

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1-2
PREFACE; NOTICE TO STUDENTS & PARENTS.....	3
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.....	3
CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.....	4
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	4
PARENT NOTE, SIGNATURE PAGES.....	5
OPT OUT INFORMATION.....	6
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA).....	7-8
PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA).....	8-9
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY.....	9-11
PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RIGHTS LETTER.....	12
CONTACTING SCHOOL PERSONNEL.....	13
SCHOOL CALENDAR.....	14
SCHEDULE OF NINE-WEEKS TESTS, EXAMS, & REPORT CARDS.....	15
ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	16
• AGE FOR ENROLLMENT.....	16
• DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.....	16-17
ADMISSION/WITHDRAWAL POLICIES.....	18
• ADMISSION FROM ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS.....	18
• ADMISSION FROM NON-ACCREDITED/HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS.....	18
• ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS.....	18
• ADMISSION OF ENGLISH LEARNERS.....	18
• ADMISSION OF MIGRANT STUDENTS.....	18
• ADMISSION OF FOSTER CARE STUDENTS.....	18
• WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS.....	18
PLACEMENT, PROMOTION, & RETENTION.....	18
• PRE-KINDERGARTEN.....	18
• KINDERGARTEN.....	18-19
• 1 ST -4 TH GRADE STUDENTS.....	19
• LITERACY BASED PROMOTION ACT.....	19
• 5 TH -8 TH GRADE STUDENTS.....	19
GRADING SYSTEM.....	19-20
• KINDERGARTEN—6 TH GRADE.....	19
• 7 TH —12 TH GRADE.....	20
HONOR ROLL.....	20
CLASSIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.....	20
REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.....	20-25
• TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA.....	21
• ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS.....	22-23
• ALTERNATE DIPLOMA.....	24
• REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES.....	25-26
• SUBJECT AREA TESTING PROGRAM.....	26
• EARLY GRADUATION.....	26
• CHANGE OF SCHEDULE.....	27
• EARLY RELEASE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	27
• SPECIAL AWARDS.....	27
• GRADUATION WITH HONORS.....	28
• HALL OF FAME.....	28
• SENIOR PRIVILEGES.....	28
• SENIOR FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE.....	28
• GRADUATION SCHEDULE.....	28
• DISRUPTION OF GRADUATION.....	28
DUAL ENROLLMENT.....	29
ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES.....	29
JOB SHADOWING.....	29
VOCATIONAL GUIDELINES.....	29-30
SEMESTER & FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE.....	30
EXEMPTIONS.....	30
HOMEWORK.....	30
EXTRA CREDIT.....	31
REPORT CARDS.....	31
ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, & EXCUSES.....	31-32

• ATTENDANCE POLICY.....	31
• EXCESSIVE ABSENCES.....	32
STUDENT TARDIES.....	32
STUDENT CHECK-OUT POLICY.....	32
STUDENT USE OF OFFICE PHONE.....	33
SCHOOL VISITATION POLICY.....	33
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VISITORS.....	33
WHO'S WHO & HOMECOMING.....	33
STUDENT COUNCIL & CLASS OFFICERS.....	34
DUES & FEES.....	34
• CLASS FEES.....	34
• TRANSCRIPT FEES.....	35
TEXTBOOKS & EQUIPMENT.....	35
• DAMAGE/FINE/REPLACEMENT CHART.....	35
• FEES FOR CHROMEBOOKS/IPADS.....	35
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.....	35
FUNDRAISING & FIELD TRIPS.....	36
SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.....	36
JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM.....	36
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY	36
VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION.....	37
DISASTER DRILLS.....	37
MEDICAL INFORMATION.....	37-38
• WELLNESS POLICY.....	37
• ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS.....	37-38
• HEAD LICE.....	38
• CHICKEN POX & SHINGLES.....	38
• FIRST AID PROCEDURES.....	38
• STUDENT INSURANCE.....	38
• REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE.....	38
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.....	39
• CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR.....	39
• CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.....	39
• ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY.....	39
• STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES.....	39-40
• HEARING PROCEDURE.....	40
• STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY.....	40
• GUIDES FOR CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE.....	41-42
• SEXUAL HARRASSMENT.....	42-43
• IN-SCHOOL DETENTION/ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT/EXPULSION.....	43
• TOBACCO/ALCOHOL/DRUGS & LOOK-A-LIKE.....	43
• QUESTIONING & SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS.....	44
• LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT.....	44
• WEAPONS.....	44
• MS SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 2001.....	45
• DRESS CODE.....	45-46
• DISCIPLINE PLAN.....	46
ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROGRAM.....	46
STAFF RESPONSIBILITY.....	46
RULES & REGULATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION.....	47
• SCHOOL BUSES.....	47
• AUTOMOBILES.....	47-48
• WALKERS.....	48
FOOD SERVICE POLICY.....	48-49
MS RULE ON SALE OF COMPETITIVE FOODS.....	49
ASBESTOS SURVEILLANCE.....	49
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.....	50
ENGLISH LEARNERS.....	51
INDEX.....	52-53

PREFACE

This handbook is an attempt to provide a uniform set of rules and directions for students and parents in all schools within Calhoun County School District. The handbook was compiled with input from students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education.

The Calhoun County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission to and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The designated compliance coordinator to respond to questions or complaints from applicants, employees, students and other interested persons is Emily Snellings, the district coordinator for Title VI of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, who may be contacted at the Calhoun County School District Office, phone 662-412-3152 or e-mail esnellings@calhounk12.com

NOTICE!!!

It is the duty of students and parents to read, understand, and comply with all rules and regulations stated in the handbook. If interpretation of any part of the handbook is needed, please contact your child's teacher or the principal of the school your child attends. Translators are available for students and parents with limited English proficiency.

The Mississippi Department of Education policies are subject to change and may override the information in this handbook.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Mississippi Code requires that parents be informed of the following regulations dealing with parental responsibility:

§ 97-37-13 **Weapons Possession** A parent may be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to \$1000 and or up to 6 months in county jail for knowingly allowing a child (under 18) to have, own, or carry concealed a weapon.

§ 37-11-53 **General Responsibility for Child's Acts** The district's discipline plan must be given to students, and parents **must** sign a statement verifying notice of the plan. The plan must include statements regarding parental responsibility and penalties for failure to perform such parental duties, i.e. misdemeanor/fine up to \$3500.00.

§ 37-11-59 **Conference Attendance** A parent may be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to \$250.00 for failure to attend a noticed conference.

CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Anthony Edwards, District #1
25 CR 314
Calhoun City, MS 38916
Email: anthonyedwards@calhounk12.com
Term: January 2023 - December 2028

Mr. Stephen Box, District #2, **Secretary**
108 Arthur St.
Bruce, MS 38915
Email: sbox@calhounk12.com
Term: January 2023 - December 2028

Mr. Colby Bollinger, District #3,
69 CR 259-A
Bruce, MS 38915
Email: cbollinger@calhounk12.com
Term: January 2025 – December 2030

Mrs. Christie Vance, District #4, **Vice-President**
195 CR 486
Eupora, MS 39744
Email: cvance@calhounk12.com
Term: January 2025 – December 2030

Mr. Don Hardin, District #5, **President**
P.O. Box 1211
Calhoun City, MS 38916
Email: dhardin@calhounk12.com
Term: January 2021 – December 2026

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Board endorses the concept that the education of the young people is one of the most significant functions and responsibilities of our democratic society. The Board's responsibility is to provide an adequate educational environment in which each pupil, in terms of his individual characteristics, may develop his full potential to become a useful and responsible member of his home, community, and society.

The Board believes that academic freedom is essential to the achievement of the purposes of the school system. It acknowledges the fundamental need to protect teachers from censorship or restraint, which might interfere with their obligation to pursue truth in the performance of their classroom function.

TO: Parents
FROM: Principal
DATE: July 1, 2025

Attached is a copy of the Calhoun County School District Handbook for Students and Parents. The handbook contains rules and regulations for student conduct and other important information. Please read the handbook carefully and talk with your child about the importance of it.

Notice: Sales of various items such as school day pictures, candy, caps, gowns, invitations, T-shirts, mugs, novelties, annual advertisements, doughnuts, pencils, school store items, vending machine items, Avon, fruit, greenhouse plants, raffles, and tickets for admission to athletic events and other school programs and concerts, as well as admission to field day events sponsored by charitable organizations such as the Mississippi Lung Association are conducted throughout the year as fund raising events. A portion of the sales price will be contributed to the local student activity fund.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understood all of the information presented in the Student/Parent Handbook and have received a copy of *The CCSD Discipline Ladder* as it applies to your student. Your signature indicates that you have received both documents, have had an opportunity to review these documents and have had an opportunity to ask questions about these documents. **Please return this notice to the school.**

Signature of Student _____ Grade _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Mailing Address

Home Phone Number

Emergency Phone Number

E-Mail address

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

I have read and understand the information in the Acceptable Use Policy about appropriate use of the computer network, CCSD Google Workspace for Education LMS, and any other software applications needed for instruction in the Calhoun County School District and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school. I agree to abide by the appropriate use policy set out in this document.

User's Name (print) _____

User's Signature _____

Date: _____

If the user above is a student, the Parent/Guardian Permission below must be signed.

Parent/Guardian Permission for Students

I give my child permission to access the network as outlined above. I also understand that my child's work (writing, drawings, etc.) may occasionally be published on the Internet and may be accessible on a World Wide Web server. Personally identifying information would be withheld.

Parent/Guardian's Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

*Prior to using the Calhoun County School District network or attached equipment, all users must read and sign this agreement. Parents or guardians of students must also sign and give their permission for this use. The requirement includes staff, students, parents, community members, workshop presenters, outside technical assistance people, and all others.

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTAL OPT-OUT INFORMATION

In order to abide by parent/guardian desires for privacy, we are requiring your consent before publishing student photographs and/or student work on the Calhoun County District web pages, in student directories and school year books, in school newsletters and brochures, or in local newspapers, or on local television stations. CCSD publishes a student directory/yearbook for each school within the district. The directory/yearbook will contain pictures for each school as well as other information about each student in the yearbook/directory. As a parent, you have the right to opt-out of having your child placed in the directory/yearbook and/or your child's picture and/or school information published on CCSD's webpage or individual school webpage (honor roll, reading fairs, awards, activities, sports, etc.). You may complete the information below and return it to the school. Written confirmation is required; otherwise your child will be included in web pages, in student directories and school year books, in school newsletters and brochures, or in local newspapers, or on local television stations.

- I give my permission for my child's photograph, full name, and/or school work to be used on school web pages, in student directories and school year books, in school newsletters and brochures, or in local newspapers, or on local television stations.

Please check one: Yes _____ No _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: _____

PARENTS OF 9TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Federal law requires each school to provide military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education access to student names, addresses, and telephone numbers whenever requested. However, a parent may complete this information below and return to the school and such information **will not be released** without prior written consent of the parent. This information will be saved as a student record.

COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION BELOW ONLY IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD'S INFORMATION SHARED WITH MILITARY RECRUITERS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

*Complete the following and return to the school if you **do not want** your child's name, address, and telephone number released without your prior consent.*

Student's Name (please print): _____ Grade: _____

Student's School: _____

*I request that my child's name, address, and telephone number **NOT** be shared with military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education without my prior written consent.*

Parent/Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-5901

FERPA also requires that Calhoun County School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, Calhoun County School District may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Calhoun County School District to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for football, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be

disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, colleges or companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. ¹ (Military recruiters would only request information for high school students – probably only juniors and seniors.)

If you do not want Calhoun County School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by August 10, 2025. **(Opt –out form is on the back of the signature page.)** Calhoun County School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

If you have questions on the guidelines on military recruiters' and colleges' access to information, please call the principal at your child's school.

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment* (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of-

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use-

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

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Calhoun County School District will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, and use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Calhoun County School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or e-mail, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Calhoun County School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parent will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY*

Please read the following carefully before signing. This is a legal and binding document.

Introduction

Calhoun County School District has established a Local Area Network (LAN) for each school in the district and a Wide Area Network (WAN) that links all schools and makes access to the Internet and e-mail possible. The Internet allows staff, students, and occasionally others in the community, to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other sources of information; e-mail allows students to collaborate on school projects with students in other classes or schools or to communicate for special projects, with approved adults such as authors, college professors, or legislators. Parents may also communicate with teachers or

vice versa about student progress. E-mail may be used as a way to keep up with assignments for students who are absent. The networks, Internet, and e-mail allow teachers to collaborate with each other and to research lesson plans and materials to enrich lessons. The online lesson plans allow administrators to keep in close touch with what is being taught in the classroom. E-mail serves as a way to update staff and communicate on school issues in a timely manner. Teachers or administrators may use the Internet to take online courses for professional development or to earn college credits. Opportunities available increase every day.

