

Zickeyous Byrd, Ed.D- Superintendent

Coretta Boykin, Ed.D, President- District 4

Mr. Donald Lee, Vice President- District 2

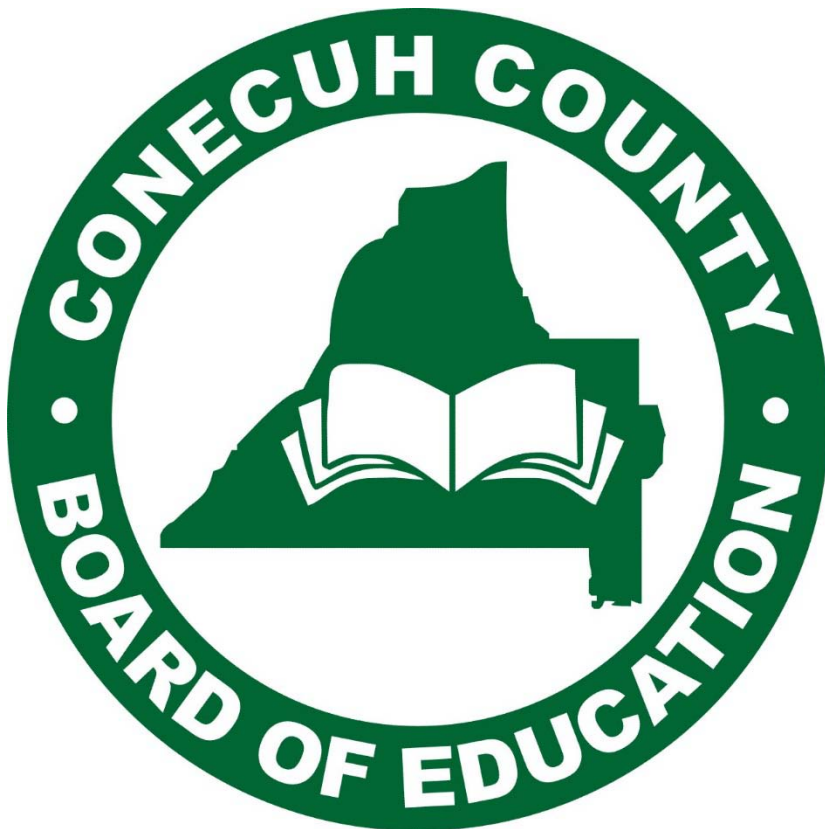
Mrs. Willene Whatley- District 1

Mrs. Odessa Wallace- District 3

Mrs. Mary Bradley Ray- District 5

2015-2016

Conecuh County Schools Student Code of Conduct



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CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

DUE PROCESS

It is the policy of the Conecuh County Board of Education to adhere to due process when carrying out the procedures contained within the Code of Student Conduct handbook. Furthermore, the Board of Education and the educational staff employed by the Board will comply with the elements of due process. It will be the responsibility of the school principals to familiarize their staffs with the due process procedures and to provide each staff member and each student with a copy of this handbook.

This district handbook has been published with the following concepts in mind:

- 1. School rules must be clearly stated and related to the educational purposes of the school.*
- 2. School rules must be fair and specific enough for students to know what they may and may not do.*
- 3. Students, parents, and guardians must be informed of the rules affecting behavior and discipline.*
- 4. When disciplinary action is involved, school personnel and students must comply with required procedures.*

The consensus of the Conecuh County Board of Education is that the regulations in this handbook deal with a matter of legitimate interest with the intent of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of students and insuring the efficient operation of the schools.

RIGHT OF STUDENT APPEAL

Students and/or parent(s) have the right to appeal decisions of the school principal regarding disciplinary action that result in suspension (5 or more continuous days) or recommendation of placement in Genesis, or a recommendation for expulsion. The student and/or parent(s) desiring to appeal such decision shall, within three (3) school days of notification of disciplinary action by the principal, request in writing a hearing with the superintendent of education or his/her designee. The request shall include a written statement setting out the reasons for the discipline and the action taken by the principal. The appeal process does not postpone any disciplinary action taken by the school administrator.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall have three (3) school days following receipt of the written contact to hold a hearing on the matter. This hearing shall be attended by the student, parent(s) and school administrator(s). Both parties have the right to call witnesses and present evidence. The superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the student and parent(s) of his/her decision within three (3) school days following the hearing.

After receiving the decision of the superintendent or his/her designee, the student and/or parent(s) shall have five (5) school days in which to appeal the superintendent's decision to the School Board. The Board shall schedule a hearing on the appeal at the next regular Board meeting following receipt of the request. However, the Board may call a special meeting to hear such appeal if circumstances warrant. The Board shall have five (5) school days following the conclusion of the hearing in which to mail to the parent(s) notification of the action taken. The decision of the Board is final.

JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students enrolled in the Conecuh County School System are subjected to the policies of the Conecuh County Board of Education and to the rules and regulations of the schools. This authority applies to all school-sponsored activities including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

Transportation on school buses

Field trips

Club or organization meetings

School-sponsored events

School groups representing the school system in educational events

All school rules and regulations pertain to automobiles driven or parked on school property. Any motor vehicle parked on school property can be searched by school authorities if reasonable cause is given. School officials can have any vehicle towed from campus if the owner or student driver refuses to remove it from campus when requested.

ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND TARDY POLICY

The attendance supervisor is charged by the Board to determine appropriate sanctions to be taken against students and parents. The school attendance (truancy) officer will provide additional support to ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

TRUANCY (Unexcused Absence)

TRUANCY DEFINITION

(Alabama State Board of Education, 2004)

The parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child officially enrolled in Alabama public schools (K-12) shall explain in writing the cause of any and every absence of the child no later than three (3) school days following return to school. A maximum of three absences per semester will be excused per parent note(s). One parent note may cover a one day absence as well as absences for an illness/injury for up to 3 consecutive days. Beginning with the fourth absence, an excuse from a physician must be submitted or prior permission from the principal must be given in order for the absence(s) to be

excused. A failure to furnish such explanation shall be evidence of the child being truant each day he is absent. The child shall also be deemed truant for any absence determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual. Seven unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court. The Interagency Committee on Youth Truancy Task Force recommendations known as the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program timeline for reporting truancy were used to define the truancy status of students in the Conecuh County School System.

A suspension will be counted as an excused absence. Credit and/or passing to the next grade may be withheld from students with excessive absences. The principal/attendance committee will determine if credit will be denied based on excessive absences. If credit is denied or the student is retained as a result of excessive absences, the parent/guardian may appeal. Truant students will be managed according to the procedure outlined below:

1. FIRST TRUANCY (WARNING)

1. The teacher shall caution the student about truancy and subsequent action to be taken by the school and courts should truancy continue. The teacher shall contact the parent to inform of the unexcused absence.
2. Parent/guardian shall also be provided with a copy of Alabama's compulsory school attendance laws and advised of the penalties that can be applied and the procedures that shall be followed in the event that other unexcused absences occur.

2. SECOND TRUANCY (WARNING)

- a. Parents should receive written notification by the school attendance clerk and/or school principal that the student was truant and the days of the trancies.

3. THIRD TRUANCY (SCHOOL SYSTEM EARLY WARNING)

- a. Parent/guardian shall be notified by the school principal or his/her designee that the student was truant and the date of the truancy.
- b. The parent, guardian, or person having control of the child shall attend a conference with the administrator that serves as the early warning program provided by the Conecuh County School System.

4. FOURTH TRUANCY (WARNING, HOME VISIT)

- a. Parent/guardian shall be notified by the school principal or his/her designee that the student was truant and the date of the truancy.
- b. The building principal will inform the attendance supervisor about the truancy, and the attendance supervisor will inform the truancy officer to conduct a home visit to the student's home. The truancy officer will document visit using an official school form that records pertinent information related to truancy.

5. FIFTH TRUANCY (EARLY WARNING CONFERENCE)

- a. The parent, guardian, or person having control of the child shall (1) attend a conference with the attendance supervisor or attendance officer, and principal or his/her designee and/or (2) participate in the early warning program provided by the juvenile court.
- b. Attendance at one of these conferences shall be mandatory except where prior arrangements have been made or an emergency exists.
- c. Failure to appear at the school conference and/or to appear at the early warning program shall result in the filing of a complaint/petition against the parent under Code of Alabama (1975), §16- 28-12(c) (failure to cooperate), or a truancy against the child, whichever is appropriate.

6. SIXTH TRUANCY

- a. The parent, guardian, or person having control of the child shall attend a conference with the attendance officer and administrator.
- b. Student will be assigned to detention to make-up absence and all missed work. Failure to report to detention will result in an assignment to additional detention time.

7. SEVENTH TRUANCY (COURT)

- a. The attendance officer or hearing office will file a complaint/petition against the child and/or parent/guardian, if appropriate.
- b. Student will be assigned to detention to make-up absence and all missed work. Failure to report to detention will result in an assignment to additional detention time.

8. EIGHTH TRUANCY AND ALL SUBSEQUENT ABSENCES

- a. The attendance officer or hearing office will file a complaint/petition against the child and/or parent/guardian, if appropriate.
- b. Student will be assigned to detention to make-up absence and all missed work. Failure to report to detention will result in an assignment to additional detention time.

DETENTION

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to assign students to a designated area at the beginning/end of the regular school day or during break for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent is responsible for providing transportation in these cases.

A reasonable attempt will be made to notify elementary and middle school parent(s) prior to the assignment of a student to detention. High school students will be notified prior to detention and will be responsible for parental notification. Detention shall be limited to sixty (60) minutes per day.

CHILD UNDER PROBATION

a. The school attendance officer should be notified by the juvenile probation officer of all children in the school system under probation supervision by the juvenile court as consistent with state statute, Code of Alabama (1975), §12-15-100 and 105.

b. Where a child under probation is truant, the school attendance officer should immediately notify the juvenile probation officer.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES

Unexcused tardies will be treated as a Class I offense. However, they can be treated as a higher class violation if more than two.

STUDENT CONDUCT

All students of the Conecuh County School System are charged with the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to good citizenship. Student conduct shall be founded on the basic concept of respect and consideration for the rights of others.

The Code of Conduct is in effect during the time a student is transported under the sponsorship of the school system, during the time that he/she is attending school, or is a participant in a school sponsored event. The pupil shall be under the control and supervision of the principal or the teacher in charge of the school or any other member of the instructional staff and/or the bus driver as assigned. Reasonable attempts will be made by administration to contact a parent/guardian before the pupil is removed from a school-sponsored activity, after school hours, due to unacceptable behavior.

This Code of Student Conduct is applicable to special education students except as amended by a child's IEP or other applicable rules and regulations under federal or state law.

FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES DETENTION

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to assign students to a designated area at the beginning/end of the regular school day or during break for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent is responsible for providing transportation in these cases.

A reasonable attempt will be made to notify elementary and middle school parent(s) prior to the assignment of a student to detention. High school students will be notified prior to detention and will be responsible for parental notification. Detention shall be limited to sixty (60) minutes per day.

SCHOOL BUS SUSPENSION

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student, will be for a specified period of time. The parent(s) will be notified of the suspension from the bus.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Board shall allow reasonable corporal punishment only after other means of discipline have failed to produce desirable results. If corporal punishment is required, it shall be administered only by a certified employee (principal or his/her designee) in the presence of another school certified employee, who has been informed beforehand of the reason(s) for the punishment. At no time shall corporal punishment be administered in the presence of another student or an open area. Parents who object to corporal punishment as a method of discipline shall advise the school administrator in writing of the objection; however, the school administrator has the authority to determine appropriate discipline [Alabama Code Section 16-28A-1: U.S. Constitutional case law as supported by *Ingram v Wright* (1977) authorizes the use of corporal punishment by school officials]. In those schools without assistant principals, the principal shall appoint a designee(s) who may administer/witness such punishment in his/her absence.

In administering corporal punishment, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:

1. The employee will use a Board issued paddle.
2. The administrator administering the corporal punishment must attempt to make telephone contact with the child's parent/guardian in advance of administering the corporal punishment.
3. The principal or his/her designee will provide the following in advance of administering corporal punishment:

a) Notice of charges

b) An opportunity for the student to explain guilt/innocence

c) Notice of the number of licks to be administered (at no time more than three (3))

All corporal punishment will be administered only by a school administrator and will be witnessed by a certified employee. All corporal punishment events will be recorded into INOW. Once corporal punishment has been administered, the child's parents or legal guardians shall be provided a written explanation from the school administration including the reason(s) for the punishment, number of licks, and the names of all the school personnel and their role in the administration of corporal punishment.

SUSPENSION

Suspension is defined as the temporary removal of a student from school. Students who are suspended may not attend or participate in school related activities until reinstated on the day following the suspension. The authority to suspend a student from school rests entirely with the principal/designee of each school. Each suspension should be for a specified number of school days, not to exceed ten (10) consecutive school days. Any deviation from said pattern would require authorization from the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. Tests and assignments missed due to suspension shall be made up within 5 school days. It is the responsibility of the student to get assignments and request to make up tests.

Suspended students will be prohibited from being present on any public school premises that is owned and operated by the Conecuh County Board of Education. Upon completion of suspension, parents will be required to accompany student back to school the first day for an intake conference with the administration. If parent does not accompany student back to school on the first day after the completion of suspension, student will be placed in ISSP until parent is contacted.

GUIDELINE FOR SUSPENSIONS

Suspension should be one of the last disciplinary actions used if possible. Suspension should be progressive in nature and not punitive. Therefore, when the disciplinary action of suspension is utilized by a school administrator for a student, the following guideline shall be used:

First Suspension - not more than 3 days Second

Suspension - not more than 5 days Third Suspension –

not more than 8 days Fourth Suspension - not more than

10 days

NOTE: The administrator may have to deviate from guideline due to the nature and/or severity of incident that prompted the disciplinary action of suspension.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from a school for violation of school rules or regulations. The authority to permanently expel a student is retained by the Board of Education, which alone can approve such an action. A student who is expelled loses the privilege to attend extracurricular activities.

Prior to re-admittance, any student expelled from school must have a conference with the superintendent and principal. Any expelled student will be placed on probation for one semester upon his/her return to school. Parents are expected to attend the above-mentioned conference.

PROBATION

Any student placed on probation by the Superintendent or his or her designee is subject to expulsion for any violation of the Code of Conduct.

IN-SCHOOL STUDY PROGRAM

In-School Study Program (ISSP) is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated, but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal or designee has the authority to assign students to the in-school study program for a reasonable and specified period of time. Students will not participate in school related after school activities.

Students should not be assigned any more than five (5) consecutive days to the In-School Study Program (ISSP).

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM - GENESIS

Purpose: The purpose of the Genesis Program is to provide an education option. Students in grades K-5 will not be assigned to the Genesis Program except in extreme cases as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Principals will make recommendations for Genesis Program placement to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee will determine whether or not student will receive placement in Genesis and the length of assignment. The length of assignment will be determined by the offense. Students will be assigned a minimum of 20 instructional days or a maximum up to 45 instructional days—with the exception of extreme circumstances that are approved by the Conecuh County Board of Education.

When a student is assigned to Genesis Program due to discipline, participation in and attendance at any Conecuh County Schools related activity outside of the Genesis Program setting is prohibited, unless otherwise directed by the State Board of Education. Failure to abide by Genesis Program rules or the Code of Conduct may result in suspension and/or filing of Act 94.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS - NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

ON-CAMPUS INCIDENTS

Students who are involved in a major school disruption will be guilty of a Class IV offense. The school administrator will take appropriate disciplinary action. The student will also be referred to the appropriate legal authority. Notification of law enforcement authorities means notification of Juvenile Court Services, the Conecuh County Sheriff's Department, Resource Officer, and/or local police officials. All interrogations shall be conducted in private, with an official school representative (principal or designated representative) present. Every reasonable effort shall be made to have a parent or guardian present. In those instances where a parent cannot be present within a reasonable period, school officials must allow interviews by law enforcement officials to proceed. Other non-school persons shall not interview students at school with the exception of parents or guardians or representatives of the Department of Human Resources.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENTS

Law enforcement officials will not be allowed to interrogate students on public school property during regular school hours.

STUDENTS EXPELLED OR SUSPENDED FROM OTHER SYSTEMS

A prospective student who has been expelled from another school system or who has been suspended from another school system without a satisfactory resolution of the problem for which the student was expelled or suspended shall not be permitted to register in or attend the Conecuh County Schools.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

The principal or his/her designee shall have the authority to use physical force to restrain a student from abusing or attempting to abuse himself, other students, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or other staff members. Physical restraint shall be used only when necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce school rules, and must be accomplished in a reasonable manner and only in order to protect all parties involved. Law enforcement officials may be called to assist when necessary.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Code of Conduct are divided into four classes: Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV. Each classification has a disciplinary procedure to be followed by the principal or his/her designee.

Each student will be provided with due process before any disciplinary action is taken.

CLASS I OFFENSES

- A.** Distraction of other students with any behavior which alters the teaching process in the classroom or in other educational activities
- B.** Eating or drinking in unauthorized areas
- C.** School property misuse or abuse
- D.** Misuse of lunch numbers
- E.** Littering of school property
- F.** Possession of radios, tape players, electronic games, entertainment devices, without prior administrative approval
- G.** Possession of cards, dice, and any other gambling devices or paraphernalia in school buildings, on school grounds or on school buses
- H.** Sitting in or loitering around parked vehicles after arriving at school
- I.** Inappropriate behavior
- J.** Inappropriate display of affection – including embracing and kissing
- K.** Minor disruption on a school bus
- L.** Non-conformity to dress code
- M.** Unexcused tardies to school or class (no more than 2).
- N.** Failure to follow instructions
- O.** Horseplaying – tussling
- P.** Violation of Internet Ethical Use Policy
- Q.** Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS I OFFENSES

All Class I offenses that occur in the classroom will be handled by the classroom teacher according to the teacher's approved classroom management plan. Subsequent Class I offenses that occurs in the classroom may be referred to the administrator and may be addressed as Class II offenses.

The administrator will handle offenses occurring outside the classroom. The following disciplinary actions are available to the administration:

- Student Conference
- Suspension from Bus
- Suspension (no more than 3 days)
- Parent Contact
- Detention
- Corporal Punishment
- Parent Conference
- Referral to Counselor
- ISSP (no more than 3 days)

CLASS II OFFENSES

- A.** *Illegal organizations - any attempt to use the school day for activities that are not school related or school sponsored*
- B.** *Gambling -any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value*
- C.** *Defiance and/or disrespect of School Board employee's authority - any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with a lawful and reasonable directive of a School Board employee*
- D.** *Instigating fights or arguments by carrying written or verbal messages*
- E.** *Verbal confrontation (excessive arguing) or verbal harassment*
- F.** *Possession fireworks or firecrackers*
- G.** *Use of obscene or inappropriate language*
- H.** *Use of obscene or inappropriate behavior (verbal, written, gesture, touching)*
- I.** *Failure to follow class schedules and/or leaving class without written permission*
- J.** *Refusal to give name or intentionally giving false information to an authorized person*
- K.** *Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will*
- L.** *result in disciplinary action*
- M.** *appropriate to the offense*
- N.** *Subsequent (2 or more) Class I offenses*
- O.** *Possession of electronic communication devices during the instructional day*

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS II OFFENSES

Elementary Students (K-5)

First Offense: Parental contact and disciplinary action.

Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 2 school days, corporal punishment and/or other disciplinary action as determined appropriate by the administrator. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

Middle School and High School Students (6-12)

First Offense could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP (up to 5 days), Alternative Program placement (Genesis), suspension for 1-5 school days or detention. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

CLASS III OFFENSES

- A.** *Vandalism - intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$50.00 to public property or the real or personal property of another*
- B.** *Stealing, larceny, petty theft - the intentional unlawful taking, or carrying away of property valued at less than*
- C.** *\$.25.00 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another*
- D.** *Receipt, possession, or transfer of stolen property with the knowledge or reasonable suspicion that it is stolen*
- E.** *Intentional action or threats - verbal or printed communication threatening or causing an injury to the person, property or reputation of another*
- F.** *Extortion - verbal or printed communication threatening an injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or take advantage of any person or to force one to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will*
- G.** *Trespassing - willfully entering or remaining on any school property without being authorized, licensed or invited; or after having been authorized licensed or invited, refusing to depart when requested to so do by an authorized person*
- H.** *Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system or fire extinguisher*
- I.** *Written or verbal proposition to engage in sexual acts.*
- J.** *Use or possession of obscene and/or pornographic materials*
- K.** *Use of beepers, pagers, and/or cellular phones in school buildings or on school buses without prior administrative approval.*
- L.** *Gross abuse or misuse of computers, programs, or equipment*
- M.** *Fighting*
- N.** *Possession and/or use of tobacco products, to include matches or lighters, in school buildings or on school buses - possession on the person, in the locker, or in the effects of a student*
- O.** *Leaving campus without written permission*
- P.** *Igniting fireworks or firecrackers on school property (including bus).*
- Q.** *Harassment – intent to harass, annoy, intimidate, or alarm another person, either socially, physically, or emotionally.*

R. Cyber bullying

S. Subsequent (2 or more) Class II offenses

T. Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS III OFFENSES

Elementary Students (K-5)

First Offense: Parental contact and could include the following: corporal punishment, detention or suspension for up to ten (10) school days.

