S. and School Board Policy 5.327*+ on school property, school sponsored transportation or during a school sponsored activity shall be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one (1) full year and referred for criminal prosecution.

K. BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for students who commit acts of bullying (includes cyberbullying) or harassment may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Refer to School Board Policy 5.321 Bullying and Harassment.

L. STUDENT USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND OTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATION/ELECTRONIC DEVICES (WCSD POLICY 5.37)

Personally telephones and other wireless communication devices may be brought to school with the following conditions applying:

- Elementary and middle school students may not use a wireless communications device during the school day.

- High school students may not use a wireless communication device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Locations within the school buildings where a high school student may use his or her wireless communications device with the express

permission of a school administrator include, but are not limited to, the cafeteria, courtyard, or other common areas outside of the classroom.

- Devices must be silenced during school hours.

- If emergency calls to or from students are necessary, they should be placed through the school office and not to or from the student's telephone.

- Devices should be kept secure to prevent theft (e.g., vehicles, purses, backpacks, lockers).

- A student will be allowed to use a wireless communication device during the school day in accordance with:

  i. The student's individualized education plan;
  ii. The student's 504 accommodation plan issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or
  iii. A doctor's note from a physician licensed under Chapter 458 or Chapter 459 certifying in writing that the student requires the use of a wireless communications device based upon valid clinical reasoning or evidence.

Violation of these provisions shall result in the confiscation of the personal cellular telephone or other wireless communication/electronic devices and its return only to the parent, as defined by Florida Statutes. Any distraction or use of wireless communication/electronic devices may result in disciplinary action.

The use of personal telephones or other wireless communication/ electronic devices at school events shall not be limited by this policy; however, the principal shall have full authority to promulgate rules that implement all provisions herein.

M. Use of restrooms/Changing Facilities

Florida statute 553.865(9)(a) requires that each educational institution shall, within its code of student conduct, establish disciplinary procedures for any student who willfully enters, for a purpose other than those listed in subsection (6), a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex on the premises of the educational institution and refuses to depart when asked to do so

by any instructional personnel as described in s. 1012.01(2), administrative personnel as described in s. 1012.01(3), or a safe-school officer as described in s. 1006.12(1) -(4) or, if the institution is a private school, any equivalent of such personnel or officer. Failure to comply is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action to be administered at the discretion of the school principal/designee.

IV. ATTENDANCE/REFERRAL PROCEDURES

A. ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ALL SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, HIGH)

School Code 1003.26 states that it is the responsibility of the superintendent to enforce school attendance and those schools must respond in a timely manner to every unexcused absence or absence for which the reason is unknown.

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines to be utilized by parents, students and school and district staff.

1. GENERAL PROCEDURES

a. The teacher's grade book or other approved school attendance records at the school will be the final authority in determining the number of absences for each student.

b. Each of the schools will document attempts to notify parents of each absence for which the reasons are unknown. However, failure to successfully notify parents/guardians shall not negate the attendance policy.

c. All students will be allowed up to 3 days to make up work in the event of an absence. All assignments announced in advance of the student's absence must be made up on the day the student returns to class.

d. School day attendance definition – Students attending any portion of the school day are considered present.

e. All questions relating to the attendance policy are to be directed to the school. The concerned party should contact the school's attendance officer for clarification first and then the school principal or his/her designee. An attendance

committee from the school will be selected to handle all attendance/grade/excused absence issues.

2. **TARDIES AND CHECKOUTS**
   a. A student who arrives to school after the scheduled beginning time will be recorded as tardy for that day.

   b. A student who is checked out before the class or school day is officially over will be declared a "checkout". Checkouts are recorded in the school office. However, the school principal has the authority to excuse or determine the consequence arising from recorded checkouts.