Calhoun County School District complies with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by providing filtering services that block offensive content and also provides close supervision when students are using the Internet; however, the district cannot make an absolute guarantee that a student will view no inappropriate material. The district also complies with The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) which requires parental permission when individually identifiable information about a child is collected online that would allow someone to identify or contact a child. The district will release no such information, and students are prohibited from releasing such information. Students must have parental consent to use the Internet and must use the Internet responsibly.

Acceptable Uses

1. The computer networks in the Calhoun County School District have been set up in order to allow Internet access for educational purposes. This includes classroom activities, research activities, peer review of assigned work, and the exchange of project-related ideas, opinions, and questions via e-mail, message boards, and other means. All users are responsible for citing sources and giving credit to authors during the research process. Staff members are allowed access to school equipment outside of class hours for personal use subject to some restrictions (see staff handbook).
2. Students and other users will have access to the Internet via computers in the classrooms, libraries, labs, etc. when assigned or when they have received permission and are supervised.
3. Network users must respect resource limits and must delete old e-mails or other files that may take up excessive amounts of storage space.
4. Student use of the Internet is contingent upon parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of this Acceptable Use Policy. Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.
5. Material created and or stored on the system is not guaranteed to be private. School officials or technicians may review the system from time to time to ensure that the system is being used properly. For this reason, students or staff members should expect that e-mails, material placed on Web pages, and other work that is created on the network may be viewed by a third party.
6. Network users are expected to adhere to the safety guidelines listed below.

Unacceptable Uses

1. The network may not be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, or freeware without prior permission from the school.
2. The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Users may not buy or sell products or services through the system without prior permission from the school.
3. Use of the network for advertising or political lobbying is prohibited.
4. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws. This includes, but is not limited to illegal activities such as threatening the safety of another person, downloading music, or violating copyright laws.

5. Network users may not use vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language. Users may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person.
6. Network users may not log on as another user or access others' files. "Hacking" or otherwise trying to gain access to another person's or organization's computer system is prohibited.
7. Network users may not access Web sites, newsgroups, or chat areas that contain material that is obscene or that promotes illegal acts. If a user accidentally accesses this type of information, he or she should immediately notify a teacher, librarian, school administrator, and/or network administrator.
8. Network users may not engage in "spamming" (sending an e-mail to more than 10 people at the same time) or participate in chain letters. The prohibition against "spamming" does not apply to personal information lists or school workgroups.

Consequences of Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use, vandalism or tampering with computer systems or security systems, or any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user of the Calhoun County School District network will result in disciplinary actions to be determined by school administrators and loss of computer and network privileges - temporarily or for the remainder of the school year depending upon the severity of the infraction.

Safety Guidelines

1. Never give out your last name, address, or phone number online.
2. Never agree to meet in person with anyone you have met online unless you first have the approval of a parent or guardian.
3. Notify a teacher, aide, or administrator immediately if you receive a message that may be inappropriate or if you encounter any material that violates this Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Parents of students should instruct them if there is additional material that they think it would be inappropriate for students to access. Calhoun County School District expects students to follow their parent's wishes in this matter.

*Prior to using the Calhoun County School District network or attached equipment, all users must read and sign this agreement. Parents or guardians of students must also sign and give their permission for this use. The requirement includes staff, students, parents, community members, workshop presenters, outside technical assistance people, and all others.

Students and parents must sign and return the appropriate use policy agreement on the signatures page of this handbook in order to use computers on the network in the Calhoun County School District.

Calhoun County School District
119 WEST MAIN STREET • PITTSBORO, MS 38951

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Title I schools in the Calhoun County School District provide parents or guardians of their students with Staff Directories. The Directories have information about the school staff and their qualifications. If you have questions or want to discuss a school employee's qualification with the school, you may make an appointment with the principal of the school.

As described in the *ESSA* Legislation, you are entitled, at a minimum, to the following information:

- whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

You should also receive information from the school on your child/children's level of achievement in each of the state academic assessments in the form of a score report. You may wish to talk with your child's teacher, counselor, or principal to discuss details of the report.

Timely notification will also be sent to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

If you have questions about any of the provisions addressed in this letter, please call the school or Emily Snellings, the Director of Federal Programs, in the district office at 412-3152.

Educationally yours,

Emily Snellings

CONTACTING SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Parental questions and concerns should first be addressed to the teacher. If the matter cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent may wish to contact the principal. When both the teacher and the principal have been contacted without resolution of the problem, the parent may contact the superintendent. The following is a list of administrators and the numbers at which they can be contacted:

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Lisa Langford, Superintendent
Dr. Tim Cook, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Kellie Logan, IDEA
Mrs. Emily Snellings, Federal Programs, Section 504 & Discipline
Mr. Michael Gillespie, Curriculum & Assessment
119 West Main Street, Pittsboro, MS 38951
Ph. 662-412-3152

BRUCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tonya Tunnell, Principal
P. O. Box 579, Bruce, MS 38915
Ph. 662-983-3373

BRUCE HIGH SCHOOL

Dallas Gore, Principal
P. O. Box 248, Bruce, MS 38915
Ph. 662-983-3350

CALHOUN CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kountess Welch, Principal
P. O. Box H, Calhoun City, MS 38916
Ph. 662-628-5111

CALHOUN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Heather Nix, Principal
P. O. Box 559, Calhoun City, MS 38916
Ph. 662-628-5112

CALHOUN COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Willie J. Mays, Jr., Vocational Director
302 North Madison St., P.O. Box 1573,
Calhoun City, MS 38916
Ph. 628-1143

CALHOUN COUNTY DIVERSIFIED LEARNING CENTER

Kristin Reid, Director
302 North Madison St., Calhoun City, MS 38916
Ph. 662-628-0794

VARDAMAN ATTENDANCE CENTER

Lucas Ferguson, Principal
106 WB Gregg, Vardaman, MS 38878
Ph. 662-682-7574

TRANSPORTATION & SCHOOL SAFETY

Dr. Tim Cook, District Director
Calhoun City, MS 38916
Ph. 662-628-4624 or, if no answer, 662-412-3152

Note: Conferences with teachers and/or administrators may be arranged by calling the office of the principal. Conferences will be scheduled at a time that will not require the teacher to leave a scheduled instructional period and will not interfere with the principal's duty to supervise instruction.

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOLS
ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2025-2026

July 3-4.....	Independence Day Holidays
July 30-Aug. 4.....	Professional Days
Aug. 4	Open House 4:00 – 6:00
Aug. 5	First Day for Students
Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 13 & 14.....	Fall Break for Teachers
Oct. 13 – 15.....	Fall Break for Students
Oct. 15.....	Professional Day
Nov. 24-28.....	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 19.....	60% Day
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Christmas Holidays
Jan. 5	Professional Day
Jan. 6.....	First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 19.....	Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb. 16	Professional Day
Mar. 9-13	Spring Holidays
Apr. 3-Apr. 6.....	Easter Holiday
May 22	Graduation – VHS 6:00
May 22.....	Graduation – CCHS 8:00
May 23.....	Graduation –BHS 7:00
May 22	Last Day for Students (60% Day)
May 22	Last Day for Teachers (All Day)
May 25-26.....	Memorial Day

Note: If days are missed due to inclement weather the make-up days will be February 16th, April 6th, and May 27th.

SCHEDULE OF NINE-WEEKS TESTS, EXAMS, AND REPORT CARDS
2025-2026

September 5 Student Progress Reports

September 19 Student Failure Reports

October 1-3 Nine Weeks Tests

October 10..... Report Cards Go Out

November 7..... Student Progress Reports

November 21..... Student Failure Reports

December 17-19..... Semester Exams

January 9 Report Cards Go Out

February 6 Student Progress Reports

February 20 Student Failure Reports

March 4-6..... Nine Weeks Tests

March 20..... Report Cards Go Out

April 17 Student Progress Reports

May 1 Student Failure Reports

May 15, 18-19..... Senior Exams

May 20-22..... Final Exams

ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Age for Enrollment

- **Pre-Kindergarten:** A child must be four years old on or before September 1 of the current year.
- **Kindergarten:** A child must be five years old on or before September 1 of the current year.
- **Grade One:** A child must be six years old on or before September 1 of the current year.
 - Mississippi law requires all children who turn six before September 1 to attend school.
 - Children who have not turned 17 before September 1 must attend school.
 - An attendance officer monitors enrollment and attendance of school age youth.

Policy Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91(2)(a); CCSD Board Policy JBC

Documentation Requirements

Each student must provide all required documentation for enrollment purposes before the first day of classes for the 2025-2026 school year or risk being withdrawn from school.

1. Each student or their parent/legal guardian must provide the student's certified birth certificate or another approved document of proof of age, along with the student's Mississippi Certificate of Compliance (121 Form) shot record.
2. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, all children entering the 7th grade are required to receive the Tdap vaccine. Any 7th-grade student who does not meet this requirement will not be permitted to begin school until the requirement is fulfilled.
3. To establish a permanent, bona fide residence, the following conditions must be satisfied: a. A student must attend school in the district or school zone in which their custodial parent or legal guardian is a permanent, bona fide resident. b. A parent may have only one true, permanent, bona fide residence—the location where the family actually lives. This is defined as the sole or primary dwelling in which the family regularly cooks, eats, sleeps, and gathers. Temporary residences such as vacation homes, rental properties, and weekend homes do not qualify and may not be used for registration or residency purposes. Homesteaded property that is not the family's primary residence does not satisfy the residency requirement. c. This requirement does not prevent a custodial parent or legal guardian from commuting to work or traveling for employment, provided they return home periodically and consider the residence their permanent home. d. Parents who separate, divorce, or assign legal custody or guardianship for the sole purpose of establishing residency will not be recognized. Children must attend school in the district and zone of the custodial parent. Residency requirements may not be satisfied by placing a student with friends or relatives in another zone.
4. Each student must be enrolled under his or her legal name by a custodial parent or legal guardian who is a permanent, bona fide resident of Calhoun County. a. If a student is enrolled by a legal guardian or custodian, the caregiver must provide the school with a **certified copy** of the **court decree** (or petition if pending) declaring the permanent district resident to be the legal guardian or custodian of the student. The decree must affirm that the guardianship was formed for reasons other than establishing school residency. The decree must be signed by the chancery judge and filed in the county in which it was issued. Guardianships created solely for school residency purposes will not be acknowledged. b. For the purpose of residency and enrollment:
 1. Students must attend school in the district and school zone of the custodial parent or legal guardian, except where permitted by Mississippi law.
 2. Students whose parents are legally divorced or never married but have been granted physical custody must attend school in the district and zone where the custodial parent is a permanent, bona fide resident.
 3. A student whose parents are legally divorced by court order granting physical custody must attend school in the district and school zone of the parent with custody for the majority of the school year. If no period is specified, the student must attend school in the zone of the parent with whom they first elect to reside after the order is entered.
 4. Parents who separate, divorce, or grant legal custody or guardianship solely to satisfy residency requirements will not be recognized. Students must attend school in the zone of the custodial parent.
 5. No affidavits will be accepted for newly enrolled students after August 1, 2011. However, students who provided affidavits before that date may continue enrollment by completing annual residency paperwork.
5. When a new student transfers from another school, the parent or legal guardian must present a withdrawal form from the previously attended school.
6. To complete enrollment, the following conditions must be met:
 - a. Each student must provide **two current proofs of residency** in the name of their custodial parent or legal guardian, verifying the physical address of the student's bona fide residence within the school zone:

- **One document from the following list:**
 - Filed homestead exemption form or current property tax receipt
 - Property deed of the student's bona fide residence
 - Lease or rental agreement (typed, with an expiration date)
- **One document from the following list:**
 - Current utility bill (water, gas, or electricity) showing a physical or E911 address
 - Current automobile registration
 - Current state or federal government documents (e.g., SSI, IRS, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP)

b. If a student lives with a legal guardian, a certified copy of the court decree (or petition if pending) must be provided, declaring the guardianship was formed for reasons other than school residency (see sections 3 and 4).

c. If a student changes residency during the school year, the parent/legal guardian must notify the school and provide two updated proofs of address and current emergency contact information. School placement may change due to the new residence.