Subsequent Offenses: Suspension and/or other disciplinary action.

Middle School and High School Students (6-12)

First Offense could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP, extended work assignments, detention, Alternative Program (Genesis), or suspension for up to ten (10) school days.

Subsequent Offenses could result in one of the following: Corporal punishment, ISSP (if available), suspension up to ten (10) school days, detention, or Alternative Program placement. Special circumstances may warrant a recommendation for a disciplinary hearing with the superintendent or his/her designee. Students suspended for Class III offenses may not participate in or attend any school-related activities until reinstated on the day following the suspension.

Class III offenses, when warranted or legally required, shall be reported to the designated law enforcement agency using the appropriate administrative procedures.

CLASS IV OFFENSES

A. Drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcoholic beverages - unauthorized possession and/or use of, transfer or sale of same

B. Arson - the willful and malicious burning of any School Board property or the personal property of anyone on School Board property

C. Battery upon a School Board employee - the intentional touching or striking of a School Board employee against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a School Board employee

D. Robbery - the taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault, or by instilling the fear of same

E. Burglary of school property - entering or remaining in a structure or on the premises with the intent to commit an offense

F. Criminal mischief - willful and malicious damage in excess of \$50.00 to public property or to real or personal property belonging to another

G. Theft - the intentional unlawful taking or carrying away of property valued in excess of \$25.00 belonging to or in the possession or custody of another

H. Possession of firearms - any firearm or other device (including a starter gun) which may be readily converted to expel a projectile

I. Unauthorized discharge of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, or any device capable of expelling a projectile

J. Possession and/or use of ammunition, weapon or replica of a weapon - box cutter, knife, metallic knuckles, tear gas guns, chemical weapon or device, or any other weapon, instrument, or dangerous object on any school property

K. Bomb or other threats - any communication which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment

L. Explosions - possessing, preparing or igniting on School Board property explosives likely to cause bodily injury, property damage, or interrupt the educational environment

M. Sexual acts - acts of a sexual nature including, but not limited to sexual battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape to include videotaping, photographing or any form of participation in said act.

N. Aggravated battery - intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability or permanent disfigurement, or the use of a deadly weapon

O. Inciting or participating in a major student disorder - leading, encouraging or assisting in major disruptions which result in destruction or damage of private or public property, or personal injury to participants or others, or which disrupts the school environment

P. Indecent exposure - exposing a part of one's anatomy that is offensive to others, i.e., exposure of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks

Q. Subsequent (two or more) Class III offenses

R. Directing threats or obscene language or behavior (verbal, written or gesture) to a School Board employee

S. Habitual Offender - a student who commits five Class II or III offenses in any combination (does not include dress code violations or tardies)

- T.** Any other offense that the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this class/category will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS IV OFFENSES

All Students, Grades K-12

Class IV offenses, when warranted or legally required, shall be reported to the designated law enforcement agency by the principal. Parents will be notified and students in grades K-12 may be suspended pending final determination of the facts by the principal. A student committing a Class IV offense may be placed in the Alternative Program (Genesis) or a recommendation for expulsion may be submitted to the superintendent. In cases of an appeal, Alternative Program placement or suspension will continue until all appeals are complete.

CHEATING

Cheating on a test or other assignment will result in a grade of zero. The parent/guardian will be notified about the infraction.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

1. K-12 students may not leave campus unless checked out in person by a parent or designated person.
2. Parents may identify two or three other responsible adults to whom permission is given to check their child out of school. A picture ID must be presented by these individuals when checking out the child. Names and phone numbers of these individuals will be maintained at school. Teachers and school board employees may not be designated by another parent to check a child out and to transport the child home during the instructional day.

CAREER/TECHNICAL STUDENTS

Career/Technical students who have work experience as part of their program will not be permitted to work when on suspension. The School to Work Teacher/Coordinator is responsible for notifying the employer that the student will not be permitted to work.

SEARCH OF SCHOOL OWNED PROPERTY

Desks, lockers, and other equipment at any school belong to the Board of Education, and although assigned to particular students for use, may be entered and searched by school officials whenever the school officials have reasonable belief that some substance or other material is contained therein which is illegal, harmful to the safety of the student, himself or the student body as a whole, or significantly disruptive of or dangerous to the overall discipline of the school.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabled students served by Conecuh County Board of Education Special Education Services are entitled to procedural protection under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

If disciplinary action results in long-term change (more than 10 days in a school year) in a disabled student's current educational program or placement, due process is required through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team action.

Students with disabilities who bring firearms to school may be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 calendar days, as determined by the IEP team. The Gun-Free School Act applies to students with disabilities.

Students with identified disability conditions under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may be suspended or expelled from school for more than ten days. Educational services may cease during the period of disciplinary exclusion from school. The school system will develop a Section 504 Plan for students as determined eligible by the Section 504 committee.

Prior to any long-term change in a disabled student's educational program or placement, the coordinator of Special Education Services for Conecuh County Schools must be informed.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION RULES

General Transportation Policies

- A.** Students will be transported by school bus only to and from the school normally served by that bus, or to those areas that have been designated by the Conecuh County Board of Education as a part of the school community of that school.
- B.** The Conecuh County Board of Education will not duplicate any part of a school bus route.
- C.** Only students, chaperones, or others designated by the principal or superintendent will be permitted to ride school buses. School employees shall not be transported to and from work.
- D.** Students will not be permitted to ride a school bus to a school where they are not enrolled unless prior permission to do so has been granted by the school principals involved and the bus driver has been officially informed in advance.
- E.** Each school principal will ensure that the teachers in his/her school instruct all students who are transported by school bus on proper and acceptable behavior while being transported.
- F.** If actions of a student immediately before or during transportation jeopardize the safety of others or unduly disrupt other students, the bus driver is authorized to refuse to allow the student to board the bus, or if such student misconduct occurs in transit, the bus driver may stop the bus at the next safe, public place and notify the principal or transportation supervisor. The principal or transportation supervisor shall immediately notify the parents and, if

applicable, the appropriate law enforcement authorities. The driver shall remain with the student until appropriate authorities arrive.

G. Students with disabilities will be accorded due process as provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Student-Parent Responsibility in School Transportation

A. Students are under the authority of the principal of the school they attend. The driver of the bus is responsible to the school principals for the behavior of students on the buses. The driver must, therefore, prohibit students from:

a. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum on the bus

b. Throwing objects from the bus;

c. Exchanging seats while the bus is in motion;

d. Using tobacco in any form, striking matches or lighters, or possessing knives or other weapons and dangerous objects;

e. Extending heads, arms, or hands from bus windows;

f. Vulgar talk, loud noise, or shouting;

g. Defacing or damaging the bus in any manner;

h. Using emergency door except in emergencies; and exiting the bus at any place other than the regular stop for each student, except upon written notice from the appropriate school principal.

B. Students who destroy or damage school buses or equipment may be placed on immediate suspension from the bus and will be charged for the cost of replacement and/or repairs. Restitution must be made before permission can be granted for such students to again be transported by school bus. Parents/guardians are responsible for restitution.

C. Parents should encourage their children to know and obey all rules and regulations, and to respect the driver and the rights of others.

D. Students may be assigned specific seats if the driver or principal deems such action necessary.

E. Bus schedules must be strictly adhered to. The bus driver will not repeatedly wait on tardy students. Parents should insure that their children are at the designated bus stop on time each morning.

F. Students should avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in transit.

G. Students must meet the bus at the designated student pick-up point.

H. Students who live on the left side of the road shall remain on the left side of the road until the bus has come to a complete stop, the mechanical stop signal has been extended, and the door opened. When exiting the bus, students who live on the right should walk quickly away from the bus and off the street and students who live on the left or who must cross the road should walk to the front of the bus and wait until the driver signals for them to cross the road.

I. Parents should read and understand the policies, rules and regulations of the Conecuh County Board of Education, and are encouraged to respect and support the drivers and rights of others.

J. Parents should immediately report all incidents or evidence of carelessness or dangerous practices on the bus, on the highway, or on the part of drivers to the transportation supervisor.

K. In areas where the bus must turn around at a house, the turning area must be kept free of parked cars or other vehicles and other obstructions. Adequate space must be provided and landowners must insure that culverts, etc. are in good repair.

L. Students must obey the driver promptly and cheerfully.

M. Drivers shall not permit students to ride in any place other than the inside body of the bus.

N. Drivers shall not allow pupils to stand in the doorway or door well of the bus at any time other than when students are entering or leaving the bus.

O. Once a student has been assigned to a specific school bus, he/she shall continue to be transported to and from school on that bus until the transportation supervisor or principal approves a change.

P. The Board of Education reserves the right to assign students to a bus in order to equalize the loads.

Q. A student whose right to bus transportation has been terminated may not ride any Conecuh County school bus until his/her right to so do has been reinstated.

R. While waiting for or exiting the bus, students should not stand on the roadway, crowd or push to get on or off the bus, and must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the bus to board or the bus door to exit.

S. Students entering the bus should be seated as soon as possible and shall not change seats while the bus is in motion. Students should not place anything in the aisles and should be courteous and responsible passengers at all times.

T. Riding the school bus is a privilege, which may be revoked due to a student's misbehavior.

Private Transportation Rules

- A.** Students driving a motorized vehicle (including motorcycles) on school campus must show proof of liability insurance and a valid driver's license.
- B.** A copy of liability insurance and driver's license must be kept on file in the principal's office or designated site.
- C.** Students that drive a motorized vehicle to school must park the vehicle in the designated school parking lot.
- D.** Students, upon parking their vehicle, must exit that vehicle and lock it immediately. Students must then proceed to their classroom/designated area. No students are to assemble in the parking lot.
- E.** Schools that require a student to purchase a parking sticker will establish their own policies regarding this matter.
- F.** Students may not return to their vehicles during the school day. If a student has a legitimate reason to return to the vehicle, he/she must have administrative approval.
- G.** The principal has the authority to revoke the privilege of driving a vehicle to the school.
- H.** All vehicles on school property are subject to being searched if reasonable suspicion exists that a policy is being violated.
- I.** Students must obey all traffic laws when operating a motorized vehicle.
- J.** A student that checks out during the day or when students leave at the end of the school day must immediately leave campus.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips for academic enrichment may be offered as part of the curriculum. Schools will notify parents/guardians if a field trip is being planned. Schools will adhere to deadlines given for turning in permission forms and/or money to participate on a field trip. Refunds will be given only if stated by teacher/sponsor on the field trip form. If a parent transports his/her child on a field trip, the Release to Transport Student by Private Vehicle form must be signed by the parent/guardian and filed in the school office.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE POLICY

We take pride in the appearance of our students. Dress reflects the quality of our schools. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems, draw undue attention or cause disruptions. All students are expected to dress in clothing that has been approved by the Conecuh County Board of Education and groom themselves neatly. The specification of uniform will be detailed in each individual school handbook. The school administration will be responsible for implementing procedures at the beginning of the school day to identify any student that are in violation of the uniform dress code policy. Some general rules and specifications are listed below in reference to dress code.