3. **ABSENCES**
   a. Parents/guardians are to sign in/out their child when missing school for excusable appointments or emergencies and are to comply with the individual school procedures established with the school's attendance officer.

   b. Excused Absence
   Excused absences will be given for the following reasons:

   - Religious instruction and/or religious holidays
   - Sickness, injury or other medical condition
   - School leave – school approved trips such as instructional field trips, club events, athletics, etc. These are not counted as absences
   - Other academic classes or programs
   - Educational trips – when requested by parents (five (5) school days in advance), trips for educational purposes may be granted
   - Pre-approved absences – absences from school approved by the administration prior to occurrence
   - Funerals (documentation must be provided)
   - Legal reason (documentation must be provided)
   - Other absences as approved by the principal/designee

   Parents or guardians are required to justify each absence. A parent note for reasons as listed above will be accepted for each absence up to four (4) days during a nine (9) week grading period.

   All absences, after the fourth day, will **only** be excused with a note from a doctor or dentist, funeral program of

immediate family member, religious holiday, documentation for a legal reason or principal's/designee's approval.

Students **must** turn in excuse documentation to the office upon return to school. If the appropriate documentation is not provided after a reminder and within a reasonable amount of time, the absence(s) will be unexcused.

4. PRINCIPAL REFERRAL TO CHILD STUDY TEAM

If a student has five (5) or more unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month **or** ten (10) unexcused absences or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day period, the student's primary teacher shall report to the school principal or his/her designee that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance per F.S. 1003.26(1)(b).

The principal shall, unless there is clear evidence that the absences are not a pattern of nonattendance, refer the case to the school's child study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing per F.S. 1003.26(1)(b). If the child study team finds that a pattern of nonattendance is developing, a meeting or phone conference with the parent must be held to identify potential remedies. The principal or designee must maintain documentation or attempts of parent documentation.

If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem, the child study team shall implement interventions that best address the problem. The interventions may include, but need not be limited to:

- Frequent communication between the teacher and the family;
- Changes in the learning environment;
- Mentoring;
- Student counseling;
- Tutoring, including peer tutoring;
- Placement into different classes;
- Evaluation for alternative education programs;
- Attendance contracts;
- Referral to other agencies for family services; or
- Other interventions - including but not limited to a truancy petition pursuant to s.984.151

The child study team shall work diligently in facilitating the intervention services; however, if a parent refuses to attend the child study team meeting, the child/parent may be referred to Truancy Court.

If a student accumulates 15 unexcused absences, in a period of 90 calendar days, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the district school board contact and the child/parent will be referred to truancy court per F.S. 1003.27(2)(b). Due to length of time in the referral to truancy process, the principal or designee may begin the notification to truancy upon the 12th unexcused absence of the student.

5. PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH HABITUAL TRUANCY

Parents. A parent who refused or fails to have a minor student who is under his or her control attend school regularly, or who refuses or fails to comply with the requirements of school attendance, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree per F.S. 1003.27(7)(a). The court may also order a parent who violates compulsory attendance to participate in approved parent training class, attend school with the student, perform community service hours at the school, or participate in counseling

Students. In addition to any other authorized sanctions, the court shall order a student found to be a habitual truant to make up all school work missed and may order the student to pay a civil penalty of up to $2, based on the student's ability to pay, for each day of school missed, perform up to 25 community service hours at the school or participate in counseling or other services, as appropriate per F.S. 1003.27(7)(d).

Upon a second or subsequent finding of habitual truancy, the court, in addition to any other authorized sanctions, shall order the student to make up all school work missed and may order the student to pay a civil penalty of up to $5, based on the student's ability to pay, for each day of school missed, perform up to 50 community service hours at the school, or participate in counseling, as appropriate per F.S. 1003.27 (7)(d).

B. ATTENDANCE POLICY SPECIFIC FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Florida Statute 1003.21(c) states a student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory

school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age **if** the student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board.

Students placed on out-of-school suspension shall receive all assigned work for the days of the suspension. However, the student will not receive credit for completion of those assignments. In addition, the student will receive a zero for any daily grade, pop quiz or other grade assigned while the student is suspended. Exception: when an assignment is made prior to the student's suspension the student will be allowed to make up that particular assignment i.e. test, project, etc. Students shall be allowed to make up nine (9) weeks or semester exams, or other major projects or assignments.