**Registration applications for new or returning students must be verified and approved by the residency committee before enrollment is complete.*

****Residency must be verified and new documentation provided at the beginning of each school year.**

*****The district reserves the right to require additional documentation or verification, including public record review, home visits, and other means to confirm bona fide residency.**

******Residency determinations for school athletics/activities follow MHSAA guidelines. Enrollment eligibility does not guarantee athletic eligibility.**

7. When a student's residency changes, they must provide updated address documentation. School placement may change accordingly. To qualify as a **bona fide change of residence**, the following must apply:
- The original residence must be sold, rented, or otherwise vacated.
 - If not advertised for sale or rent, utilities must be disconnected.
 - The original residence may not be used as a residence by any relative of the student, unless approved under extreme circumstances by the residency committee.
 - The original home may not be deeded to relatives or friends to manipulate zone placement.
 - Residency changes due to parental separation solely to gain school access will not be recognized.
 - Providing false information invalidates residency.
 - The residency committee may conduct investigations, including home visits.
 - Temporary or provisional enrollment may be issued during review. If the change is not validated, the student must return to the appropriate school zone.

**All registration applications must be verified and approved by the residency committee.*

8. Students residing outside Calhoun County must apply by July 1 and pay annual tuition before the start of school: \$900 for the first child, \$850 for the second, \$800 for the third, etc. Tuition for partial-year enrollment will be prorated. After the first nine weeks of attendance, tuition is nonrefundable. If a student is withdrawn during the first nine weeks, a prorated refund will be issued. Special considerations for prorated payments and/or refunds may be made by the Superintendent.
- Approved out-of-district students will be assigned to the school closest to their residence.
9. Students enrolled the previous year with no address change must verify continued residence. Failure to provide requested proof of residency by the first day of classes may result in withdrawal. Reentry will not be allowed until all documentation is complete.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies JB, JBC, JBCA, JBCC, JBCB; Legal References: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-15-29, 37-15-31, 37-13-91, 41-23-37

ADMISSION POLICIES

Admission of Students Coming from Alternative Placements

Students transferring from other districts who are currently assigned to an Alternative Placement will automatically be placed in the Calhoun County Diversified Learning Center Alternative Placement upon enrollment. CCSD has the right to review student discipline and modify as necessary to meet district policies and procedures (Revised 05/2025).

Admission from Non-Accredited Schools and Homeschool Programs

The Calhoun County School District does not automatically accept students from schools or programs not accredited by the state or a recognized regional agency. These students will undergo a review by a Student Placement Committee. The committee may determine an appropriate grade placement based on a review of the student's educational records and/or the administration of standardized or teacher-made assessments. Assessments may be administered within 30 days of the student's registration, and the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the time and date of the assessment in advance.

Admission of Homeless Students

If a child is determined to be homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, enrollment decisions shall be made in the best interest of the child in accordance with federal guidelines and Board policy.

Admission of English Learners (EL)

If a child is identified as an English Learner under Public Law 107-110, enrollment decisions will be made in the best interest of the child in accordance with federal law, including Sections 1112(g) and 3302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and Board policy.

Admission of Migrant Students

If a child is determined to be a migrant student under Title I, Part C of Public Law 103-382 (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), enrollment decisions will be made in the best interest of the child in compliance with federal guidelines and Board policy. The Calhoun County School District is a member of a migrant education consortium administered by Mississippi State University. Questions regarding migrant status may be directed to the university at (662) 325-1815.

Admission of Foster Care Students

Students identified as being in foster care may only be enrolled in or withdrawn from school by an official representative of child protective services.

Withdrawal of a Student

When a student transfers to another school, the parent or legal guardian must report to the child's school office to officially withdraw the student. Official withdrawal documents will be issued once all outstanding dues and fines have been paid, if applicable. Any special circumstances related to the withdrawal process will be reviewed by the appropriate personnel (Revised 05/2025).

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies JBC, JBDE, JBD, IDDF, JBCBA; Legal References: McKinney-Vento Act, ESSA Sections 1112(g), 3302; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-31

PLACEMENT, PROMOTION, AND RETENTION

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-kindergarten students may be retained based on a collaborative decision made by the administration, the classroom teacher, and the parent or legal guardian.

Kindergarten

1. Placement of Six-Year-Old Students in Kindergarten:

- a. Six-year-old students who are otherwise eligible for first grade may be assigned to kindergarten upon parental request, with the consent of the elementary principal. Justifiable reasons for such placement may include immaturity, developmental delays, or disabling conditions that, in the opinion of the principal, make kindergarten the most appropriate placement. A letter explaining the rationale for the placement will be jointly signed by the parent(s) and the principal and placed in the student's cumulative folder.

b. Six-year-old students who are eligible for first grade may be assigned to kindergarten within fifteen (15) school days after enrollment, provided the following criteria are met:

1. The classroom teacher assesses the child's performance and determines that it falls significantly below the readiness range needed for success in first grade.
 2. The elementary principal approves the reassignment to kindergarten.
 3. A letter is sent to the parent(s) notifying them of the placement change. A copy of the letter, along with supporting documentation such as work samples and checklists, is filed in the student's cumulative folder.
2. **Retention of Kindergarten Students:** Kindergarten students may be retained based on the following criteria:
- A. Failure to successfully complete the reading readiness curriculum, demonstrate minimum competency in arithmetic and reading readiness, and failure to pass diagnostic reading and math assessments.
 - B. A recommendation for retention made by the classroom teacher.
 - C. Approval of the retention by the school principal.

First through Fourth Grade Students

To be promoted to the next grade level, students in grades 1 through 4 must meet the following criteria:

- **First to Second Grade:** Successful completion of the first-grade reading curriculum and a minimum grade of 70 in both reading and mathematics.
- **Second to Third Grade:** Successful completion of the second-grade reading curriculum and a minimum grade of 70 in both reading and mathematics.
- **Third to Fourth Grade:** Successful completion of the third-grade reading curriculum and a minimum grade of 70 in both reading and mathematics.
- **Fourth to Fifth Grade:** Successful completion of the fourth-grade reading curriculum and a minimum grade of 70 in both reading and mathematics.

Literacy-Based Promotion Act (Senate Bill 2347)

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, and in accordance with the Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act, any third-grade student scoring **Level 1 or Level 2 (Revised 05/2025)** in reading on the state-mandated assessment will not be promoted to fourth grade unless the student qualifies for a good cause exemption as defined by law.

Fifth through Eighth Grade Students

Students in grades 5 through 8 who are not identified as having a disability or as English Learners (ELs) will be retained if they fail two or more academic subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and reading (where offered).

Students in grades 5 through 8 who score at Level 1 or Level 2 on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) may be considered for promotion or retention by an internal review team and will be referred to the school's Teacher Support Team (TST).

Note: All decisions regarding the promotion or retention of English Learners will be made in accordance with applicable federal guidelines.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IHE, IK, IKB, ID; Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-177-1 et seq. (Literacy-Based Promotion Act)

Note: To comply with House Bill 1390, CCSD has adopted an Abstinence Plus curriculum, which is implemented in Science/Health classrooms in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Parental consent is required for student participation.

Grading System:

Kindergarten – 6th Grade

93-100	A
85-92	B
75-84	C
70-74	D
69 and below	F

7th – 12th Grade

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-69	D
64 and below	F

Honor Roll:

Kindergarten – 12th Grade

- **Principal's List:** Overall term average of 95–100
- **Honor Roll:** Overall term average of 90–94

Note: Handwriting, summer school grades, physical education, band, and chorus grades will not be considered in determining honor roll status.

Classification of High School Students:

High school students must achieve mastery of all core skills and earn a minimum grade of 65 in each course to receive credit. Students will be classified based on the following criteria:

- **Ninth Grade:** Completion of eighth grade
- **Tenth Grade:** Minimum of 6 credits earned
- **Eleventh Grade:** Minimum of 12 credits earned
- **Twelfth Grade:** Minimum of 16 credits earned and enrollment in the remaining units required for graduation

Note: The State of Mississippi requires students to pass subject area tests in the following courses to graduate: Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and United States History. Students who pass the course but do not pass the subject area test will still receive course credit. Remediation and retesting opportunities will be provided. Carnegie Units are awarded separately from subject area assessment results.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The Calhoun County School District is committed to improving the success of all students. Students should consult their school counselor for specific course requirements that meet the admission standards for a Mississippi four-year college or university. Graduation requirements vary based on the student's initial 9th-grade entry year. Requirements established by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) are subject to change and may supersede the information in this handbook.

Entering 9th Graders of 2018–2019 and After

Mississippi offers two diploma options:

- **Traditional Diploma:** Available to all students.
- **Alternate Diploma:** Available only to students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

Requirements

- Students should identify an endorsement area before entering the 9th grade.
- Endorsement selections may only be changed with parental permission.

Recommendations

- For early graduation, students are encouraged to successfully complete an endorsement area.

Students are encouraged to take a math course or math-equivalent course during their senior year.

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	English I, English II
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3 ³	Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History ⁴ 1 U.S. History ⁴ ½ U.S. Government ⁴ ½ Economics ⁵ ½ Mississippi Studies ⁶
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ ⁷	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½ ⁸	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 ⁹	
THE ARTS	1 ¹⁰	
COLLEGE- and CAREER-READINESS	1 ¹¹	
ELECTIVES	5½	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24 ^{12, 13, 14}	

Traditional Diploma

- Earn 24 credits (Carnegie Units) in a selection of required classes including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology or Computer Science, College and Career Readiness, Health, Art, Physical Education and electives
- Local school districts may add graduation requirements to the state requirements

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement area before entering the 9th grade. There are three endorsement options available:

- **Career and Technical Endorsement**
- **Academic Endorsement**
- **Distinguished Academic Endorsement**

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3 ³	Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History ⁴ 1 U.S. History ⁴ ½ U.S. Government ⁴ ½ Economics ⁵ ½ Mississippi Studies ⁶
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ ⁷	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½ ⁸	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 ⁹	
THE ARTS	1 ¹⁰	
COLLEGE- AND CAREER- READINESS	1 ¹¹	
CAREER and TECHNICAL/JROTC	4	
ELECTIVES	3½	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	26 ^{12, 13, 14}	

Traditional Diploma + Career and Technical Education (CTE) or JROTC Endorsement

- Earn 26 Credits
- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Earn silver level on ACT WorkKeys
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - o One (1) dual credit
 - o Work based Learning
 - o Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential
 - o One (1) Advance Placement (AP), Diploma Program-International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge (AICE) course aligned to their career pathway. Students must earn a C or higher and take the appropriate exam.
 - o NOCTI/JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills Credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	English I English II Two (2) additional English Courses above English II
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I Two (2) additional Math Courses above Algebra I
SCIENCE	3 ³	Biology Two (2) additional science courses above Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	3½	1 World History ⁴ 1 U.S. History ⁴ ½ U.S. Government ⁴ ½ Economics ⁵ ½ Mississippi Studies ⁶
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ ⁷	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½ ⁸	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 ⁹	
THE ARTS	1 ¹⁰	
COLLEGE- and CAREER- READINESS	1 ¹¹	
ELECTIVES	7½	Must Include two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum
		requirements (This information is available from Institutions of Higher Learning.)
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	26 ^{12, 13, 14}	

Traditional Diploma + Academic Endorsement

- Earn 26 credits
- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - o ACT sub scores of 17 in English and 19 in Math
 - o Essentials of College Math or Essentials of College Literacy (in senior year)
 - o SAT equivalency subscore
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - o One (1) AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate Advance Placement (AP) exam
 - o One (1) Diploma Program-International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge (AICE) course with a C or higher and take the appropriate exam
 - o One (1) dual credit course and earn a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	English I English II Two (2) additional English Courses above English II
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I Two (2) additional Math Courses above Algebra I
SCIENCE	4 ³	Biology Two (2) additional science courses above Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History ⁴ 1 U.S. History ⁴ ½ U.S. Government ⁴ ½ Economics ⁵ ½ Mississippi Studies ⁶
PHYSICALEDUCATION	½ ⁷	½ Physical Education
HEALTH	½ ⁸	½ Contemporary Health
TECHNOLOGY or COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 ⁹	
THE ARTS	1 ¹⁰	
COLLEGE- and CAREER-READINESS	1 ¹¹	
ELECTIVES	8	Must Include two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum requirements (This information is available from Institutions of Higher Learning).
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	28 12,13,14	

Traditional Diploma + Distinguished Academic Endorsement

- Earn 28 credits
- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL CPC recommended requirements
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - o ACT sub scores of 18 in English and 22 in Math
 - o SAT equivalency subscore
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - o One (1) Advanced Placement (AP) course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - o One (1) Diploma Program-International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge (AICE) course with a B or higher and take the appropriate exam
 - o One (1) dual credit course earning a B or higher in the course