General

- A.** All pants and bottoms worn by both male and females must be worn up around the waist at all times. (Absolutely no sagging.)
- B.** All clothing must be of appropriate size and fit neatly – no bagging clothes.
- C.** Uniforms are to be worn at all school sponsored events except athletics, band concerts, dances, and other events approved by principal.
- D.** Students who move into the school system shall be in compliance with the mandatory uniform specifications within five (5) school days of enrollment
- E.** The only days students will be allowed to be out of uniform are school picture days unless authorized by the principal.
- F.** The hem line of dresses, skirts, and shorts shall be not more than 4 inches from the floor when student is in a kneeling position. (This also applies to splits in skirts.)
- G.** All undergarments should be concealed at all times.
- H.** Back and midriff area should not be exposed at any time.
- I.** Headgear (caps, hats, headbands, etc.) are not permitted to be worn inside buildings. Headgear may be worn correctly outside school buildings.
- J.** Bandanas (handkerchiefs) worn in any fashion are not permitted.
- K.** Tattoos with suggestive words, statements, or pictures are inappropriate and should not be visible at any time.
- L.** Picks or other sharp objects in hair are prohibited.
- M.** Jewelry or accessories that could be distracting or hazardous to the health and safety of students as determined by the administration.
- N.** Mouthpieces or mouth apparatus unless prescribed by Medical Doctors or Dentist.

Principals and/or his designees shall be the final authority in the school to determine if an article of dress is inappropriate because of the following reasons:

- A.** The article of dress is inappropriate because it is a safety hazard to the student wearing it or the safety and well being of other students.
- B.** The article of dress is inappropriate because it can conceal weapons or other dangerous objects.
- C.** The article of dress is inappropriate because it can be disruptive in any way to the learning environment of the school.

Procedure for K-12 Dress Code Violations

School system personnel will evaluate compliance with dress code. If questions exist related to appropriateness of dress, the principal or designee will make the final judgment.

First Offense:

Parental contact and student removed from classroom or student population to office until parents contacted or ISSP all day if necessary)

Subsequent Offenses:

Isolation (student removed from classroom to office until parents contacted or ISSP all day if necessary) pending parental notifications, suspension for 1-5 days and/or other disciplinary action. Subsequent Class II offenses may be handled as Class III offenses.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Students will not be allowed to have electronic communication devices in their possession during the instructional day unless they have prior permission from the administration or teacher. If teachers want students to use cell phones for instructional purposes, he/she must have prior permission from principal. Storage of electronic communication devices while at school is limited to school lockers and vehicles parked on school property. A student who possesses an electronic communication device shall assume responsibility for preventing theft, loss or damage to such devices brought onto school property.

USE OF A DIGITAL DEVICE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A SECURE TEST

Student Policy

The possession of a digital device (including but not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing and relaying information) is strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test. If a student is observed in possession of a digital device during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated.

If a student is observed using a digital device during the administration of a secure test, testing for the student will cease, the device will be confiscated and is subject to search, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the student's test will be invalidated.

Local education agency (LEA) personnel will make all students, parents, and/or guardians aware of this prohibition through inclusion of this policy in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook and other regularly used modes of communication.

School Personnel Policy

School personnel involved in administration of state testing may not use digital devices (including but not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing and relaying information) during test administration. Violations may result in disciplinary action/certification revocation.

SCHOOL CONDUCT INTERVENTION PROGRAM (ACT 94)

In addition to the Early Warning Program, the school system is also required by law, Alabama Code 16-28-12, Act 94 (1975), to inform you of the following:

Section I. Section 16-28-12, Act 94, of the Code of Alabama, 1975, reads as follows:

"(A) Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or have him or her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, denominational school, or parochial school or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with a written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal teacher of the school he or she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section."

"(B) Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in accordance with a written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in the suspension of the pupil, shall be reported by the principal to

the superintendent of education of the school system in which the suspected violation occurred. The superintendent of education or his or her designee shall report such suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days. Any principal or superintendent of education or his or her designee intentionally failing to report such a suspected violation shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. The district attorney shall vigorously enforce this section to ensure proper conduct and required attendance by any child enrolled in public school.”

Parental responsibilities required in Section 16-28-12, Act 94, are as follows:

1. To enroll their child" - "Every child between the ages of six and seventeen years shall be required to attend school -"
2. "To regularly attend school"- Attendance requirements, as set forth in the Early Warning Program, will be followed to ensure regular attendance.
3. "To compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself in accordance with written policies on school behavior"

TECHNOLOGY/INTERNET USE AND ETHICS CODE

The purpose of technology and the Internet in Conecuh County Schools is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. Use of technology or the Internet, including e-mail, must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives and within the guidelines of the approved curriculum of the Board of Education.

It is the policy of the Conecuh County Board of Education to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]. Definitions: Key terms are as defined in the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Technology Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Conecuh County Board of Education online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. All use of computers, Internet, and e-mail programs are subject to monitoring by electronic means. Any device (regardless of ownership) suspected to be used inappropriately on school grounds is subject to immediate inspection in order to determine the contents and recent utilization of the device. The devices subject to inspection include, but are not limited to, laptops, handhelds, cell phones, gaming devices, calculators, or any other device that can be used to communicate electronically.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking’, and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

The following local regulations will also apply:

- A.** All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the purpose of the Conecuh County School System.
- B.** It is not permitted to create, send, or forward electronic chain letters.
- C.** Use of the Internet which results in any copyright violation is prohibited.
- D.** Use of the Internet to access or transmit materials likely to be considered obscene or pornographic is prohibited.
- E.** Hate mail, harassment, cyber bullying, discriminatory remarks, spam, and other antisocial communications using local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet is prohibited.
- F.** Personal information such as name, address, or telephone number should not be revealed on the Internet.
- G.** Use of the Internet for product advertisement, political lobbying, commercial, for profit, buy/sell/trade/order goods, or services, or illegal activity is prohibited. Fraudulent copying, communicating, or modifying of materials in violation of law is prohibited and will be referred to appropriate authorities.
- H.** Malicious use of technology or the Internet to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer system and or damage the software components of a computer or system is prohibited.
- I.** Installing, downloading or uploading of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media (including music and movies) is prohibited.
- J.** Technology or the Internet shall not be used to disrupt the work of others.

- K.** The hardware, software, or programs of the Conecuh County Board of Education shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
- L.** Hacking is prohibited. Use of technology, local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet to intentionally browse, see information about, obtain copies of, or modify files, passwords, or data belonging to other users is prohibited.
- M.** All encountered or observed problems in system or network security should be reported to an administrator in your building.

Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Conecuh County Board of Education staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children’s Internet protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Director or designated representatives.

Any person found to be in violation of this policy, applicable state and federal laws (including copyright laws), posted classroom rules, or other relevant Board of Education policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures as outlined in (a) for a Student, the Student Code of Conduct or (b) for an Employee, the Conecuh County Policy and Procedure Manuals. Violators will also be subject to immediate revocation of Internet and/or computer privileges.

Pursuant to the State of Alabama law, any unauthorized access or attempted unauthorized access may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Education

Each year, School Administrators will ensure that students are being educated about proper online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyber bullying awareness, and response.

The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

- A.** OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
- B.** CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
- C.** HARMFUL TO MINORS. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
 - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - b. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- D.** SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

IT’S THE LAW

The Code of Conduct and related behavior and discipline policies adopted by the Conecuh County Board of Education will serve as guidelines for determining inappropriate behavior.

- A.** Inappropriate student conduct or behavior may result in suspension from school -
- B.** Suspensions will be reported to the Superintendent and District Attorney
- C.** On student's third or subsequent suspension from school, parent will be subject to prosecution by the District Attorney pursuant to Section 16-28-12, Act 94, of the Code of Alabama. A parent may be referred to the District Attorney's Office on a student's first or second suspension, if, in the opinion of the superintendent of education the offense committed by the student warrants such action.

In an effort to assure that parents are informed of their school-related responsibilities, the State Board of Education has mandated that parents receive notification which addresses civil liabilities and criminal penalties for violence and misbehavior by students on school property or against school employees.

It's The Law is provided to advise you of those school-related civil liabilities and criminal penalties. You are encouraged to read the document carefully and retain it for future reference.

Attendance and Conduct (Act 94-782; Alabama Code 16- 28-12)

Each parent/guardian or other person having control or custody of a child required to attend school who fails to require the child to enroll, to regularly attend school, or to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (may be fined up to \$100 and may be sentenced to hard labor for up to 90 days).

School Discipline (Alabama Code 16-28A-1)

Teachers are hereby given the authority and responsibility to use appropriate means of discipline up to and including

corporal punishment as may be prescribed by the local board of education. So long as teachers follow approved policy in the exercise of their responsibility to maintain discipline in their classroom, such teacher shall be immune from civil or criminal liability.

Teacher Assault (Act 94-794; Alabama Code 16-124)

A person commits the crime of assault in the second degree (Class C felony) if the person assaults with intent to cause serious physical injury to a teacher or to an employee of a public educational institution during or as a result of the performance of his or her duty.

Drug Dealing (Act 94-783; Alabama Code 6-5-72)

A person who unlawfully sells, furnishes, or gives a controlled substance to a minor may be liable for injury or damage or both suffered by a third person caused by or resulting from the use of the controlled substance by the minor, if the sale, furnishing, or giving of the controlled substance is the proximate cause of the injury or damage.

Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons, Physical Harm, or Threatened Physical Harm (Act 94-784; Alabama Code 16-1-24.2; Alabama Code 16-1-24.1)

The school principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when a person violates local board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened harm to a person. If any criminal charge is warranted, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. If that person is a student, the local school system shall immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing within 5 school days.

If a person is found to have violated a local board of education policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person or threatened physical harm to a person, the person may not be readmitted to the public schools until criminal charges, if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities and the person has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education as a condition for readmission.

Weapons in Schools (Act 94-817; Alabama Code 13-A-11-72)

No person shall knowingly with intent to do bodily harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school. Possession of a deadly weapon with the intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school or school bus is a class C felony. (Note: Deadly weapons include but are not limited to hand grenade, explosive or incendiary device; a pistol, rifle, or shotgun; or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or dagger; or any club, baton, billy-jack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.)