ATTENDANCE/DRIVER'S LICENSE (15-18 YEAR OLDS)

The Superintendent must provide the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles the legal name, sex, date of birth, and social security number of each minor student who has been reported under this paragraph and who fails to otherwise satisfy the requirements of s322.091. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may not issue a driver's license or learner's driver's license to, and shall suspend any previously issued driver's license or learner's driver's license of, any such minor student. The student will also be referred to truancy court.

Students are to sign in/out when missing school for excusable appointments or emergencies and are to comply with the individual school procedures established with the school's attendance officer. Failure to sign out may result in an unexcused absence and the consequences thereof.

Teachers will provide all work to students (whether absence is excused or unexcused. All work will be graded for all students. If students do not complete work, they receive a zero.

C. PARENT APPEAL TO SCHOOL BOARD

If the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child refuses to participate in the remedial strategies because he or she believes that those strategies are unnecessary or inappropriate, the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child may appeal to the school board. The school board may provide a hearing officer, and the hearing officer shall make a recommendation for final action to the board. If the board's final determination is that

the strategies of the child study team are appropriate, and the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child still refuses to participate or cooperate, the superintendent may seek criminal prosecution for non-compliance with compulsory school attendance.

D. POOR ATTENDANCE AND HOME SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

If the parent of a child who has been identified as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s. 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph. The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent to a home education review committee composed of the district contact for home education programs and at least two home educators selected by the parent from a district list of all home educators who have conducted a home education program for at least three (3) years and who have indicated a willingness to serve on this committee. The home education review committee shall review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s.1002.41, every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(a)(b). The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2 do not apply once the committee determines the home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).

If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the committee, the committee shall notify the district school superintendent. The district superintendent shall then terminate the home education program and require the parent to enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the definition of "regular school attendance" under s. 1003.01(13) (a), (b), (c), or (e), within three (3) days. Upon termination of a home education program pursuant to this subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to re-enroll the child in a home education for 180 calendar days. Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option as required by this subparagraph after termination of the home education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall constitute noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of s. 1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under s. 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability of

the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to s.1002.41(1)(b).

E. NON-COMPLIANCE

If a child subject to compulsory school attendance will not comply with attempts to enforce school attendance, the parent, the guardian, or the superintendent or his or her designee shall refer the case to the case staffing committee pursuant to s. 984.12, and the superintendent or his or her designee may file a truancy petition pursuant to the procedures in s. 984.151.

F. WRITTEN NOTICE TO PARENT

Under the direction of the superintendent, a designated school representative shall give written notice, in person or by return-receipt mail, to the parent, guardian, or other person having control when no valid reason is found for a child's non-enrollment in school which requires enrollment or attendance within three (3) days after the date of notice. If the notice and requirement are ignored, the designated school representative shall report the case to the superintendent, and may refer the case to the case staffing committee, established pursuant to s. 984.12. The superintendent shall take such steps as are necessary to bring criminal prosecution against the parent, guardian, or other person having control.

G. CRIMINAL PROSECUTION/TRUANCY PETITION

The superintendent or his or her designee shall give written notice in person or by return-receipt mail to the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child that criminal prosecution is being sought for nonattendance. The superintendent may file a truancy petition, as defined in s. 984.03, following the procedures outlined in s. 984.151.

H. RETURN OF CHILD TO SCHOOL

A designated school representative shall visit the home or place of residence of a child and any other place in which he or she is likely to find any child who is required to attend school when such child is not enrolled or is absent from school during school hours without an excuse, and, when the child is found, shall return the child to his or her parent or to the principal or teacher in charge of the school, or to the private tutor from whom absent, or to the juvenile assessment center or other location established by the school board to receive students who are absent from school.

Upon receipt of the student, the parent shall be immediately notified.

I. REFERRAL FOR HOMEBOUND SERVICES

In cases where students are expected to be out of school for physical reasons or have been absent due to illness or accidents and are anticipated to be in need of homebound services, the principal or designee shall submit appropriate forms for a homebound referral consistent with district procedures.

J. WITHDRAWAL

No student under the age of 18 can be withdrawn except for reasons as stated in the Florida Statutes. The school must notify the district office of any student under the age of 18 who drops out or withdraws from school without transferring to another educational environment. Both the parent and student under the age of 18 must sign the appropriate form to terminate school attendance.