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS	GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE SUBSTITUTION
ENGLISH	4 ¹	Alternate English I	CCR English I
		Alternate English II	CCR English II
		Alternate English III Alternate English IV	CCR English III CCR English IV Broadcast Journalism Debate Foundations of Journalism Mississippi Writers Oral Communications Print Journalism Survey of African American Writing Technical and Workplace Writing World Literature
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Alternate Math I	CCR Compacted Math 7 CCR Compacted Math Grade 8 with Algebra I (prior to entering HS) Foundations of Algebra (Grade 9 only)
		Alternate Math II	CCR Compacted Math Grade 8 with Algebra I (prior to entering HS) Foundations of Algebra (Grade 9 only) Advanced Technical Mathematics
		Alternate Math III	Advanced Technical Mathematics (must be taken prior to CCR Algebra I)
SCIENCE	2		CCR Geometry CCR Algebra II (contingent on passing CCR Algebra I)
		Alternate Algebra	CCR Algebra I
		Alternate Biology	Biology
		Alternate Science II	Courses worth 1 Carnegie Unit Physical Science Earth and Space Science Human Anatomy and Physiology Foundations of Biology OR Courses worth ½ Carnegie Unit Environmental Science Genetics Geology Zoology I Zoology II Astronomy Botany Foundations of Science Literacy
SOCIAL STUDIES	2	Alternate History	US History
		Alternate Social Studies	Courses worth 1 Carnegie Unit World History Courses worth ½ Carnegie Unit Economics US Government Mississippi Studies Psychology Sociology World Geography
HEALTH	½ ³	Alternate Health	Contemporary Health Healthcare & Clinical Services I Theory and Application of Health Sciences JROTC I and II
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ ⁴	Physical Education	Physical Education
CAREER READINESS	4 ⁵	Career Readiness I-IV	Career Readiness was designed specifically for the Alternate Diploma
LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	4 ⁵	Life Skills Development I-IV	Life Skills Development was designed specifically for the Alternate Diploma
THE ARTS	1 ⁶	The Arts	
ELECTIVES	2		Any Carnegie unit credit bearing courses or a combination of ½ Carnegie unit credit bearing courses
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24		

Alternate Diploma

- Students who have met the criteria of having a Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.
- Earn 24 Carnegie Units in a selection of required classes including English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, Career Readiness, Life Skills Development, the Arts, and Electives
- Required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A) and achieve a level of Passing or Proficient
- The state defined Alternate Diploma is included in graduation rates in the same manner as a traditional diploma.
- Students with an Alternate Diploma must contact the postsecondary institution to determine eligibility for Ability to Benefit (ATB)

FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM

Begins with the incoming freshmen class of 2025

The high school course requirements set forth below are applicable to students graduating from high school and entering a public institution of higher learning.

The minimum REQUIRED ¹ CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:	The minimum RECOMMENDED ² CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:
English: 4 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included. 	English: 4 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.
Mathematics: 4 Carnegie Units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I or its equivalent Math higher than Algebra I (2 units) Additional math higher or lower than Algebra I (1 unit) 	Mathematics: 4 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I or its equivalent Math higher than Algebra I (3 units)
Science: 3 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology I or its equivalent Science higher than Biology I (2 units) 	Science: 4 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology I or its equivalent Science higher than Biology I (3 units)
Social Studies: 3 Carnegie Units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence. 	Social Studies: 4 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.
Arts: 1 Carnegie unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation. 	Arts: 1 Carnegie unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.
Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3 Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units as noted in the (a) Office of Academic and Student Affairs CPC Manual and/or any (b) Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. <u>Example: completion of both Health Sciences I & II will count as an advanced elective.</u> 	Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3 Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units as noted in the (a) Office of Academic and Student Affairs CPC Manual and/or any (b) Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. <u>Example: completion of both Health Sciences I & II will count as an advanced elective.</u>
Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course 	Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course equivalent or additional

equivalent or additional advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi residents.	advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi residents.
Total Carnegie units: 18 Carnegie Units	Total Carnegie units: 20 Carnegie Units
¹ High school Carnegie units required for regular admission to an IHL institution ² Recommended high school Carnegie units to enhance preparedness for college-level work Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-High School units: Courses taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course earns Carnegie credit and the content is the same as the high school course. • Substitutions: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB, Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses may be substituted for each requirement in the College Preparatory Curriculum • Course Acceptance: A course may not be used to satisfy more than one requirement. • The Required and Recommended College Preparatory Curricula (CPC) are approved by the IHL Board of Trustees and maintained by the IHL Office of Academic and Student Affairs. 	

For additional information, visit the following website: www.mississippi.edu/student-parent-resources-college-preparatory-curriculum

See your school counselor for specific courses that satisfy requirements.

Please visit the following site for further information on MS Graduation requirements

mdek12.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/03/Mississippi-Public-School-Accountability-Standards_2024.pdf (Revised 05/2025)

Furthermore, MS IHL Requirements can be reviewed at the following website:

<http://www.mississippi.edu/admissions/curriculum.asp>

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IHF, ID, IK, IDFA; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-16-7, 37-16-4, 37-13-171–173; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28 and 7-163:21; IDEA; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

SUBJECT AREA TESTING PROGRAM

The Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) consists of four academic end-of-course exams: Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877. A passing score on each of the four tests is required for graduation.

- *Career and Traditional Pathway options are required by the State Board of Education.*
- **The Career Pathway Option has been available to all students since the 2012–2013 school year.**
- Both courses in each module must be completed to obtain Career and Technical Education credits.

See your school counselor for information about courses that satisfy specific requirements.

Note: No more than one credit may be earned through correspondence courses.

Note: No more than one credit toward high school graduation may be earned during a summer school session.

Note: CCSD offers a Credit Recovery Program. For more information, contact your school counselor.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students who elect to participate in CCSD’s Early Graduation Option Policy are not eligible to participate in popular elections. A student who graduates before the cohort with whom they entered ninth grade will be classified as an early graduate. Beginning with the freshman class of 2016–2017, students who graduate early will not be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors.

For additional information or to apply for early graduation, students should contact their school counselor.

Note: All Early Graduation paperwork must be submitted by the deadline of August 15.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

Schedule changes are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Any change must be approved by the principal, who may delegate authority to the school counselor.

- Students may request schedule changes within the first five (5) days of the school year.
- Teachers may also request schedule changes if a student is determined to be inappropriately placed.

EARLY RELEASE ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for early release, students must meet one of the following:

- Achieve College or Career Readiness Benchmarks:
 - ACT sub-scores of 17 in English and 19 in Math
 - Or achieve a Silver level on the ACT WorkKeys assessment
 - Or meet SAT equivalency sub-scores

Alternatively, students may qualify by meeting all of the following:

- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Meet all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation
- Be on track to meet all diploma requirements
- Be concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

SPECIAL AWARDS

To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors, a student must complete the college preparatory curriculum. If no students meet this requirement, those who come closest will be considered. Grades from summer school, physical education, band, chorus, and correspondence courses will not be included in GPA calculations. Dual Enrollment courses will be included in the student's overall GPA. Honors will be determined after the conclusion of the third nine-week grading period. Students who graduate early are not eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors. A student who graduates before the class with which they entered ninth grade is considered an early graduate.

Valedictorian: The student with the highest academic average who has completed the required coursework and attended the school for the last **three (Revised 05/2025)** consecutive years will be named Valedictorian.

Salutatorian: The student with the second-highest academic average who has completed the required coursework and attended the school for the last **three (Revised 05/2025)** consecutive years will be named Salutatorian.

STAR Student: Refer to the Mississippi Economic Council for STAR Student identification criteria:
<https://msmec.com/star-program/>

Subject Area Awards: Awarded to the most outstanding student in a subject or course. Subject Area Awards will be determined after the third nine-week grading period.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JIHC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-31(1)(c); Mississippi Economic Council STAR Program.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

- **Special Honor Graduates** must maintain a 95 or higher academic average from grades 9–12, including credit-bearing middle school courses.
- **Honor Graduates** must maintain a 90 or higher academic average from grades 9–12.
- Grades from summer school, physical education, band, chorus, and correspondence courses will not be included in GPA calculations.
- Grades from Dual Enrollment courses will be included.
- Honors status will be determined at the conclusion of the third nine-week grading period.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy IHF; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7; MDE Graduation Options.

HALL OF FAME

Eligibility for Hall of Fame includes:

- A cumulative academic average of 90 or above from grades 9–12, including any high school credit earned in middle school
- Good academic and disciplinary standing, with no:
 - Out-of-school suspension in grades 11–12
 - Alternative Placement in grades 9–12
 - School expulsions
- Successful completion of all subject area assessments
- Attendance at the respective school during both junior and senior years
- Early Graduation participants are not eligible for Hall of Fame or popular elections

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JIHC; MPSAS 2023, Process Standard 28.

SENIOR PRIVILEGES

- Seniors may not take exams more than three days earlier than other students.
- The final three days of the 180 required school days may be used for graduation practice.
- No senior skip days are sanctioned by Calhoun County School District.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JD; School-Level Procedures.

SENIOR **FINAL** EXAM SCHEDULE – 2026

Fall Semester Schedule

Wednesday, December 17, 2025—1st & 3rd Blocks

Thursday, December 18, 2025—2nd & 4th Blocks

Friday, December 19, 2025—Make-up Exams

Spring Semester Schedule

Friday, May 15, 2026—1st & 3rd Blocks

Monday, May 18, 2026—2nd & 4th Blocks

Tuesday, May 19, 2026—Make-up Exams

NOTE: No employee has the authority to adjust the Board Approved examination schedule. Exams should be administered during each student's regularly scheduled class period unless prior approval is granted by the building principal. This approval does NOT permit principals to move exams outside of the board-approved exam window. (Revised 05/2025)

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IK, IHA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28.6

GRADUATION SCHEDULE – 2026

Vardaman Attendance Center (VAC):	May 22, 6:00 PM
Calhoun City High School (CCHS):	May 22, 8:00 PM
Bruce High School (BHS):	May 23, 7:00 PM

DISRUPTION OF GRADUATION OR OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL SESSIONS OR MEETINGS

State law mandates that graduation ceremonies remain free of disruption. Per Mississippi Code § 37-11-23, anyone who willfully disturbs a public school session or meeting is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined upon conviction.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-23.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES

The CCSD Dual Enrollment Program offers high school students the opportunity to take college courses through Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC) while still enrolled in high school. When successfully completed, dual enrollment courses count as Carnegie Units toward a high school diploma and as credit hours toward a college degree. (Note: Credit hours are transferable for students who do not attend NWCC after graduation.)

CCSD provides dual enrollment courses in partnership with NWCC. Tuition and fees for these courses are determined by NWCC. **The district will provide a maximum of 12 hours of Dual Enrollment classes per eligible student, as funds allow (Revised 05/2025).** Dual enrollment courses not offered through NWCC must be researched and paid for by the parent or guardian. Students who do not complete or pass their dual enrollment courses may be ineligible for future participation in the program.

Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, the district may cover the cost of up to 12 credit hours of Dual Enrollment courses, as funding allows. If a student chooses to enroll in the additional 6 hours offered, the full cost of those courses shall (Revised 05/2025) be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

To be considered for participation: See your high school counselor for additional information regarding dual enrollment eligibility and application.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy IDAG

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Advanced Placement courses allow high school students to earn Carnegie Units toward a high school diploma. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the corresponding AP exams. Successfully passing AP exams may allow students to earn college credit and bypass certain freshman-level college courses.

Tuition for each AP exam varies, as does the cost of course materials. These expenses must be covered by the student.

To be considered for participation in an AP course: Students must receive approval from both the school principal and the school counselor.

Note: Grades earned in Dual Enrollment and AP courses will be included in the student's overall GPA and will be weighted with a multiplier of 1.1.

Note: Course titles may vary by school. Some Advanced Placement courses may not be available at all CCSD high schools.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IDAG, IHF, IK; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-15-38, 37-16-17; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28.5

JOB SHADOWING

Students in grades 10–12 are eligible for two job shadow days per school year. Students must receive parent and school approval prior to the job shadow date and must submit the job shadow form, with all required signatures, to the school office no later than three days after the shadow date in order to receive a school business excuse for their absence.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IDFA, IK, JG; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28

VOCATIONAL GUIDELINES

Vocational Programs Admission Requirements

Prerequisites for admission into Year 1 vocational classes:

- Student must be in grades 9–12.

Prerequisites for admission into Year 2 vocational classes:

- Student must have earned a final average of at least 70 in the Year 1 class.

Special Consideration: Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may be placed into a vocational program if the IEP committee determines the placement to be safe and appropriate. If a student with an IEP is to be placed in a vocational program, at least one of the following individuals must serve as a member of the IEP committee:

- Vocational Director
- Program Instructor
- Student Services Coordinator
- Vocational Counselor

Class Size Limitations

Each school will be allocated a specific number of spots in each vocational section based on the school's total enrollment.