Possession of Weapons and Firearms by Students

It shall be a violation of Board policy for any student to have in his/her possession a firearm or weapon of any kind at any place in the school system during regular school hours or during any school function or activity.

This policy is to comply with Public Law 103-382, "Improving America's Schools Act of 1994", Part F, Section 14601, Gun-Free Requirement (Gun-Free Schools Act/GFSA). For the purposes of the GFSA, a "weapon" means a firearm as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

According to Section 921, the following are included within the definition:

- A.** any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive
- B.** the frame or receiver of any weapon described above
- C.** any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- D.** any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas
 - a.** bomb
 - b.** grenade
 - c.** rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces
 - d.** missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce
 - e.** fireworks/pyrotechnics of any class
 - f.** mine, or
 - g.** similar device
- E.** any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
- F.** any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled

In addition items forbidden shall include, but not be limited to the following: knives, openers, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, double/triple/quadruple rings which are attached or connected in such a fashion that they may be used as a weapon, any items which may be used as clubs, all sharp or pointed objects designed for use as a weapon, or any other weapon, instrument or object.

Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon as defined in this policy to school, or to have in his/her possession in a school system building, on school system property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or activity and found in violation of the policy will be:

- A.** Placed on immediate suspension from school.
- B.** Subject to a disciplinary hearing with final disciplinary action determined by the Board of Education.
- C.** Expulsion from the school system of no less than one calendar year; provided, however, that the Board of Education, in appropriate cases, may apply sanctions less severe than expulsion for one calendar year; and provided, further, that, in appropriate cases, such students may be expelled from the regular school setting and be provided educational services in an alternative education setting.

The school principal shall notify the superintendent or his/her designee of violations of this policy. Further the superintendent or his/her designee shall report suspected violations to the appropriate law enforcement authority, which may include city/town police, the Conecuh County sheriff, and the Conecuh County district attorney. In addition the school principal shall notify the parents of students who violate this policy. Any student determined by school authorities to have brought a weapon or firearm as defined above shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile court system.

Discipline of students with disabilities who violate this policy shall be administered on a case by case basis in accordance with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Possession of Weapons and Firearms by Parents/Guardians and Other Persons

Parents/guardians and other persons are prohibited from bringing firearms or other weapons on school system property at any time or to any school system function or activity. Items forbidden shall include, but not be limited to the following: any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive, the frame or receiver of any weapon described above, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, fireworks/pyrotechnics of any class, mine, or similar device), any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled, knives, openers, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, double/triple/quadruple rings which are attached or connected in such fashion that they may be used as a weapon, explosive devices including fireworks of any description, any items which may be used as clubs, all sharp or pointed objects designed for use as weapons, or any other weapon, instrument or object.

Authorized law enforcement personnel are excluded from provisions of this policy. Parents/guardians and other persons found in violation of this policy will be:

- A.** Placed on immediate suspension from visitation or attendance at any school, or school system function or activity.
- B.** Referred to appropriate law enforcement or criminal justice authorities.

Vandalism (Act 94-819; Alabama Code 6-5-380)

The parents, guardian, or other person having control of any minor under the age of 18 with whom the minor is living and who have custody of the minor shall be liable for the actual damages sustained to school property, plus the court costs, caused by intentional, willful or malicious act of the minor.

Pistol Possession/Driver's License (Act 94-820; Alabama Code 16-28-40)

Any person over the age of 14 who is convicted of the crime of possession of a pistol on the premises of a public school, or a public school bus, shall be denied issuance of a driver's license to operate a motor vehicle for 180 days from the date the person is eligible and applies for a permit or license. If a person over age 14 possesses a driver's license on the date of conviction, the driver's license will be suspended for 180 days.

Drop-Out/Driver's License (Act 94-820 which amended Act 93-368 as codified in section 16-28-40, Code of Alabama 1975; Alabama Code 16-28- 40 through 16-28-45)

The Department of Public Safety shall deny a driver's license or learner's permit to any person under 19 who is not enrolled or has not received a diploma or certificate of graduation. Exceptions are students who are enrolled in a GED program, are enrolled in a secondary school, are participating in an approved job training program, are gainfully employed, are a parent of a minor or unborn child, or are the sole source of transportation for the parent.

Charles "Chuck" Poland Act (Act 2013-347, §§1, 2.)

Trespass on a school bus in the first degree.

- A.** This section shall be known and may be cited as the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act.
- B.** A person commits the crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree if he or she is found guilty of doing any of the following:
 - a. Intentionally demolishing, destroying, defacing, injuring, burning, or damaging any public school bus.
 - b. Entering a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized school system official.
 - c. As an occupant of a public school bus, refusing to leave the bus on demand of the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or

other duly authorized school system official.

- d. Intentionally stopping, impeding, delaying, or detaining any public school bus being operated for public school purposes with the intent to commit a crime therein.
- C.** The crime of trespass on a school bus in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.
- D.** Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (b) do not apply to a child who is less than 12 years of age or to authorized school personnel who are boarding the school bus as a part of their job assignment

STUDENT HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY

Harassment, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited. No student shall engage in or be subjected 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.

1. 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 3 (b) below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
 - a. Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
 - b. Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
 - c. Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
 - d. Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
 - e. 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 Conecuh County School System.

2. 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 characteristics of the student.
- 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 one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim:
 - a. The student’s race;
 - b. The student’s sex;
 - c. The student’s religion;
 - d. The student’s national origin; or
 - e. The student’s disability;
- C.** The student’s physical/personal attributes.

3. 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.

4. Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures.

- A.** 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.

- B.** 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 principal's designee will undertake an immediate investigation of the complaint. The investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence and will be completed within twenty (20) working days, when practical. 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.
- C.** Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will result in the student 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.
- D.** If a threat of suicide by a student is reported, the principal or the principal's designee will inform the student's parent or guardian of the report.
- E.** 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, including publication on the Conecuh County Board of Education website.

The harassment reporting form is posted on the school system's website at www.conecuh.k12.al.us and copies are also available at each school's office.

GRADING SCALE (Numerical Basis for Grades)

1. The scale for determining nine weeks, semester, and the yearly grades for subjects is listed below.

Kindergarten GRADING SCALE	
E = Excellent (Grade equivalent to an A/B)	90 - 100
S = Satisfactory (Grade equivalent to an C)	80 - 89
N = Needs Improvement (Grade equivalent to an D)	70 - 79
U = Unsatisfactory (Grade equivalent to an F)	0 - 69

1 st -12th Grade GRADING SCALE	
A = Excellent/Exceeds Standard	90 - 100
B = Good/Meets Standards	80 - 89
C = Satisfactory/Partially Meets Standards	70 - 79
D = Needs Improvement/Meets Few Standards	60 – 69
F = Unsatisfactory/Failure	0-59

- The maximum number of points allowed for grading purposes is one hundred (100). INOW will not accept grades over 100. "I" (Incomplete) is not to be inserted in lieu of a grade.
- The numerical scale for the quarter grade, semester grade, and yearly grade shall determine the values assigned for learning activities (reports, projects, portfolios, and other criterion-based assignments).
- In averaging grades, any fractional part .5 (1/2) or over will be rounded up to the next whole number (examples: 90.5 = 91; 81.6 = 82; 59.51 = 60).
- The determination of passing or failing a subject is made by converting the letter grades and getting the average of the quarter grades and semester exam. If the average is below 60, the subject is failed.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

- A. EXCUSED ABSENCES-** When a student returns to school after an excused absence, he/she has three (3) days or the number of days equal to the number of days of consecutive absences; whichever is greater, following the student's return to class to make up missed work without penalty. It shall be the responsibility of the student or the student's parents, guardians, or custodian to arrange with teacher to make up work. Make-up work shall be permitted only when written excuses from parents, guardians, or legal custodian have been received in accordance with this policy.
- B. SUSPENSIONS/UNEXCUSED ABSENCES-** Students will not be allowed to make-up work given on days where an unexcused absence or suspension is marked in the gradebook. A grade of zero for graded assignments completed during the suspension(s) and/or unexcused absence(s). If a suspension is modified or reversed through the suspension appeal process, related absences will be excused and the student will receive make-up work for those excused days.
- C.** Any student in grades 1-8 who has accumulated more than ten (10) combined unexcused absences and suspensions per year MAY BE RETAINED.
- D.** Any student in grades 9-12 who has accumulated more than five (5) combined unexcused absences and suspensions per semester per semester course MAY BE DENIED CREDIT FOR THAT COURSE.

EVIDENCE OF GRADES AND INTERVENTION

- A.** The teacher must always be able to provide evidence (graded materials) to justify a grade given on an assignment for a quarter period, semester, or year.
- B.** The teacher must document that a review of the student's performance and formal intervention have been completed for any student failing a core content course. The documentation of the review and intervention should take place throughout the grading period.

GRADING CRITERIA

- A.** Grades must be determined on the basis of several factors (projects, class assignments, activities, etc.) rather than one source such as a test.
- B.** Nine weeks grades will be determined by the following scale: **60% MAJOR GRADES** and **40% MINOR GRADES**. End of the Quarter Assessments may be calculated based on 20% of the Final Quarter Average.