K. ADULT PROGRAMS

While attendance policies may be more stringent in some adult vocational programs, the following is a minimum for all programs:

- Students absent from class three days in any calendar month shall be placed on probation to continue through the following month. Should the student be absent for three days during the period of probation, he/she will be withdrawn due to poor attendance.

- Students withdrawn for poor attendance may re-register on a space available basis after approval from the student personnel services and when necessary by the administration.

- Three (3) unexcused tardies shall constitute one (1) absence.

- Students with extenuating circumstances, i.e. hospital confinement, personal problems, extended illness, etc., may appeal to the director or assistant director for an exception.

  Except in the case of emergency, the student should obtain the exception ahead of time.

- A student who is absent six (6) consecutive days will be

withdrawn on the seventh day, except in extenuating circumstances.

- Students in attendance at the FPTC who are under 18 years of age regardless of the program of attendance will be subject to the attendance requirements related to their driver's license. A referral will be made to the district office if a student has 15 unexcused absences within a school year or if he/she withdraws. FPTC shall follow the procedures for implementing the attendance requirements for high school students as shown in the K-12 schools.

VII. WASHINGTON COUNTY DRESS CODE

Appropriate wearing apparel is an essential part of education. The word "appropriate" shall be defined as conducive to a safe and productive learning environment. All administrative and instructional personnel shall give helpful, friendly guidance on these matters without causing embarrassment to the student.

- In general, students may not wear clothing/accessories with wording or graphics that:
  - Are sexually suggestive, obscene, or vulgar; or
  - Promote alcohol, tobacco, vape, drugs, violence, gangs, or gang affiliation.

- Shoes must be worn at all times.

- Students may not wear clothing that reveals bare midriffs, backs, or sides.

- Students may not wear clothing that indecently, inappropriately, or in a vulgar manner exposes body parts, underwear, bras, or any other type of undergarments.

- Head coverings (hats, visors, hoods, etc.) or sunglasses are not allowed to be worn inside school buildings. Bandanas/Do-rags/stockings are not permitted on school campus.

- The wearing of objects/jewelry will be safe and appropriate.

- The top of all pants, shorts or skirts, will be worn at, or above, the student's waistline.

- Pants or shorts cannot have holes (openings revealing skin) above mid-thigh and must be pulled up to the waistline.

- Shorts may be worn but must be at or below mid-thigh.

- Leggings that are not see through may be worn when accompanied by a garment that is no less than mid-thigh on all sides of the body.

- Skirts and dresses may be worn but must be at or below the top of the knee unless accompanied by leggings. When accompanied by an appropriate under garment to include leggings, the dress or skirt must reach the mid-thigh.

- Belts must be buckled and suspenders fastened.

- Because of the types of activities in physical education, it is recommended that students wear shorts under their dresses.

- Further examples of inappropriate clothing/accessories include, but are not limited to:
  - Tops that expose cleavage
  - Pajamas/Sleepwear
  - Any item which contains a heavy chain or metal projection.

FLORIDA STATUTE RELATED TO DRESS CODE – Exposure of underwear or body parts that is disruptive to an orderly learning environment.

- Students may not wear any type of clothing that indecently or in a vulgar manner exposes underwear or body parts or that is disruptive to an orderly learning environment. The expectation is that students will refrain from wearing clothing in a manner that exposes underwear, bras, or any other types of undergarments in an inappropriate manner.

  ●First Offense – Students will be given a verbal warning and the student's parents or guardian will be contacted by school personnel.

  ●Second Offense – Students will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a period of 5

days and the student's parents must meet with the principal.

- Third Offense – Students will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a period of 20 days, students will be placed in the in-school suspension program for 3 days and the parents will be contacted via telephone and written notice.

- Fourth and Subsequent Offenses - Students will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a period of 30 days, students will be placed in the in school suspension program for 3 days and the parents will be contacted by the school.

  - Statutes – 1006.07, 1006.15 and 1002.23(7)

The principal may use a committee of faculty, parents and students to make additions to these guidelines; however, there may be no deletions or revisions of the above.

Discipline administered for infractions of the student dress code may include loss of eligibility to participate in student activities.