The Calhoun County School District does not discriminate in its vocational programs on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IDAI, IDF, ID, GAAA; Carl D. Perkins CTE Act; IDEA; Section 504; Title VI, IX; ADA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-31-61

7th—11th SEMESTER AND FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Fall Semester Schedule

Wednesday, December 17, 2025—1st & 3rd Blocks

Thursday, December 18, 2025—2nd & 4th Blocks

Friday, December 19, 2025—Make-up Exams

Spring Semester Schedule

Wednesday, May 20, 2026—1st & 3rd Blocks

Thursday, May 21, 2026—2nd & 4th Blocks

Friday, May 22, 2026—Make-up Exams

NOTE: No employee has the authority to adjust the Board Approved examination schedule. Exams should be administered during each student's regularly scheduled class period unless prior approval is granted by the building principal. This approval does NOT permit principals to move exams outside of the board-approved exam window. (Revised 05/2025)

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IK, IHA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28.6

EXEMPTIONS

Students in grades 5–12, including seniors, may be exempt from final exams only if they meet the following criteria for each class:

- **A average or above:** No more than 3 absences per semester class, 6 absences per year-long class (Revised 05/2025)
- **B average:** No more than 2 absences per semester class, 4 absences per year-long class (Revised 05/2025)
- **C average:** No more than 1 absence per semester class, 2 absences per year-long class (Revised 05/2025)

All absences, whether excused or unexcused—including those with a doctor's note—will count toward the exemption limit. **School business days are not counted** toward exemption totals. Please note that 9-week courses are not eligible for exemption.

This policy not only rewards academic performance but is primarily intended to improve school attendance by encouraging consistent participation.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IK, JBE; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned to reinforce academic instruction. Students are expected to complete and submit assignments on time.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IKB, IK; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28

EXTRA CREDIT

If offered, extra credit opportunities must be made available to all students. Extra credit may not substitute for missing work and must represent additional academic effort.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IK, IHA; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28

REPORT CARDS

- **Progress Reports** will be issued during the fourth week of each nine-week period.
- **Failure Notices** will be issued during the seventh week of each nine-week period.
- **Report Cards** will be issued four times per school year, at the end of each nine-week term. These are sent home on the Friday following the nine-week test week.

If the report card indicates failing or significantly low grades, parents are encouraged to schedule a conference with the teacher to develop an academic improvement plan. (See “Contacting School Personnel” on page xiii.)

Grading procedures for each class will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Grades for PE, Band, and Chorus will not be included in GPA calculations. Semester exams will be comprehensive and will account for **10%** of the semester grade. Points will not be deducted as a form of academic discipline.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IHA, IK, IFB; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-11; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:28; ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Provisions

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND EXCUSES

Regular attendance is critical for academic success. Parents and students should strive for perfect attendance. Each absence disrupts the learning process and represents lost instructional time.

Attendance Policy: A student must be present for **at least 63%** of their instructional day to be considered present for a full day. For additional clarification, contact your school principal or counselor.

1. Excused Absences:

- Written parental verification of illness
- Medical or dental verification
- Death or serious illness in the immediate family
- School-sponsored events
- Court summons
- Religious observances with documentation (in advance) (Revised 05/2025)
- Principal-approved absences

NOTE: WRITTEN documentation is required for ANY absence to be excused. (Revised 05/2025)

2. Parental Discretion:

- Parents may exercise discretion for the above reasons. However, after **six absences during a school year**, a **doctor’s or legal excuse** is required.

3. Parent Notes:

- Parent notes will only be accepted for six absences per school year. (Revised 05/2025)
- Notes must include: student's full name, parent's full name, date(s) of absence, specific reason, and the date the note was written.

4. Special Circumstances:

- Must be arranged with the principal **at least one day in advance**.

5. Make-up Work for Excused Absences:

- Students have the same number of days to complete missed work as the number of days absent.
- Extended absences may allow for more time, at the principal’s discretion.

6. Unexcused Absences:

- Students may not make up work for unexcused absences, except for suspensions.
 - Students will receive a zero for missed work.
 - Zeros cannot be given if no work was assigned.
7. **Exam Absences:**
 - Students must present a **medical, court excuse**, or have **prior principal approval** to make up an exam.
 8. **Suspensions:**
 - Days missed due to disciplinary suspension are unexcused.
 - Students may make up academic work missed during suspensions.
 9. **College Visits:**
 - Juniors and seniors may be granted **two days** for college visits with **prior approval** from administration.
 10. **Verification:**
 - The district reserves the right to verify doctor's notes.
 11. **Documentation Deadline:**
 - All absence notes must be submitted within **three days** or the absence remains unexcused.
 12. **Early Checkouts (Grades 9–12):**
 - Three early checkouts in the same class count as **one unexcused absence**.
 - Missing more than **63% of a class** counts as an absence.
 13. **Early Checkouts (Grades K–8):**
 - Three early checkouts have the weight of **one unexcused absence**.
 - See the section on **Tardies for Students** for further guidance.
 14. **Seniors – Graduation Participation:**
 - Any senior with more than **10 unexcused absences** will not be allowed to participate in the graduation “walking” ceremony.
 15. **Seniors – Full Day Absences:**
 - A senior missing more than **63%** of the school day will be counted absent for the entire day.

Excessive Absences:

- Students accumulating **10 or more unexcused absences** may be referred for an Alternative Placement.
- In accordance with state law, excessive unexcused absences will be reported to the school attendance officer.

Reminder: No “skip days” are sanctioned by the Calhoun County School District.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies JBE, JBH; Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91

STUDENT TARDIES

For grades K–12, students who are tardy to class must report to the principal's office to secure an admittance slip. Teachers will not admit tardy students without an admittance slip. Each individual school will determine the specific penalties for repeated tardiness. If a student misses more than 63% of a class period, they will be considered absent for that class. After five unexcused absences per semester, parents will be reported to the Attendance Officer.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JBE; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91.

STUDENT CHECKOUT

To ensure student safety and school accountability, the following checkout procedure must be followed:

- If a student becomes ill or experiences an emergency requiring early dismissal, they must report to the school office.
- A student may only be checked out by a parent, legal guardian, or an authorized individual who is at least 21 years of age.
- In emergency situations, the principal has the discretion to allow other parent-authorized designees to check out students.
- For doctor's appointments or other approved reasons, a parent, guardian, or authorized individual must come to the school and sign the student out.
- Upon returning to school, students must check back in through the principal's office.
- Each school will determine penalties for excessive checkouts.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JBH; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.

USE OF OFFICE PHONE

Students may not use the office phone for personal calls without permission from the office staff. Students will only be called out of class for phone calls in emergency situations. If a student becomes ill, they must report to the office, and the secretary will contact the parent or guardian.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JG-R.

SCHOOL VISITATION

Parents, former students, and community members are welcome to attend school programs and events throughout the year. During school hours, all visitors must report directly to the principal's office. For special events (such as Awards ceremonies, pep rallies, etc.), sign-in sheets may be required at the event location instead of going through the office (Revised 05/2025). Parents wishing to speak with a teacher must schedule an appointment through the school office. Conferences will be arranged so as not to interrupt classroom instruction or the principal's supervision duties.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy KM; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-21.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VISITORS

Disruptive conduct on school premises is strictly prohibited. Visitors must not:

- Disrupt the peaceful and orderly conduct of classes
- Enter the school without proper authorization
- Refuse to comply with reasonable directives from school officials
- Use loud or profane language
- Verbally or physically abuse students or staff
- Threaten or intimidate students or staff
- Engage with students or staff without authorization
- Exchange prohibited items with students

Violations may result in removal from school grounds and criminal prosecution for trespassing. These rules apply to all school events, including athletic events, and extend to conduct toward officiating crews. Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) rules apply.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policies KM, KMA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-23; MHSAA Regulations.

WHO'S WHO & HOMECOMING

To be eligible as a representative for Who's Who or Homecoming Court, students must meet the following criteria during the current and prior semester (Revised 05/2025):

- Maintain an average of 80 or above in all core curriculum classes
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, with no:
 - Out-of-school suspension
 - Alternative Placement
 - School expulsions
- Meet all grade-level requirements
- Status for students with an IEP will be determined by the IEP Committee
- Early Graduation participants are not eligible for popular elections

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JIHC; MPSAS 2023, Process Standard 28.

STUDENT COUNCIL & CLASS OFFICERS

To be eligible for a Student Council or Class Officer position, students must meet the following criteria during the current and prior semester (Revised 05/2025):

- Maintain an 85 average or higher in all core curriculum classes
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing, with no:
 - Out-of-school suspension
 - Alternative Placement
 - School expulsions
- Meet all grade-level requirements
- Early Graduation participants are not eligible for popular elections

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policies JICA, JIHC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-55.

DUES AND FEES

Certain classes and activities require dues or fees, which must be kept current in order for students to continue participating in them. Examples may include business classes, science labs, and clubs. All fees must not exceed the actual cost. Below is a list of specific fees:

Class/Activity	Dues/Fees
Senior Fee	\$130 with annual purchase (<i>non-refundable</i>)\$80 without annual purchase (<i>non-refundable</i>)
Club Dues	As set by organization
Computer (non-vocational)	\$15
Band	\$65 (<i>or \$85 if using a school-owned instrument</i>) (<i>non-refundable</i>)Refer to BHS or CCHS handbooks for band guidelines
Art	\$30
Driver's Ed.	\$40
Advanced Placement Classes	\$92
Chorus	\$15
Career & Technical Center	\$30
Cyber Foundations I	\$10
Cyber Foundations II	\$10
STEM	\$10
Nutrition	\$15
Technology Fee	\$5
Dual Enrollment Classes	Set by NWCC

Note: Fees are to be paid by the end of the first nine weeks.

Fees authorized under this policy may be waived upon request based on financial hardship. A hardship waiver may be obtained from the school office. This waiver does not apply to Advanced Placement classes, Dual Enrollment classes, Chorus, Band, or Athletics. Some extracurricular activities, such as band trips and athletic events, are not covered by the fee waiver policy. If a student withdraws or cannot continue a class requiring a fee, reimbursement will not be issued after the first nine weeks of the semester.

Senior Fees: Any senior who has **not paid required fees** by the end of the **third nine weeks** will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. **Special circumstances may be addressed on a case-by-case basis. (Revised 05/2025)**

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JS; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-335.

TRANSCRIPTS

Graduates may request copies of their transcripts at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JR; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-3.

TEXTBOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

Calhoun County School District provides textbooks free of charge to students. It is the responsibility of each student to care for textbooks and equipment to the best of their ability. Students who lose or damage textbooks or equipment must pay for them. No refunds will be issued for books found after a lost book fine has been paid. Parents assume full responsibility for any books or equipment issued to their children. Teachers are instructed to assess fines based on the following charts.

CCSD Damage and Fine Replacement Chart:

Damage	Fine
Writing/drawing/scribbling in book	\$1.00 per page
Excess wear/damage but still usable	10% of cost of the book
Cover of book damaged	25% of cost of the book
Spine damaged	25% of cost of the book
Water damaged but still usable	25% of cost of the book
Water damaged, not usable	Cost of the book
Pages missing, not usable	Cost of the book
Obscene writing or drawing on or in book	Cost of the book
Non-returned book	Cost of the book

Fees for Chromebooks and iPads:

Damage	Fine
Loss, deliberate damage, or neglect	Cost of iPad/Chromebook
Broken screen	\$75.00
Broken keyboard (Chromebook only)	\$75.00
Power adapter + cord	\$30.00
Trackpad (Chromebook only)	\$75.00
Liquid damage to device	\$75.00
District-assigned case	\$25.00
Writing, drawing, stickers, or labels attached	\$25.00
Severe damaged corner	\$75.00

According to CCSD Policy EBCA: If any student willfully destroys, cuts, defaces, damages, or injures any school building, equipment, or other school property, they may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Parents, legal guardians, or custodians will be liable for all damages.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JS; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e).

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

See the Calhoun County School District Athletic Parent/Student Handbook for requirements.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy IDFA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(p); MHSAA Handbook.

FUNDRAISING AND FIELD TRIPS

- Fundraising projects must receive **PRIOR APPROVAL (Revised 05/2025)** from the principal and scheduled to avoid testing conflicts.
- Online fundraising must receive approval from the School Board **PRIOR (Revised 05/2025)** to beginning the fundraiser.
- Field trips must be approved first by the principal and then by the Superintendent.
- Overnight field trips are not permitted.
- Organized camps, competitions, conferences, or performances may be approved by the Superintendent.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policies JJF, IFCB; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(aa).

SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students participating in school-sponsored activities that require missing class will receive excused absences. However, all previously assigned work must be turned in either prior to the event or on the day the student returns.

- Students must be present for at least 63% of their instructional day to participate.
- Students placed in in-school detention, out-of-school suspension, or Alternative Placement may not participate during their placement.