- C.** A minimum of **4 DIFFERENT MAJOR GRADES** and **7 DIFFERENT MINOR GRADES** shall be administered during a grading period to give an overall indication of the student’s performance.
- ALL major grades and minor grades **MUST** be academic in nature and be directly related to the Alabama Course of Study Content Standards currently being taught.
 - Major grades can be defined as: tests, projects, essays, research papers, etc.
 - Minor grades are defined as: daily classroom assignments such as progress monitoring, quizzes, checklists, homework, observations, etc. However, with no more than 5% coming from homework.
 - The following **CANNOT** count as major or minor grades: participation grades, turning in an assignment, viewing a video, good behavior, etc.
 - A minimum of 2 different major and 3 different minor grades must be administered by the middle of the nine week grading period (4th nine weeks).
 - The number of minor grades **MUST EXCEED** the number of major grades.
 - All grades will be calculated in INOW using the Category Average Method.
 - Major grades must be placed in INOW no more than 7 days (weekdays) after the assignment is received. Minor Grades must be placed in INOW no more than 5 days (weekdays) after the assignment is received. This will be monitored by both school administrators and central office personnel.
- D.** If a student turns in an assignment after its due date, teachers may deduct up to 11 penalty points per day past the due date.
- E. CONDUCT (ELEMENTARY ONLY)**- Conduct is **not** to be considered in determining academic grades. Each teacher is to evaluate students on conduct. Letter grades are used to evaluate conduct. Teachers may give effort remarks using the comment codes in INOW.
- F. WEIGHTED GRADES (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)**- Grading in Advanced Placement (AP)/Dual Enrollment courses is the same as in all other courses. Grades, however, are to be weighted for purposes of honor roll, eligibility for honor clubs, rank in class, and GPA. That is, for example, A is to be one (1) point higher than a regular A; B is to be weighted as A; C is to be weighted as B; D is to be weighted as C; “Fs” are not to be weighted. A student who is enrolled in an AP course must complete the entire scope and sequence of the course to fulfill requirements for graduation. Grading in Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)/Honors courses is the same as in all other courses. Grades, however, are to be weighted an additional one-half point (.5) for purposes of honor roll, eligibility for honor clubs, rank in class, and GPA. “F’s” are not to be weighted. A student who is enrolled in a Pre-AP course must complete the entire scope and sequence of the course to fulfill the requirements.
- G. NINE WEEKS EXAM EXEMPTION (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)**
- Any senior whose class average is at least 80 (B) when the nine weeks grades are averaged **and** class attendance is five (5) or fewer combined excused or unexcused absences, check-ins, tardies, and/or check-outs may be exempt from the nine weeks examination.
 - Any junior whose class average is at least 90 (A) when the nine weeks grades are averaged **and** class attendance is five (5) or fewer combined excused or unexcused absences, check-ins, tardies, and/or check-outs may be exempt from the semester examination.
 - There will be **NO** exemptions for freshmen and sophomores.
 - Students who miss a class while participating in a principal-authorized activity on or off the campus will not be considered absent for exemption purposes. No more than two authorized university visits shall be considered within the exemption.
- H.** Weekly grades entered in INOW, Mid-Nine Weeks Progress Reports and Nine Week Report Card grades will be monitored by both school administrators and central office personnel to prevent and address high failure rates.
- I.** The teacher will have the numerical average and letter grade in the grade book, scholarship records, and/or section reports for academic work for quarter periods.
- J.** The numerical average and letter grade for each quarter period will be recorded on report cards.
- K.** Teachers will retain student graded papers for the documentation of grades earned during a given year and will keep these papers until report cards are distributed after the first semester of the following year. Student records must be readily available to school and district administrators throughout the school year including summer months.
- L.** A student will not participate in classes offered for remediation/intervention during the school day if he/she is required to miss regular classroom instruction in any core subjects.

PROGRESS REPORTS, REPORT CARDS, TRANSCRIPTS

- The numerical average and letter grade will be recorded on Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Transcripts.
- 100 is the highest numerical grade that will be recorded on Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Transcripts. The numerical average and letter grade for each quarter period will be recorded on the report cards.
- Progress Reports generated by INOW will be provided to parents at the midpoint (4th nine weeks) of each grading period for **all** students. Report Cards generated by INOW will be provided to parents at the end of each grading period for **all** students. These reports should be signed by the parents and returned to the school.

- D.** Principals will devise a method of documenting the student/parent's receipt of report cards.
- E.** Grades on Report Cards or Transcripts will not be changed without written authorization from the principal.
- F.** Once grade posting is complete for any quarter/semester, grade changes must be made through the office of Curriculum & Instruction. The principal will submit documentation for any post-quarter grade changes to the Office of Curriculum & Instruction.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Kindergarten

The decision to promote or retain a kindergarten student will be made in the best interest of the student after careful evaluation of all available factors. School personnel will invite parents to be a part of the discussion relating to the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives. In determining the retention or promotion of a kindergarten student, school personnel will consider the student's academic achievement, age, and social and emotional maturity. The final decision on retention will be determined on the basis of which grade provides the student the better probability of success in his educational development and parent agreement.

Elementary (Grades 1-2 and 3-5)

- A.** A student in grades 1-2 must pass (60% and above) reading and math for the year to be promoted to the next grade.
- B.** A student in grades 3-5 must pass (60% and above) English-Language Arts, reading, mathematics and science or social studies to be promoted to the next grade level.
- C.** Any student in grades 1-5 who has accumulated **more than ten (10) combined unexcused absences and suspensions per year MAY BE RETAINED.**
- D.** Promotion for a student who is under a 504 plan, an Individualized English Language Plan, or an Individualized Education Program may be determined by a committee.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- A.** A student in grades 6-8 must pass (60% and above) English-Language Arts, mathematics and science or social studies to be promoted to the next grade level.
- B.** Any student in grades 6-8 who has accumulated **more than ten (10) combined unexcused absences and suspensions per year MAY BE RETAINED.**

High School 9th-12th Grade

- A.** Students must earn a minimum semester average of 60% in each of the required and elective Carnegie Unit courses.
- B.** Carnegie unit credit will be based on a per semester basis with each semester standing alone.
- C.** Any student in grades 9-12 who has accumulated **more than five (5) combined unexcused absences and suspensions per semester per semester course MAY BE DENIED CREDIT FOR THAT COURSE.**
- D.** Students must earn a Carnegie unit in the core areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies plus 1 elective credit AND earn a minimum number of Carnegie units (credit) necessary for grade placement as indicated below to be classified as a student in the next grade.
 - a. 9th graders must earn 6 units to be considered a Sophomore
 - b. 10th graders must earn 12 units to be considered a Junior
 - c. 11th graders must earn 28 units to be considered a Senior
 - d. 12th graders must have the minimum 24 credits required by the Alabama State Department of Education.
 - e. Promotion will occur at the end of each semester.

ACADEMIC HONOR ROLLS

- A.** Any student with all "A"s in all academic subjects will qualify for the "A" Academic Honor Roll.
- B.** Any student with any combination of "A"s and "B"s in all academic subjects will qualify for the "A-B" Academic Honor Roll.
- C.** Any student with "B"s in all academic subjects will qualify for the "B" Academic Honor Roll.
- D.** Conduct, effort, and attendance will not be factors in identifying students for academic honor rolls.

CLASS RANK- SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

(8th Grade and 12th Grade)

- A.** Seniors will be given a Grade Point Average (GPA) and a class ranking in the fall of their senior year for college applications and college scholarships. This GPA will only be inclusive of attempted Carnegie units.
- B.** The student must have been in attendance at the high school or middle school for a minimum of three consecutive semesters.
- C.** The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected at the completion of the 3rd Nine Weeks so that all coursework is included in the calculation of the final GPA. The criteria for selection follows:
 - a. 8th grade class rank will be determined based on grades earned in 6th-8th grades.

- b. Senior class rank will be determined based on grades earned 9th-12th.
- D.** Honor students must have a cumulative, overall GPA of 3.5.
 - a. 8th grade honor students will be determined based on grades earned in 6th- the 3rd nine week of 8th grade.
 - b. Senior honor students will be determined based on grades earned 9th- the 3rd nine week of 12th grade.
- E.** The first level of selection will be the standard weighted GPA calculated using alphabetic grades earned for courses on a four-point (4) scale. The GPA will be calculated to the 4th decimal place. If there is a tie, the numeric weighted GPA using numeric averages earned for courses will be calculated to the 4th decimal place.

TRANSFERS INTO THE SYSTEM

- A.** Transfers from district approved Accredited Schools (State or Regional)
 - a. A student entering Conecuh County Schools from an accredited school is placed conditionally until his/her records are received from the school previously attended.
 - b. If a student transfers to another school during the school year, records will not be forwarded until the receiving school makes a request. Transfer Records should not be given to parents to deliver to the receiving school.
 - c. If a student transfers to another school not in the system, the originating school should send a copy of the cumulative card to the receiving school upon written request.
- B.** Transfers from Non-accredited Schools (State, Regional, or Home)
 - a. A student entering Conecuh County Schools from a non-accredited school should be evaluated for grade/course placement by the school principal or his/her designee.
 - b. Placement will be determined by using a variety of data sources including transcripts and standardized test scores.
 - c. For students in grades 9-12, academic core courses will be validated by the student passing a content-based, course specific test developed by the school system.
 - d. The validation test may be administered in the school setting. Schools should contact the office of Curriculum & Instruction for guidance. Guidelines are listed in the *Alabama Administrative Code (AAC) 290-3-1-.02(7) (k)*
- C.** Transfers of Students with Disabilities- IEPs for Transfer Students
 - a. In State Transfers. In the case of a child with a disability who transfers within the same school year, who enrolls in a new school (Conecuh County Schools), and who had an IEP that was in effect in Alabama, the new public agency, in consultation with the parents, must provide FAPE to a child, including services comparable to those described in the child’s previously held IEP, until such time as the new public agency adopts the previously held IEP or develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP.
 - b. Out of State Transfers. In the case of a child with a disability who transfers within the same school year, who enrolls in a new school (Conecuh County Schools), and who had an IEP that was in effect in a previous public agency in another state, the new public agency, in consultation with the parents, must provide the child with FAPE, including services comparable to those described in the previously held IEP, until such time as the new public agency conducts a new evaluation (if determined to be necessary by the new public agency) and determines eligibility. If an evaluation is determined to be necessary by the IEP Team, that evaluation will be considered to be an initial evaluation. If the parents refuse consent for the initial evaluation, the public agency may, but is not required to initiate mediation and/or a due process hearing to override the parents’ refusal.
 - c. The new public agency (Conecuh County Schools) in which the child enrolls must take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the child’s records, including the IEP and supporting documents and any other records relating to the provision of special education or related services to the child, from the previous public agency in which the child was enrolled, and the previous public agency in which the child was enrolled must take reasonable steps to promptly respond to such request from the new public agency.

GRADING/PROMOTION/RETENTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A. Accessibility of the Child’s IEP. Each public agency (Conecuh County Schools) must ensure that the child's IEP is accessible to each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and other service provider who is responsible for implementing the IEP. In addition, each teacher and provider must be informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the child's IEP and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the child in accordance with his or her IEP. When revisions are made to the IEP, the persons responsible for IEP implementation must be informed of the changes.

B. *Persons Responsible for IEP Implementation* form used to document the **Accessibility of the Child’s IEP.**

GRADING SCALE (Numerical Basis for Grades)

A. The scales to be used in determining grades for a student are:

Kindergarten GRADING SCALE	
E = Excellent (Grade equivalent to an A/B)	90 - 100

S = Satisfactory (Grade equivalent to an C)	80 - 89
N = Needs Improvement (Grade equivalent to an D)	70 - 79
U = Unsatisfactory (Grade equivalent to an F)	0 - 69

1st -12th Grade GRADING SCALE	
A = Excellent/Exceeds Standard	90 - 100
B = Good/Meets Standards	80 - 89
C = Satisfactory/Partially Meets Standards	70 - 79
D = Needs Improvement/Meets Few Standards	60 - 69
F = Unsatisfactory/Failure	0-59

- B.** Each annual goal on the IEP will be evaluated in terms of the criteria stated.
- C.** Progress reports (indicating whether the progress, if continued, is sufficient to meet the annual goal) will be sent to parents in accordance with timelines established in the IEP.
- D.** The teacher(s) must be able to provide evidence to justify all subject area grades. Evidence must be available to justify the evaluation listed for an IEP goal.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- A.** General education teachers are to ensure that students with disabilities in general education courses are not penalized because of time spent out of the general education program for resource instruction.
- B.** A student with a disability should not be expected to do all the class activities missed while participating in a resource program. If a test is missed because of participation in a resource program, provision is to be made for a make-up test without penalty to the student.
- C.** Self-contained students will receive instruction at the appropriate level and will be graded on their progress according to their IEP.

GIFTED PROGRAM DEFINITION

- A.** Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform at or have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. Gifted students may be found within any race, ethnicity, gender, economic class, or nationality. In addition, some students with disabilities may be gifted.
- B.** The Conecuh County School System shall prohibit discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to his/her participation in the gifted program.
- C.** The Alabama Administrative Code requires that LEAs must utilize a variety of service delivery options that may include but are not limited to resource room pull-out, consultation, mentorships, advanced classes, and independent study. Gifted students' need for complexity and accelerated pacing must be accommodated for in the general education program. Accommodations may include strategies such as flexible skills grouping, cluster grouping with differentiation, curriculum compacting, subject and grade acceleration, dual enrollment, and advanced classes. Each LEA must establish and implement a procedure for considering any requests for subject or grade acceleration.
- D.** Conecuh County has selected the following gifted service delivery options:

GIFTED SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS	
K-2	Consultative services from the gifted specialist provided in the regular classroom setting (e.g., extra materials, learning centers)

3-8	Traditional pullout services for 3-5 hours a week
9-12	Advanced core curriculum classes provided by qualified regular or gifted educators; Electives in a variety of talent areas (art, music [choral and instrumental], technology, foreign languages) taught by qualified instructors; Counseling services for college and career preparation

A. Gifted Referral Process

- a. Gifted students are those who perform at or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.
- b. Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student’s abilities may refer a student. Additionally, all second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.
- c. For each student referred, information is gathered in the areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.
- d. To make a referral, contact the principal or counselor at your child’s school.

B. The Conecuh County School System will select and administer tests and evaluative materials that are sensitive to cultural, economic, and/or linguistic differences and that are appropriate for the special populations such as the sensory impaired, LEP, or physically impaired student. Students from underrepresented groups will have both verbal and nonverbal abilities assessed (and creativity when appropriate) before being determined ineligible.

C. Evaluation of Gifted Students Elementary Students Only Elementary Resource Room Pullout

- a. General education teachers are to ensure that students are not penalized because of time out of the regular program to participate in the gifted program.
- b. A gifted student should not be expected to do the class activities missed while participating in the program and the number of grades should be adjusted accordingly. However, gifted students are expected to complete all homework assignments.
- c. If a test is missed because of participation in the program, provision is to be made for a make-up test without penalty to the student. Since a student will miss the same day of regular class each week, provision may need to be made for the student to make up scheduled tests on a regular basis (e.g., Friday spelling tests could be administered on Thursday).
- d. If a gifted student does not perform satisfactorily in the majority of his/her regular program classes, the provision will be made for a parent conference. A Gifted Specialist should participate in the conference. A gifted student may not be denied gifted services because of classroom performance or behavior without written consent from the parent.
- e. Acceleration- Any student enrolled in the district may be referred for consideration for acceleration by a general education teacher, administrator, gifted specialist, guidance counselor, or parent/guardian. All requests for acceleration must be made to the principal. The principal will follow the Conecuh County Board of Education Acceleration Procedures. A copy of these guidelines may be obtained from the principal or Special Education Coordinator.

GENERAL GRADING PROCEDURES/REGULATIONS RELATED TO ENGLISH LEARNERS – ELs

A. Each school will follow specific procedures for identifying ELs. Requirements and guidelines have been established by the Alabama State Department of Education regarding programs and services for English language learners under Title III, Part A, Subpart 1, of *No Child Left Behind*, 2001.

B. Guidelines for Classroom Teachers of ELs

- a. The same methods and criteria applied to the peers of ELs cannot always be used to assess students who lack English language proficiency.
- b. Teachers should maintain high expectations for student learning while providing accommodated lessons and assignments so that ELs can progress.

C. Assessments should be accommodated so that ELs can demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Accommodations must be documented on all assignments and/or assessments.

D. Grades should be based on work that has been accommodated to diminish language barriers. Teachers will use the *ESL Grading Guidelines* document for guidance.

E. If a student **can** demonstrate knowledge and skills in a particular subject, i.e., math, he/she should be assigned an achievement grade.

F. ELs **must not be failed in a content area on the basis of lack of English language proficiency**. Appropriate instructional accommodations are the key to appropriate grading.

- G.** Language-minority students may receive failing grades and may be retained when their failure is due to problems other than those caused by lack of language proficiency (e.g. participation). **Participation in the learning process**, in direct or accommodated methods, **is required** for all students. **Failure to participate requires that a failing grade be sent to parents.** No student should be left behind in the learning process, and no EL should be failed or retained without proof of accommodated instruction being provided.
- H.** Involvement of ELs in the learning process should not be postponed because of language limitations. Teachers should find ways to include ELs in the learning process. Non-meaningful grades should not be assigned to ELs.
- I.** Specific accommodations and strategies should be used to assist ELs. Specific training in how to accommodate ELs will be provided to grade level and content area teachers through the Office of Curriculum & Instruction.
- J.** For **beginning** ELs (non-English proficient or limited-English proficient) alternative assessment is a preferred option. Examples include, but are not limited to; asking students to prepare portfolios, present projects or oral reports, make lists and other products that express what students have learned
- K.** Teachers, under the leadership of the EL Committee, will document instructional services provided to and progress made by each EL.
- L.** All progress reports and daily or weekly grades sent home by the teacher should be explained on the EL progress report so that the parents will understand exactly where the student is performing in terms of educational goals. Copies of graded work should be kept in the profile folder of each EL with documentation of accommodations provided.
- M.** **Students in Grades 9-12** must be given the opportunity to earn credits toward graduation. Students should be given grades on accommodated work as outlined above.
- N.** Summary
 - a. ELs must receive accommodated content work when needed.
 - b. Grading is based on accommodated work.
 - c. ELs must not be failed on the basis of lack of English language proficiency.
 - d. Grades placed in a student's cumulative folder must reflect the student's academic achievement on grade level academic content and student academic achievement standards.
 - e. Students who participate in pull-out ESL instruction should receive grades for learning in that context.
 - f. All schools serving ELs must be able to demonstrate progress in the achievements of their language-minority students. Accommodations should be measurably effective.
 - g. State Mandated Testing
 - i. Only ELs who are in their first year of enrollment in an English-speaking US school may be excluded from certain tests.
 - ii. At this time, all other ELs participate in state assessments. The Testing Coordinator and EL Coordinator will keep schools apprised of current requirements.

STATE TESTING REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- A.** Alabama requires all students including students *with disabilities receiving special education services with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), students with disabilities receiving 504 services with a 504 Plan, English Learner (EL) students with an Individual English Language Plan (I-ELP)* to participate in the Alabama Student Assessment Program as well as to earn the necessary Carnegie units to meet high school graduation requirements. All students must be included to the fullest extent possible in all assessments and have their results included in the state accountability system. This required participation is supported by federal legislation. All assessments are available in English only; therefore, all students, including EL students must take state assessments as written in English. Documentation regarding participation in the Alabama Student Assessment Program must be made on the appropriate Participation Documentation form.
- B.** Students Eligible for Accommodations on State Assessments
In Alabama, students must be eligible and receiving special education services, 504 services, or English language instructional services in a pull-out program or in the regular classroom in order to qualify for testing accommodations. Accommodations should be provided to ensure that each student receives individual consideration of his or her disability or limited-English proficiency. However, an accommodation should not be provided if it changes the nature, content, or integrity of the test.
- C.** All decisions regarding participation in the testing program and/or accommodations must be made on an individual basis and will be justified and documented in the IEP, 504 Plan, and/or LEP Plan. Accommodations are only those that have been practiced regularly in the classroom when the student receives instruction and/or takes subject area tests. These decisions must be reviewed on an annual basis or more often as needed.

SUMMER SCHOOL/TWILIGHT SCHOOL

- A.** Any summer school or twilight program in Conecuh County Schools system will be conducted in accordance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (AdvancED) accreditation standards.
- B.** A student must secure written approval from the principal of the school he/she is presently attending prior to enrollment in any school other than the school he/she is presently attending, if credit is desired.

- C.** If a course is offered at a Conecuh County summer school, credit will not be given for that course taken at another school. Any exception must be approved by the principal prior to enrollment.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION/TRANSFER OF RECORDS

A. Transfer During The Year

- a. If a student transfers to another school during the school year, records will not be forwarded until the receiving school makes a request. Transfer Records should not be given to parents to deliver to the receiving school.
- b. If a student transfers to another school outside the system, the originating school should send a copy of the cumulative card to the receiving school upon written request.
- c. If a student transfers to another school within the CCS system during the school year, the originating school should send copies of the following and keep originals:

B. Transfer/Withdrawal Notice (form)

C. Grade Summary Sheet (report card)

D. Blue Card

- a. Written Request of Records from the receiving school: (Should be provided within 48 hours by the receiving school)

E. Withdrawal form

F. State standardized test results (labels should be placed on the cumulative records by the sending school.)

G. Grade/Credit Recovery Documentation Forms (As Applicable)

H. Cumulative Record card – send original, keep copy

I. Immunization Certificate

J. Student Health Folder, Annual Health Screening Record, and Individual Medication Chart

K. Educational Planning Worksheet

L. Copy of Social Security Card

M. Copy of Birth Certificate

N. 504 records, ESL records, RTI records, (all hand delivered and signature receipt received).

O. ESL folders, if applicable, must be hand-delivered

P. Final Grade Summary Report (report card)

Q. Registration card (students with disabilities only)

R. Academic/Career Plan and Career Interest Inventory, Grade 8

S. Documentation of parental understanding of high school graduation requirements.

T. Special Education Records

- a. Eligibility and IEP folders for students with disabilities must be delivered according to guidelines established by the Department of Special Education.