Note: The principal may officially excuse a student/athlete from participation only for documented medical reasons or significant/unusual circumstances.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy IDFA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.1.

JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM

Each high school's junior/senior prom will be coordinated by a parent committee. The school will not be affiliated with the prom.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCD.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a delayed start due to inclement weather:

- Staff will report to their home school at 9:15 AM.
- Students will arrive by 9:30 AM.
- Classes will begin at 9:45 AM.

Schedule Details:

- High school students report to 2nd block and resume their regular schedule.
- Elementary students will receive a late breakfast and follow a normal lunch schedule with shortened instructional blocks.

On planned 63% days or unplanned early releases:

- High school students remain on regular schedule until the end of 3rd block.
- Elementary students will follow a normal breakfast and early lunch schedule with shortened blocks.

Note: Buses will not travel on hazardous roads.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy EBBC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91(4).

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Virtual instruction related to inclement weather and/or emergency situations will be scheduled at the discretion of the Superintendent of Education.

Policy References: CCSD Board Policies IDDC, EBBC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-87; Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:30

DISASTER DRILLS

Tornado or Severe Weather:

- Schools will use a designated warning signal.
- Students will move to designated safe areas and sit near walls with heads down or covered.
- Stay away from windows and open doorways.

Fire or Explosion:

- Schools will use a designated warning signal.
- Students, under teacher supervision, will exit to designated areas in an orderly and rapid manner.
- No student may open a locker during a drill or emergency.

Note: Additional drills such as lockdowns and active shooter drills will be conducted as required by law.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy EBBC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-83(1)(c).

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

Federal Public Law (PL108.265 Section 204) requires that all schools develop a local wellness policy beginning after June 30, 2006. This policy must involve parents, students, and representatives from the School Food Authority, School Board, school administrators, and the public. The Local Education Authority (LEA) will establish a plan for measuring implementation of the local wellness policy.

The Calhoun County School District has adopted a wellness policy (Board Policy JG) and is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness practices.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JG; 42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010); 7 CFR § 210.31.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

When medication is to be administered at school, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The school nurse should be informed of any student receiving medication at school.
- A permission note signed by the parent/guardian must accompany the medication.
- The permission note must list the name of the medication, the amount to be given, and the time it is to be administered.
- Medication must be labeled with the child's name and be in the original container.
- All medications must be turned in to the teacher, secretary, or nurse at the beginning of the school day.
- All medications will be kept in a locked cabinet or container during school hours.
- If the student requires a daily medication, a Medication Permission Form must be completed. A medication record shall be kept that includes the student's name, date, medication administered, and the initials of the person who administered it.
- Any prescription medication must be prescribed to the student by a physician.
- Medication will NOT be administered at school if it is not properly labeled by a pharmacist or if there is no written parental permission.
- Students diagnosed with asthma may carry their inhalers if an Asthma Action Plan from their doctor is on file with the school nurse.
- The District assumes no responsibility for any outcomes resulting from a student taking or refusing to take medication.
- The District does not stock over-the-counter medication. If a student requires over-the-counter medication:

- A doctor's order must be on file for medications needed for longer than one week (7 days).
- Parents must sign a medication permission form.
- Parents must supply the over-the-counter medication.
- Students diagnosed with an allergy may carry their EpiPen if an Allergy Action Plan from their doctor is on file with the school nurse.

Note: Students must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school. Students should not attend school if they have experienced diarrhea or vomiting within the past 24 hours. CDC guidelines will be followed for flu and COVID-19. Mississippi School Nurse Return to School Guidelines from the Office of Healthy Schools/MDE will be followed for other illnesses. (Revised 05/2025)

For dietary restrictions due to allergies or a medical diagnosis, a doctor's order must be on file stating the required dietary restrictions.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGCD; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 41-79-31 & 37-11-71.

HEAD LICE

Any student with an active infestation of lice (live, crawling lice) will be sent home. The student may return to school the next day with proof of treatment. Acceptable proof includes a parent note, the box top of lice treatment shampoo, or a doctor's note. Students with nits only may remain at school. **Students will be checked upon returning to school to ensure compliance of treatment. (Revised 05/2025)**

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGCB; Miss. Code Ann. § 41-79-21(4).

CHICKEN POX/SHINGLES

Any student with an active case of chicken pox or shingles may return to school after 7 days from diagnosis if symptoms no longer persist.

FIRST AID PROCEDURES

All accidents must be reported to the supervising teacher. First aid will be administered as needed. If further attention is required, the principal will be notified. In an emergency, the student will be taken to the nearest emergency facility, and parents will be contacted.

Note: Emergency care will follow best practices and district protocols under the guidance of school nurses and trained staff

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGFA; Miss. Code Ann. § 41-79-5.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance policies are available through the school. The school is not responsible for paying insurance benefits. Students participating in certain extracurricular activities may be required to purchase insurance.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGA.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

In accordance with Mississippi law, any school employee who suspects child abuse is required to report it to the Calhoun County Department of Public Welfare. Failure to report suspected abuse is a misdemeanor under state law.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGI; Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Classroom Behavior

Classroom instruction is the school's primary focus. Students are expected to follow the school's discipline policy and the classroom rules posted by each teacher.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCD; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-55.

Corporal Punishment

Reasonable corporal punishment may be administered as a disciplinary measure to preserve an effective learning environment. The superintendent shall enforce rules governing corporal punishment, including the following:

1. Corporal punishment must be reasonable, moderate, and not administered maliciously or for revenge. The student's size, age, and condition must be considered.
2. The principal or a teacher may administer corporal punishment.
3. It must be administered in the presence of another certified staff member and outside the view of other students.
4. Suspensions of up to three days will be used as an alternative to corporal punishment.
5. Parents must notify the school in writing each school year if they refuse corporal punishment.

Note: A threat assessment will be conducted in all cases involving credible threats of violence, weapons, or statements of intent to harm self or others.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JDB; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-57.

Artificial Intelligence (Revised 05/2025)

Students are expected to use all technology responsibly and ethically. Any misuse of technology for academic purposes will be considered a violation of school board policy. Students are prohibited from engaging in the following uses of AI:

1. Using AI in a way that violates district policy or applicable law;
2. Inputting into any AI any confidential data or personally identifiable information;
3. Using AI to violate the instructions or requirements of any assignment;
4. Obtaining or attempting to obtain improper assistance from AI tools;
5. Representing AI-generated content as their own work;
6. Using AI to disrupt district operations;
7. Using any AI system to access, create, or display harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs or interact with the AI in a manner that supports any of the above;
8. Using AI to negatively affect the district or in a way that causes harm.

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCA.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education ensures students' legal rights under federal and state laws. With these rights come responsibilities, including:

1. Civil rights, including equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination, and the responsibility not to discriminate against others.
2. The right to attend public school and the responsibility to observe school rules.
3. The right to due process regarding suspension, expulsion, alternative program assignments, and administrative actions.
4. The right to free inquiry and expression within reasonable rules.
5. The right to privacy within certain limits.

The superintendent shall ensure students are informed of their rights, the Board's authority, and the staff's delegated responsibility to manage the schools.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCA; U.S. Const. amend. XIV; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-23.

HEARING PROCEDURE

The principal may suspend a student for up to ten (10) days for improper conduct without a hearing. All suspensions must be reported to the superintendent. If a student poses a continuing danger or major disruption, they may be immediately removed and instructed to return with their guardian the following day.

For suspensions longer than ten (10) days or expulsions:

- The student will be suspended for ten (10) days or less while awaiting a disciplinary hearing.
- Immediate removal may occur for serious threats, violence, or possession of weapons or controlled substances.
- Alternative Placement may be assigned if deemed appropriate.
- A hearing before the District Disciplinary Committee must occur within ten (10) days of the suspension recommendation.
- The student must receive notice of the charges, an explanation of the evidence, and an opportunity to present their side. Legal counsel may be present.
- If the student and guardian do not attend, the hearing will proceed in their absence.
- The disciplinary committee will render a decision.

If the parent or legal guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the committee, they must submit a written request for review to the Superintendent within two (10) days of receiving the decision. Expulsion requires that the student be given the opportunity for a formal hearing before the Board. See Student Grievance Policy below.

Once a student has been suspended for more than ten (10) days cumulatively, an alternative placement referral must be initiated in accordance with **Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92**.

All suspensions and alternative placements must be reported to the Superintendent on the same day. If the student has an IEP or 504 Plan, the Special Education Director must also be notified immediately.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCAA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-71; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92; Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Board recognizes the need for students to express concerns. Complaints will be resolved fairly and through the following steps:

1. The student or parent may first discuss concerns with the teacher involved.
2. If unresolved, the matter may be brought to the principal within ten (10) days. The principal will attempt informal resolution and may require a parent-teacher meeting.
3. If still unresolved, a written statement may be submitted to the superintendent within ten (10) days of the principal's decision. The superintendent will respond within five (5) business days.
4. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent may request a hearing before the School Board within five (5) days of the superintendent's decision. Students under IDEA may have additional safeguards.

Note: Additional procedural safeguards exist for students with disabilities under federal law.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCE; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-71; additional safeguards per IDEA and Section 504.

GUIDES FOR CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

Students must understand that every teacher and assistant within the Calhoun County School District has the authority and responsibility to uphold school conduct and discipline standards. All students are expected to be courteous and respectful to all staff members at all times. Failure to respect and acknowledge the authority of faculty and staff will be addressed seriously by the administration.

Good discipline is foundational to a productive learning environment. The following list of misconduct may be reported to the principal and the student's parents:

Examples of Disciplinary Offenses Include:

1. **Truancy**
2. **Stealing** – Law enforcement will be notified if property stolen is valued at \$99 or more
3. **Profanity**
4. **Insolence**
5. **Fighting**
6. **Disrupting Class**
7. **Gang signs, dress, or symbols**
8. **Intimidation, Harassment, Extortion, or Threats**
→ *Students are encouraged to report any such instances to a teacher, counselor, or administrator.*
9. **Non-compliance with Dress Code**
10. **Gambling**
11. **Use or Possession of Alcohol, Drugs, Paraphernalia, or Tobacco Products, Including Vapes**
12. **Bullying/Cyberbullying**
→ *See Policy JCBD for CCSD's Bullying Policy*
13. **Hazing**
14. **Inappropriate Use of Social Media or Cell Phones That Disrupt the Educational Environment**
15. **Breaking and Entering or Unauthorized Entry into School Property**

Note: Citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others. Students shall respect school authority, comply with school rules and Mississippi laws applicable to juveniles, and behave in a way that does not interfere with others' rights to learn.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JD, CCSD Board Policy JCBD; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-55, Miss. Code Ann. § 97-45-15.

Approved Disciplinary Methods Include:

- Detention during recess
- Denial of privileges
- Assignment of additional work
- Corporal punishment
- In-school detention
- Contacting parents
- Detention outside regular school hours
- Assignment to an alternative education placement
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Repeated or serious offenses may result in escalated disciplinary consequences.

Other Student Rules and Regulations

1. Electronic devices, including cell phones, may be used for instructional purposes as approved by the teacher or principal. Violations may result in a \$25 fine and loss of privileges. Unclaimed devices will be held until June 1 and then disposed of.
2. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices. A receipt will be issued upon confiscation and must be presented to reclaim the item.

3. Vulgar language or gestures are prohibited.
4. Intimate contact is not allowed.
5. Rough play is not permitted and **may (Revised 05/2025)** be treated as fighting.
6. Pornographic materials are prohibited.
7. Students should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. or the time designated by the principal.
8. Selling, trading, or bartering items is prohibited unless part of a school-sponsored activity.
9. Lockers are school property and may be inspected at any time. Students must care for their assigned locker and may not exchange it.
10. Students should stay to the right in hallways and keep noise to a minimum. Running is not allowed.
11. During breaks, students must stay outside (weather permitting) in designated areas.
12. Food and drinks must be approved by the principal before being brought into classrooms or buildings.
13. School parties must be approved by the school office.
14. Students are responsible for keeping the school clean and must dispose of litter properly.
15. Transportation changes require a signed parent note with the E911 address. Text messages or social media messages will not be accepted.
16. Balloons may not be delivered to students at school.
17. Bullying will not be tolerated and will be addressed in accordance with the district's Bullying Policy and Guidelines for Conduct/Discipline.

Reference: CCSD Board Policies JCDA (Student Conduct); JCDAD (Use of Electronic Devices); JCBE (Student Use of School Property); JCDAAA (Bullying); EBCA (School Safety); JG (Student Discipline); Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-11-18.1; 37-11-23; 37-11-55; 97-5-27.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It may be committed by staff toward students, students toward staff, or students toward other students, when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education or achievement;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or extracurricular decisions affecting that individual; or
3. Such conduct substantially interferes with an individual's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Examples of Sexual Harassment Include:

- Verbal harassment or abuse
- Exposure to sexual pictures, notes, messages, or graffiti
- Pressure for sexual activity
- Repeated remarks, jokes, or gestures with sexual or demeaning implications
- Unwelcome touching
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by threats concerning grades, status, etc.

Any person who alleges sexual harassment may use the grievance procedure or may report it directly to a teacher, principal, supervisor, or other designated person. Filing a grievance or complaint will not affect the individual's status, employment, grades, or assignments. A substantiated charge will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Staff/Student Relationships

No employee of Calhoun County School District may date or have a romantic and/or sexual relationship with a student. All allegations or suspicions will be investigated, including interviews, examination of communication records, and documentation.

If no evidence is found, the investigation will be closed and documented. If suspicious behavior is discovered, the investigation will continue until a determination is made.

Even if sexual involvement is not proven, inappropriate conduct such as personal emails, calls, or texts may result in termination. Legitimate school-related communications are not included. If there is a reasonable basis to believe that sexual involvement has occurred with a student under 18, the matter must be reported to the district attorney and dismissal of the employee is mandatory.

Note: False allegations will result in serious consequences.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JBA, JB, and GABB; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681; 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353.

Confidentiality

The right to confidentiality for both the complainant and the accused will be respected to the extent possible, consistent with legal obligations and the need to investigate and take corrective action.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JR; JAA; GAE. Legal Reference: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

IN-SCHOOL DETENTION, ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT, AND/OR EXPULSION

The principal may suspend, recommend Alternative Placement, and/or recommend expulsion of a student who violates one or more of the following standards of conduct while on school grounds or during any school-related activity:

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property of value;
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or stealing or attempting to steal private property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person;
4. Possessing or transmitting any firearms, knives, explosives, pepper spray, mace, self-defense items, other dangerous objects, or "look-alike" weapons;
5. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind;
6. Continued disobedience or persistent defiance of proper authority;
7. Engaging in behavior detrimental to the education, welfare, safety, or morals of others;
8. Failing to attend assigned disciplinary assignments, which may lead to suspension.

Note: Students will have as many days to turn in missed work as the number of days they were suspended. In-school detention may be used at the discretion of the principal.

Note: Once a student has been suspended for more than 10 days cumulatively, an alternative placement referral must be initiated in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCAA (Due Process), JDE (Suspension), JDD (Expulsion), JD (Student Discipline); Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-11-18, 37-11-18.1, 37-11-55, 37-13-92.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND LOOK-A-LIKE SUBSTANCES

The Calhoun County School District (CCSD) adheres to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1986. CCSD has committed to maintaining a drug-free environment for all students and staff. Clear anti-drug policies are in place and strictly enforced.

The use and/or possession of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited in all CCSD schools and on school property. Any student who intentionally sells, gives, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of narcotics or possesses drug paraphernalia on school property, including school buses, will

1. Be suspended and/or placed in an Alternative Placement and/or expelled from school;
2. Be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Refer to the section on suspension, expulsion, and/or alternative placement for disciplinary actions.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCDAC (Drug-Free Schools), JCDA (Tobacco Use), JD (Student Discipline); Miss. Code Ann. §§ 41-29-101 et seq., 97-32-9, 37-11-18, 37-11-55; Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1986.

QUESTIONING AND SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Searches: Students have a right to privacy; however, the school may conduct searches of personal belongings, including lockers and backpacks, when reasonable suspicion exists or when necessary to preserve order and discipline. All searches will be conducted by no fewer than two professional staff members. Canine searches may also be conducted.

All individuals on school property are subject to search and may be photographed or videotaped upon entry.

Questioning: Administrators and teachers have the right to question students regarding their behavior or that of others. In matters not involving potential criminal charges, students are not protected by the right against self-incrimination.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCAB (Interrogations and Searches); Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29; New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT

Calhoun County School District (CCSD) has partnered with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to place certified School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools throughout the district. These SROs operate under the direction of the county sheriff and are responsible for maintaining safety, assisting with emergencies, overseeing criminal investigations involving students, and ensuring a secure campus environment.

Because law enforcement authority extends to school grounds, other law enforcement agencies may be asked to assist if circumstances warrant.

SROs may question students, intervene in criminal matters, or assist school officials with safety threats as outlined by district policy and state law. When a student is subject to criminal questioning by law enforcement on campus, parents will be notified unless doing so would compromise an investigation or is otherwise prohibited by law.

Note: Any criminal behavior on campus may be referred to law enforcement. The district will cooperate fully with investigations while ensuring students' rights are protected.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCBD; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29; § 37-11-55; § 37-11-57

WEAPONS

Students may not possess or carry on school property any of the following:

- Knife
- Blackjack
- Metal pipe or pole
- Firearm
- Any object or device capable of inflicting bodily harm
- Bomb or components thereof
- Any "look-alike" weapon

Possession or display of a weapon in or around school property, including adjacent areas, is subject to disciplinary actions and law enforcement referral. Per Mississippi Code Section 97-37-17, this may be classified as a misdemeanor or felony.

Refer to the section on suspension, expulsion, and/or alternative placement for disciplinary actions.

Note: A threat assessment will be conducted in all cases involving credible threats of violence, weapons, or statements of intent to harm self or others.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCDAE; Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-17; 18 U.S.C. § 921; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 2001
MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 37-3-81, 37-3-83, 37-11-53, 37-11-54 AND 37-11-55

The School Safety Act of 2001 supplements the school district's authority on student discipline. Under this act, the teacher is recognized as the authority in classroom matters in accordance with the district's written discipline code of conduct.

If a teacher removes a student for disrupting the learning environment, and the principal approves the removal, the student may not return to the classroom until a conference has occurred with the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. This conference may be held in person, by phone, email, or written communication, and shall include a discussion of the student's disruptive behavior and agreements to prevent further incidents.

A student 13 years or older may be subject to automatic expulsion on the third instance of habitually disruptive behavior within a school year. Students under age 13 may also be subject to expulsion based on district policy.

Disruptive behavior refers to unruly, disruptive, or abusive conduct that seriously interferes with a teacher's or administrator's ability to educate, or a student's ability to learn. Examples include profane or threatening language or actions toward staff, defiance, ridicule, or overt acts of disobedience.

Habitually disruptive behavior refers to actions causing disruption on more than two occasions within a school year, which are willful and require intervention from school personnel.

Clarification: While the district's discipline ladder provides for intervention at the fifth referral, pursuant to the Mississippi School Safety Act, students who engage in disruptive behavior on **three or more occasions** may be considered *habitually disruptive*. After a second disruptive incident, the student's parent/guardian will be contacted to help create a behavior modification plan. If the behavior meets the criteria under the law, the district may take additional disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion, regardless of the referral count outlined in the local discipline ladder.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCAF; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-81, 37-3-83, 37-11-53, 37-11-54, 37-11-55.

DRESS CODE

Appropriate clothing for school should be simple, comfortable, practical, and should not distract from the learning environment. The administration recommends the following attire:

Voluntary Uniform

Students are encouraged to wear khaki-colored pants or skirts paired with a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or polo-style shirt in school colors. School-approved t-shirts in appropriate colors will be available for purchase at each school.

Non-Uniform Guidelines

Students who do not participate in the voluntary uniform option must adhere to the following dress code restrictions. The following items are not allowed:

1. Pants with holes (of any shape or size) above the knee, patches, inappropriate emblems or slogans, or writing on the rear;
2. Pajamas, house shoes, and/or blankets (Revised 05/2025);
3. Extremely tight, revealing, or oversized clothing;
4. Clothing that does not cover the midriff or reveals cleavage;
5. Shorts or skirts that do not extend below the fingertips when arms are extended downward;
6. Leggings without a top that reaches below the fingertips;
7. Spaghetti-strap shirts;
8. Shirts that cover only one shoulder;
9. Unbuttoned shirts;
10. Unbuckled belts;
11. Trench coats or duster-style coats;
12. Jewelry that poses a health or safety hazard or depicts weapons, violence, drugs, or alcohol. Jewelry in pierced body parts other than the ears is not allowed. Spiked jewelry is also prohibited;

13. Muscle shirts or sleeveless jerseys without a t-shirt underneath;
14. Sunglasses, hats, caps, do-rags, or other head coverings inside the school building;
15. Costumes. (Revised 05/2025)

Exceptions: With the principal's approval, students participating in clubs, athletics, or other school organizations may deviate from the dress code for special events (e.g., pep rallies, field trips, school picture day) or on designated days.

General Expectations:

- All students must wear shoes while on campus.
- Pants must be worn at the waistline at all times.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCDB; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-55.

DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. A parent/guardian of a compulsory-school-age student is financially responsible for the student's destructive acts against school property or individuals.
2. Parents/guardians may be requested to attend a conference regarding student misconduct.
3. Refusal to attend a required discipline conference may result in a legal summons.
4. Parents/guardians are responsible for criminal fines brought against students for unlawful acts on school grounds or buses.
5. **Student behavior will be addressed using the Calhoun County School District's Discipline Ladder**, which outlines progressive consequences for misconduct, ensuring fairness and consistency.
6. **All disciplinary actions will align with board policy and applicable state laws**, including Mississippi Code § 37-11-57.

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Before a student is removed from the regular education setting and placed in an Alternative Placement, the following must occur:

- The home school guidance counselor must verify the student is suitable for placement.
- The superintendent's designee(s) must confirm that CCSD's Discipline Plan and policies have been followed.
- A committee of educators and staff must develop an Individualized Instruction Plan (IIP) or IEP (for students with special education needs), including the duration of placement.

Students transferring from other districts who were placed in an Alternative Placement will be assigned to an Alternative Placement upon admission to CCSD. Students may be transported by the district or, in certain cases, may be required to be transported by a parent or guardian. The Alternative Placement Committee may extend placement for serious offenses or poor behavior and academic performance. Returning students must follow a behavior plan. Any violation of this plan may result in immediate reassignment.

Parents will receive written documentation outlining the Individual Intervention Plan (IIP), placement rationale, and expected duration.

All suspensions and alternative placements must be reported to the Superintendent on the same day. If the student has an IEP or 504 Plan, the Special Education Director must also be notified immediately.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCEA; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

All CCSD employees serve as direct representatives of the administration. They are authorized and responsible for enforcing school policies and regulations. Failure by a student to respect or comply with the authority of faculty or staff will result in serious disciplinary action by the administration.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy GAE; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-69.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policies JD, JDA, JDB, JCAA; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-11-53, 37-9-71.

RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION

School Bus Transportation

Pupils Shall Not:

1. Use, transmit, or possess drugs, alcohol, vapes, or tobacco;
2. Smoke, use vulgar language or gestures, quarrel, or commit other acts of misconduct;
3. Stand while the bus is in motion;
4. Eat or drink on the bus unless bringing lunch to school (which must remain unopened);
5. Put hands or head outside the bus window;
6. Enter or exit through the emergency door unless necessary;
7. Mar or deface the bus (damages must be paid by student or parent);
8. Throw objects or litter from the bus;
9. Shout at anyone through the window;
10. Cross behind the bus;
11. Make excessive noise;
12. Bring visitors on the bus;
13. Engage in disruptive behavior such as scuffling or throwing objects;
14. Ride the bus without a permit if not a regular bus rider.

Bus Conduct Reports will be submitted to the principal for misbehavior. **Principals will follow the Bus Discipline Ladder** to determine appropriate disciplinary action.

Pupils Shall:

1. Sit in assigned seats (as directed by the driver or school officials);
2. Be ready at the designated stop at the appointed time (with considerations for weather);
3. Obey the bus driver at all times;
4. Ride their assigned bus unless permitted otherwise by the principal with written documentation;
5. Depart from the same stop where they boarded, unless written permission is provided and approved;
6. Abide by the same behavioral expectations on extra-curricular trips.

Note: School responsibility begins once a pupil is on the bus, boarding, or exiting, or at school.

Visitors: No visitors are allowed to ride a school bus for any reason.

Bus Stops: Bus stops are designated by the superintendent, or his/her designee (Revised 05/2025), to efficiently cover routes. Students will be picked up if they live within 0.2 miles of the main route.

Important: Buses will not travel on hazardous roads.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JCDAD; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-41-1.

Automobiles

Students' cars may be used for transportation under the following conditions:

1. Students must register these vehicles in the principal's office. In order to register the vehicle, a student must present a valid driver's license and show proof of insurance. A decal must be purchased at a cost of \$10 for the first vehicle and \$2 for any additional vehicles belonging to the same family.
2. Students must park in a designated area and leave their vehicles as soon as they arrive on campus.
3. Automobiles cannot be moved on school grounds during the school day except with administrative permission.
4. Students will not be allowed to return to their vehicles for items without administrative permission.
5. Students will not be allowed to drive in a careless or reckless manner on the campus or adjoining streets. Law enforcement may be called in such cases.
6. During the school day, students may not leave the campus in an automobile for any reason without administrative permission.