U. End-of-the-Year Transfer to the Next Grade Span

- a. Within fifteen (15) work days after the end of the school year, “sending” school principal must furnish all “receiving” schools with a comprehensive list, with addresses, of all regular program students being promoted to the “receiving” school. (Example an elementary school would send the list of regular program 5th graders being promoted to the 6th grade to the receiving middle school.)
- b. Within fifteen (15) working days after the end of the school year, copies of the following records must be sent to the receiving school for that student:

V. Immunization Certificate

W. Educational Planning Worksheet

X. Cumulative Record Card

Y. Grade/Credit Recovery Documentation Forms (As Applicable)

Z. Student Health Folder, Annual Health Screening Record, and Individual Medication Chart

AA. State standardized test results (labels should be placed on the cumulative records by the sending school.) Since assessment results may not be received before August in the succeeding academic year, Assessment results should be sent within 15 days of receipt.

BB. Home Language Survey form

CC. Copy of Social Security Card

DD. Copy of Birth Certificate

EE. 504 records, ESL records, RTI records (all hand delivered and signature receipt received).

FF. ESL folders, if applicable, must be hand-delivered

GG. Final Grade Summary Report (report card)

HH. Registration card (students with disabilities only)

II. Academic/Career Plan folder & Career Interest Inventory (Grade 8)

- a. Include all items listed above, with each student's cumulative record. Alphabetize the folders. (labels should be placed on cumulative records by the sending school)
- b. All records from sending school must be forwarded to receiving schools within five (5) working days after the end of summer school.
- c. Within fifteen (15) work days after the end of the school year, eligibility folders for students with disabilities, ELs, and 504 plans, and all records listed in 15.b.(2) will be hand delivered to the receiving schools. Records must be signed for by receiving schools.
- d. After the 20th day of the school year, all schools will have returned student records to the sending schools

OBTAINING ACCURATE DROPOUT DATA

Secondary school principals will follow procedures established by the school district for documenting student movement out of their buildings. Documentation includes student exit interview forms, monthly dropout reports, the summer completer report, no-show reports and letters of request and other records verifying the new location for the exiting student.

CREDIT RECOVERY

In accordance with the guidelines of the Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE), the Conecuh County Schools will offer students who have received failing grades of 40 or above (on a 100-point scale) in courses that are required for graduation an opportunity to recover the lost credit through a standards based approach that will target specific knowledge and skill deficits instead of requiring the student to repeat the entire course.

Credit Recovery Student Eligibility, Admission, and Removal

Students are eligible to apply for Credit Recovery if the final grade earned in a course required for graduation was between 40 or above. Alternatively, such a student can choose to repeat a course in its entirety during the next regular school term. Students who have not achieved a baseline average of 40 or above (on a 100-point scale), must repeat the entire course.

Students must complete an application to request placement in a Credit Recovery Program. The student and parent/guardian must sign the application to consent to placement in the program and to acknowledge agreement with the terms of admission and program requirements.

Students may be removed from a Credit Recovery Program at the discretion of the administrator supervising the program for circumstances involving serious or repeated misbehavior, failure to adhere to program attendance requirements, or failure to make adequate progress towards meeting remediation requirements.

Credit Recovery Program Authorization and Operation

A tuition fee must be paid to participate in the program for each ½ credit course and will be nonrefundable should the student be dismissed from the program.

The Credit Recovery Program will operate outside normal school hours during the school year and two three-week terms during Summer School. Students may enroll in one Credit Recovery Course at a time during the school year. Upon successful completion of one course, they may enroll in another course. During Summer School, students may recover up to (2) full Carnegie Units. Credit Recovery course offerings may be limited by the availability of space, teachers, or appropriate computer-based content for specific courses.

Credit Recovery Instructional Content and Curriculum

- A.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Recovery Courses will be the primary source of instruction used to provide students with the instructional content and curriculum.
- B.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Recovery Courses to permit students to prove mastery in units, allowing them to move past units in which they are proficient and concentrate on units in which they need additional work.
- C.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Recovery Courses contain a pretest to determine the level of student mastery. If the student scores 70% or better, he/she continues to the next module. With a score of less than 70%, the student must complete regular coursework for that module and must complete a post-test in order to move to the next module.
- D.** All ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Recovery Courses maintain a high degree of rigor. Students will be expected to complete all course work assigned when pretest mastery is not met.
- E.** Current ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Credit Recovery Courses include:
 - a. **Math**- Algebra I, Algebra IA, Algebra IB, Geometry, Geometry A, Geometry B, Algebra II, Algebra II w/Trig, Algebraic Connections, Precalculus
 - b. **English**- English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12
 - c. **Social Studies**- World History, US History I, US History II, US Government, Economics **Science**- Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Environmental Science
- F.** For courses not offered through ACCESS Distance Learning, A+ Anywhere System will be used. Students will take a Course Pretest for the failed subject. Each Pretest will identify the standards not already mastered and the program will

assign lessons to the student matched to his/her nonmastered standards. Once a student has completed all the assigned lessons in his/her course, he/she will take the Course Post-test for the subject(s).

- G.** Students will be released from the Credit Recovery Program upon successful completion of individual remediation plans regardless of the number of hours of instruction.
- H.** The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) does not recognize Credit Recovery for course credit. Students athletes should be advised athletes accordingly.

Credit Recovery Grades and Credit

- A.** A maximum grade of 70 may be awarded in a Credit Recovery course.
- B.** Grade forgiveness will be used, whereby the original failing grade is replaced by the Credit Recovery grade for computing grade-point averages.
- C.** The original failing grade must remain on the transcript.

CREDIT RECOVERY GRADING SCALE	
Credit Recovery Grade	Final Transcript Grade
90-100%	70-C
80-89%	67-D
70-79%	65-D
60-69%	60-D
59% and Below	Actual Score-F

CREDIT ADVANCEMENT POLICY

School systems may choose to offer students who exhibit proficiency beyond the level required for all students for an individual course the opportunity to pursue Credit Advancement as an alternative to the traditional Carnegie Unit approach to course completion if offered by the local school system.

For a student to be eligible for Credit Advancement he or she must:

- A.** Be recommended by a current or former teacher of the subject/course being considered for Credit Advancement.
- B.** Have criterion-referenced or norm-referenced test scores that support an above grade-level proficiency of content in the subject/course being considered for Credit Advancement.
- C.** Complete a Request for Credit Advancement form, signed by the parent or guardian, the high school counselor, and high school principal.

Instructional Content and Curriculum

- A.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Advancement Courses or a third-party software program will be the source of instruction used to provide students with the instructional content and curriculum.
- B.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Advancement Courses permit students to prove mastery in units, allowing them to move past units in which they are proficient and concentrate on units in which they need additional work. Successful completion of a Credit Advancement course allows students to move forward into the next course in the sequence of that content area.
- C.** ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Advancement Courses contain a pretest to determine the level of student mastery. If the student scores 85% or better, he/she continues to the next module. With a score of less than 85%, the student must complete regular coursework for that module and must complete a post-test in order to move to the next module.
- D.** All ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Advancement Courses maintain a high degree of rigor. Students in Credit Advancement courses will be expected to complete all course work assigned when pretest mastery is not met.
- E.** Current ACCESS Distance Learning Credit Advancement courses include:
 - a. **Math**- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra II w/Trig, Algebraic Connections, Precalculus
 - b. **English**- English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12
 - c. **Social Studies**- World History, US History I, US History II, US Government, Economics
- F.** National Collegiate Athletic Association (**NCAA**) **may not recognize Credit Advancement for course credit.** Student athletes should be advised athletes accordingly based on NCAA Credit Advancement Guidelines.

CONECUH COUNTY SCHOOLS HANDBOOK AND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we have received a copy of and have read, or had read to us, the foregoing Conecuh County Board of Education Handbook and Code of Student Conduct and the Parent/Student Compact, and we fully understand the terms thereof. I am fully aware of my responsibility to see that my child attends school daily and properly conducts himself/herself, and of the penalty for my failure to do so. Each parent must notify their child's principal, teacher, bus driver, and other personnel regarding any health issue affecting their child. Parents are responsible for damage or loss to any and all school property that may be lost or damaged by their child. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing personal items of value (cell phones, iPods, cameras, electronic games, radios, CD players and computers, etc.) to school since loss, theft, or damage is possible. Also, such items can be distracting to the educational process and may be confiscated by school personnel. The school system is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items including those in lockers or those that have been confiscated by school board personnel.

(Please check one)

I DO or DO NOT give permission for me and/my child to be video-taped or photographed. In agreeing to be videotaped or photographed, I grant permission to the Conecuh County Board of Education to broadcast/print the videotape or photograph on the school system website. I also grant permission for future use of such videotape or photograph in whole or part, to other parties as deemed appropriate by the Conecuh County Board of Education. I release and agree to hold harmless the Conecuh County Board of Education, employees, elected/appointed officials, Board members, volunteers, officers and approved production companies from any liability and/or harm which may arise from videotaping, photographing, broadcasting, future use, or release to other parties.

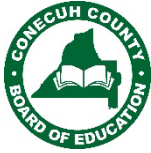
I DO _____ or DO NOT _____ prefer that corporal punishment (padding) be used as a disciplinary measure for my child. However, I acknowledge the right of the school system's authority to use any and all disciplinary measures provided for under board policy, statutory and case law, including padding.

(Signed) Student

(Signed) Parent/Guardian/Custodian

Date

NOTE: Please detach this page after signing and have the student return to his/her homeroom teacher. This ACKNOWLEDGMENT becomes a part of the student's cumulative file.



Suspension Appeal Form (Out of School Suspension or Bus Suspensions)

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ DOB:____ Age:____ Grade: _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My child was suspended on _____ from _____
(Date) **(School or Bus#)**

for the period of time indicated below.

Length of Suspension: _____ Dates of Suspension: From ____ / ____ / ____ To ____ / ____ / ____

I am appealing:

The Principal's Decision to Suspend my Child

Information written on the office referral

Because _____

and I would like for the committee to consider:

Parent/ Legal Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

A copy of the referral must be attached to this appeal. All appeals must be hand delivered to the address listed below or mailed via United States Postal Service, faxed, or hand delivered within 5 school days of the suspension.

County County Board of Education
100 Jackson Street
Evergreen, AL 36401
Phone: 251-578-1752
Fax: 251-578-70

Bullying/Harassment Complaint Form

Student Name: _____

School Name: _____ Person Reporting: _____

(Student signature optional)

Location of incident: _____ Date of Incident: _____ Time: _____

Specific Description of Bullying/Harassment Complaint

Please attach any additional documentation for which consideration is desired in investigation of this

complaint. Signature of person reporting: _____ Date submitted to principal: _____

The Conecuh County Board of Education prohibits all forms of bullying and harassment against students. The Board's anti-bullying and harassment policy can be found in the Code of Conduct. The Alabama Code defines harassment as follows: Ala. Code 16-28B-3. HARASSMENT. 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 who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics contained in the model policy adopted by the department or by a local board. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:

- A. Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- B. Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
- C. Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
- D. Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored function.
- E. Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

<i>Details of Actions Taken:</i> _____

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____