7. No middle school student may bring an automobile to school.
8. The school has the right to search a vehicle on school property at any time.
9. These regulations apply to any other means of transportation furnished by the student.
10. Students who drive to school are subject to random drug testing in accordance with district policy. (Revised 05/2025)

Violation of the above rules will warrant severe disciplinary action and may result in the student not being allowed to bring a vehicle on campus.

Walking Students

As students walk to and from school, they are expected to observe the same disciplinary standards as when on school grounds. Students should be courteous and respectful to citizens they pass. Safety practices must be strictly observed. Students should look cautiously for passing vehicles before attempting to cross any street.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy JGFF; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(f), (g), (j).

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE

The school food service program is operated under the direction of the Calhoun County School Board. This program is an integral part of the total education program and is governed by the same principles and type of control as any other division of the school. The school food service program is operated under the federally funded National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act; therefore, the school food service program is subject to all federal and state regulations.

The school food service director is responsible for the enforcement of the federal and state regulations and has technical supervision of the school cafeterias. The food service director has responsibility for the direct supervision of the cafeteria staff and shares the responsibility of ensuring that all federal, state, and local regulations applicable to the school's food service are implemented and administered daily. The teachers are responsible for maintaining order in the school cafeteria and are solely responsible for the conduct of the students. Cafeteria staff members have no authority to discipline students while in the school cafeteria.

Outside food vendors, restaurants, home-based food services, and food trucks can create a disruption to the operations of the district's Food Services Program. Competitive food sales are addressed in Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002.

Students and staff will not be allowed to bring outside logos or vendor packaging into any cafeteria. This includes bottled or canned beverages and drinks in company cups. These same rules apply to any student or staff who brings lunch from home.

The goal of the school's food service program is to provide the students attractive and nutritious meals in an atmosphere of efficiency, cleanliness, and warmth. The food service program is providing at least one-third of the student's daily nutritive requirements making it possible for every pupil to have an adequate lunch.

Student Accounts and Meal Charges

Calhoun County School District will comply with Board Policy EEAC as follows:

A. Adults are not allowed to charge meals or solicit food from students.

B. Students may charge meals as follows:

1. Students receiving free meals will not be allowed to charge extra items or ice cream. Reduced and full-paid students will not be allowed to charge a second meal, extra items or ice cream if they have a zero or negative account balance.
2. There is a **\$20.00** charge limit assigned to reduced and full-paid accounts. Charging a reimbursable meal will result in a negative balance on the student's account until funds are added to the account. A reimbursable meal of the student's choice will be served to students until the **\$20.00** charge limit is reached.
3. Charge notes will be sent home with students who have a negative account balance from the cafeteria manager. Calls and/or emails will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) in attempt to collect money.

4. Once the charge limit is reached, the student will be served a low-cost alternate reimbursable meal consisting of a sandwich, fruit and a carton of milk. If payment is not made after five days, the cafeteria manager may report the failure to Child Protective Services. (CCSD Policy EEAC)
5. Children with Disabilities that have reached the charge limit and will be served an alternate meal will have access to a meal safe for them to consume.
6. When a student brings money, that money will first be applied to the purchase of a reimbursable meal; any remaining money will then be applied to negative balances on the student's account.
7. **Any unpaid charges at the end of the school year will be added to the student's fees list and will roll over to the next school year.**

C. Charging will not be permitted after May 1st of the current school year to allow adequate time to collect student account balances.

D. Parents/Guardians may be reported to Child Protective Services at the discretion of the manager and/or school food service director.

E. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to register for a free account on the school meal online payment center, myschoolbucks.com.

F. Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available online under MySchoolApps on the Calhoun County School District website and in paper form at your student's school. All paperwork must be completed annually to qualify for the program.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy EE; CCSD Board Policy EEAC; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.1; 7 CFR Parts 210 & 245 (National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts).

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, RULE ON SALE OF COMPETITIVE FOODS

On February 22, 1985, the State Board of Education passed the following policy pertaining to the selling of foods in competition with the National School Food Service Programs:

To ensure that children are not in the position of having to choose between non-nutritious and nutritious foods immediately before or during the meal service period:

- **No food items will be sold on the school campus for one (1) hour before the start of any meal service period.**
- The school food service staff shall serve only those foods which are components of the approved Federal meal patterns being served (or milk products), and such additional foods as necessary to meet the caloric requirements of the age group being served.
- With the exception of water and milk products, a student may purchase individual components of the meal only if the full meal unit is also being purchased.
- Students who bring lunch from home may purchase water and milk products.

Policy Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-134; Mississippi State Board of Education Policy Code 2002; 7 CFR Part 210 (National School Lunch Program Regulations).

ASBESTOS SURVEILLANCE OF ALL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

As part of annual notification, we are informing all individuals of their option to review the asbestos management plan, which includes documentation of any changes in asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in district schools.

To ensure continued management, all ACM is inspected every six months by a qualified engineering firm. Any changes are documented in a surveillance report that becomes part of the management plan. A comprehensive three-year re-inspection has been completed and filed with the Mississippi Department of Education.

Copies of the surveillance and re-inspection reports, along with the management plan, are available for review in the principal's office at each school, in the district office, and with the LEA Asbestos Designee.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy EBBA; Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR Part 763.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The school district shall be in compliance with Title I regulations requiring parental involvement in the school system's planning and implementation of the Title I compensatory education programs which affect children enrolled in the school district. Such parental involvement shall include, but is not limited to, conferences between parents and teachers and assisting parents in home training and direct work with their children. A public meeting of the parents involved in Title I shall be held annually and shall meet federal regulations affecting parent participation. In addition, the school shall provide proper information to parents concerning their children and shall keep these parents adequately informed of their children's progress, needs, and individual objectives.

District Parental and Family Engagement Policy

It is the policy of Calhoun County School District to use all appropriate means of keeping parents and community members informed about school events and programs. The district seeks to understand parental/community attitudes and aspirations. Some of the ways in which the Board of Education tries to inform the public include making its meetings and records open to the public except as provided by law where such meetings pertain to individual personnel and other classified matters. Public announcements provide opportunities for input to the five-year plan, the school district's budget, Federal Programs, and others. An annual meeting for the review and planning for Federal Programs is also publicly announced. School-wide Title I projects are planned in cooperation with parents and each school develops its own involvement policy.

The following components make up Calhoun County's District Parental and Family Engagement Policy:

- Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform and explain to parents the school's participation in Title activities, its requirements, and their right to be involved. Furthermore, the annual meeting shall give parents the opportunity to plan, review, and voice ideas of improvement of the schools' and district's Parental & Family Engagement Policy.
- Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the school parental & family engagement policy and joint development of the school-wide program plan; and provide parents of participating children:
 - (a) timely information about programs under this part;
 - (b) school performance profiles and their child's individual student assessment results, including an interpretation of such results;
 - (c) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
 - (d) opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, relating to the education of their children if such parents so desire; and
 - (e) timely responses to parents' suggestions. If the school-wide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, any parent comments on the plan will be submitted when the school makes the plan available to the local education agency.
- Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.
- Each school served under this part will support parents with materials and training on how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children, as well as provide information on how parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The district will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between home and school.
- When appropriate, the school shall coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, public preschool programs and other programs, and to the extent feasible and appropriate, align those activities.

Available communications media are used to further inform the public of the programs, problems, planning, and activities of the school district. Alternate means of communication are provided, if needed, for parents for whom English is a second language. A grievance procedure has been established for public complaints. Written complaints are kept on file in the district office. Parents review the Parental and Family Engagement Policy each year and suggest changes or revisions. However, you may contact Emily Snellings in the district office (662.412.3152) at any time to suggest changes or revisions. Parents are welcome and are encouraged to volunteer. Contact the principal to find out how you can help.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy LA; Title I, Part A, § 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); 20 U.S.C. § 6318.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

The mission of the Calhoun County School District (CCSD) is to meet the needs of all students by providing challenging learning experiences in a collaborative, concerned community committed to producing life-long learners. In compliance with Public Law 107-110, Every Student Succeeds Act, CCSD has established a plan that addresses not only the English proficiency and academic education of the EL students but also the emotional, physical, psychological, and cultural aspects of a student's adjustment in a new culture.

Students identified as EL as defined by law shall receive English Language tutoring services as required under section 1112 (G) and 3302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Board Policy. Service for students is determined individually based on the Home Language Survey completed at the time of student enrollment and the research-based English Language Proficiency Test, as mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education.

For more information, call Emily Snellings at (662) 412-3152.

Policy Reference: CCSD Board Policy IDDG; Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title III, Part A; 20 U.S.C. § 6825; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-23-1.

Alphabetical Index

Acceptable Use Policy – 9-11
Admission of English Learners – 18
Admission of Foster Care Students – 18
Admission of Homeless Students – 18
Admission of Migrant Students – 18
Admission from Alternative Placement – 18
Admission from Non-Accredited/Homeschool Programs – 18
Admission/Withdrawal Policies – 18
Advanced Placement Classes – 29
Age for Enrollment – 16
Alternative Placement/Expulsion – 43
Alternative Placement Program – 46
Artificial Intelligence Policy – 39
Asbestos Surveillance – 49
Attendance Policy – 31-32
Attendance, Absences, & Excuses – 31-32
Automobiles – 47-48
Calendar, School – 14
Calhoun County Board of Education – 4
Change of Schedule – 27
Chicken Pox & Shingles – 38
Classification of High School Students – 20
Class Fees – 34
Class Officers – 34
Code of Conduct for Visitors – 33
Contacting School Personnel – 13
Corporal Punishment – 39
Damage/Fine/Replacement Chart – 35
Disaster Drills – 37
Discipline Plan – 46
Disruption of Graduation – 28
Documentation Requirements – 16-17
Dress Code – 45-46
Dual Enrollment – 29
Dues & Fees – 34
Early Graduation – 26
Educational Philosophy of Calhoun County School District – 4
Eligibility to Attend Calhoun County School District – 16
Endorsement Options – 22-23
English Learners – 51
Excessive Absences – 32
Exemptions – 30
Extra Credit – 31
Extra-Curricular Activities – 35
Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) – 7-8
First Aid Procedures – 38
Food Service Policy – 48-49
Fundraising & Field Trips – 36
Grading System – 19-20
Graduation Options – 21-26
Graduation Schedule – 28
Graduation with Honors – 28
Guides for Conduct/Discipline – 41-42
Hall of Fame – 28
Hearing Procedure – 40
Head Lice – 38
Homework – 30
Honor Roll – 20
Who's Who & Homecoming – 33
In-School Detention – 43
Inclement Weather Policy – 36
Index – 52-53
Job Shadowing – 29
Junior/Senior Prom – 36
Kindergarten – 18-19
Kindergarten–6th Grade Grading – 19
Law Enforcement Involvement – 44
Literacy Based Promotion Act – 19
Medical Information – 37-38
MS Rule on Sale of Competitive Foods – 49
MS School Safety Act of 2001 – 45
Opt Out Information – 6
Parental Involvement and Family Engagement – 50
Parental Notification Rights Letter – 12
Parental Responsibility – 3
Parent Note, Signature Pages – 5
Placement, Promotion, & Retention – 18-19
Preface; Notice to Students & Parents – 3

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) – 8-9
Questioning & Searches by School Officials – 44
Reporting Suspected Child Abuse – 38
Report Cards – 31
Requirements for Admission to Public Universities – 25-26
Requirements for Graduation – 20-26
Rules & Regulations for Transportation – 47-48
Schedule of Nine-Weeks Tests, Exams, & Report Cards – 15
School Buses – 47
School Calendar – 14
School Sponsored Activities – 36
School Visitation Policy – 33
Semester & Final Exam Schedule – 30
Senior Exam Schedule – 28
Senior Privileges – 28
Sexual Harassment – 42-43
Special Awards – 27
Staff Responsibility – 46
Student Check-Out Policy – 32

Student Code of Conduct – 39
Student Council – 34
Student Grievance Policy – 40
Student Insurance – 38
Student Rights & Responsibilities – 39-40
Student Tardies – 32
Student Use of Office Phone – 33
Table of Contents – 1-2
Textbooks & Equipment – 35
Tobacco/Alcohol/Drugs & Look-A-Like – 43
Transcript Fees – 35
Virtual Instruction – 37
Vocational Guidelines – 29-30
Weapons – 44
Wellness Policy – 37
Withdrawal of Students – 18
Who's Who & Homecoming – 33
Walkers – 48