



**Franklin County  
School District  
Student Handbook**

**2026-2027**

[www.franklincountyschoolsms.com](http://www.franklincountyschoolsms.com)

# Franklin County School District

## Student Handbook 2026-2027

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Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

In accordance with ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, the Franklin County School District is notifying every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher include, at a minimum, the following:

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

In addition to the information that parents may request, a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent the following:

1. Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments as required under this part; and
2. Timely notice that the parent's 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, please feel free to contact the building principal assigned to the grade in which your child is enrolled. Please refer to the following phone numbers for the appropriate person.

• Franklin Lower Building (Pre-K- 3)	Page Goff	601-384-5605
• Franklin Upper Building (4-6)	Page Goff	601-384-2940
• Franklin Middle School (7-8)	Jocelyn McDavid	601-384-2441
• Franklin High School (9-12)	Lisa Storey	601-384-2965

**Sincerely,**

**Chris Kent**

**Superintendent of Education**

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## **FOREWORD**

Welcome to the Franklin County School District. The purpose of this handbook is to explain what is expected of each student. It is the responsibility of each student and his or her parents/guardians to read the handbook thoroughly in order to have an understanding of the policies and procedures of the schools within the district.

The goal of the Franklin County School District is to educate today's students for tomorrow's world. To accomplish our goal, we look forward to students, parents, families, and the community being a part of our school family. We firmly believe in educating the total student and setting high expectations in academic achievement, physical education, and character development. Parental Involvement is critical to the success of our schools. We encourage parents to discuss the handbook with their child(ren) so that students understand that certain standards must be met in academic achievement, discipline and grade level promotions. We ask that parents help us by conveying messages to their child(ren) about the importance of good study habits, attendance, and good citizenship. We thank you in advance for your help and support in the coming 2026-2027 school year.

**Franklin County School District  
41 First Street  
P.O. Box 605  
Meadville, MS 39653  
601-384-2340**

**Superintendent of Education  
Chris Kent**

**Board of Education  
President – Gloria S. Hayes  
Vice-President – Vanessa A. Walker  
Secretary – Joyce A. Calcote  
Member – Theresa Bee  
Member – Michael J. Coleman**

## School Addresses

**Franklin County Lower Building**  
481 Hwy. 98 East  
Meadville, MS 39653

**Franklin County Upper Building**  
409 Hwy 98 East  
Meadville, MS 39653

**Franklin County Middle School**  
236 Edison Street  
Meadville, MS 39653

**Franklin County High School  
Or Special Services Department**  
P.O. Box 666  
340 Edison Street South  
Meadville, MS 39653

**Franklin County Career & Technical Center**  
P. O. Box 155  
129 Vo-Tech Lane  
Meadville, MS 39653

## Principals

Elementary Principal- Page Goff.....	601-384-5605
Lower Building Assistant Principal- Sara Scott .....	601-384-5605
Upper Building Phone .....	601-384-2940
Upper Building Assistant Principal – Brent Calcote .....	601-384-2940
Middle School Principal – Jocelynn McDavid .....	601-384-2441
Middle School Assistant Principal – Melissa Jenkins .....	601-384-2441
High School Principal – Lisa Storey.....	601-384-2965
High School Assistant Principal – Tasha Scott.....	601-384-2965
Career and Technical Center Principal – Dexter Wilson.....	601-384-5889

## District Administrative Staff

Athletic Director – Brent Calcote .....	601-384-8050
Federal Projects Director - Dr. Selma Wells.....	601-384-5648
Food Service Director – Melinda Arnold .....	601-384-5196
School Attendance Officer - Monica Lawrence .....	601-384-5713
School Nurse - Kim Temple.....	601-384-5559
School Resource Officer - Jason Gaskin.....	601-384-2966
Special Services Director - Sarah Stebbins .....	601-384-2133
Transportation – Gerren Collins .....	601-384-2966

# Franklin County School District 2026-2027 School Calendar

August 3-6, 2026	Staff Development/Student Registration
August 7, 2026	Classes Begin Full Day
September 7, 2026	Labor Day
October 5-9, 2026	1st 9-Weeks Test
October 12-13, 2026	Columbus Day
October 15, 2026	Report Card Pickup/3:30p.m-6p.m.
November 23-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 3, 2026	Parade Day 60%
December 15-21, 2026	2nd 9- Weeks Test
December 22, 2026 – January 3, 2027	Christmas Holidays
January 4-5, 2027	Staff Development
January 6, 2027	Second Semester Begins
January 5, 2027	Report Card Pickup/3:30p.m-6 p.m.
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 12-15, 2026	President's Day
March 8-12, 2027	3rd 9-Weeks Test
March 15-19, 2027	Spring Holidays
March 25, 2027	Report Card pickup/3:30p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
March 26-March 29, 2027	Easter Holidays
May 14, 2027	Graduation
May 20-25, 2027	4th 9 Weeks Test
May 25, 2027	Memorial Day
May 26, 2027	Students Last Day / 60% Day
May 27, 2027	Staff Development

**Board Approved — March 17, 2026**

## **ACTIVE PARENT**

Franklin County School District provides internet access to parents so they may check their children's grades and attendance. Any parent wishing to take advantage of Active Parent must be assigned a login and password. Forms may be obtained from any school office, filled out and returned to any school office. Active Parent can be accessed from the district website [www.franklincountyschools.com](http://www.franklincountyschools.com) or at <https://ms1900.activeparent.net>.

## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND PROMOTION POLICIES**

The Franklin County School District is dedicated to the total and continuous development of each student. A student's progress is the responsibility of all stakeholders involved in the educational process: the student, his or her parents, and the school faculty and staff. The curriculum is based on the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*, as developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. Parents are encouraged and expected to be actively involved in their child's education.

### **Elementary School (Pre-K-3)**

Students must maintain a 70% or above in Language Arts, Reading, and Math in Kindergarten, through Third Grades. Students are required to attain the skill levels set forth in the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards which was adopted and implemented in all Kindergarten through Second Grade Mississippi public schools during school year 2014-2015. All students who have an average below 80% in Language Arts, Reading, and/or Math, will be strongly advised to attend summer school. Additionally, as part of the promotion policy, the following standards apply:

- 1. Students scoring at the lowest two achievement levels in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd Grade will not be promoted to 4th Grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.**
- 2. In order for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students to be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade must know multiplication facts from the one family through the 10 family with 80% accuracy on a 100 problem fact test. Students practice weekly throughout the year. They will be given 5 minutes for the assessment which will be administered during the last nine weeks of the school year.**

## GRADES 4-6

A student must pass with a 70% or above in Language Arts and Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

B	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Letter/sound Recognition	100%	-	-	
Language Skills	70%	70%	70%	70%
Reading Skills	70%	70%	70%	70%
Math Skills	70%	70%	70%	70%
AR Certification/80%	I Can Read	Independent Reader	Super 2 Reader	Advanced Reader
AR Level	.8	1.8	2.8	3.8
Math Skills	70%	70%	70%	70%
<b>Reading Gate Cut Score</b>	-	-	-	<b>Must have passing Score</b>

## Grades (4-6)

A student must pass 70% or above in Language Arts and Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

## Middle School Course/Class Requirements

- Successful completion of a course shall be based upon mastery of the competencies and objectives in the FCMS Curriculum, with a grade average of D (65) or higher as the final grade in the course.
- A student in grade 7 must have a final grade average of a D (65) or higher average in the core academic program, including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Learning Strategies (if applicable).
- A student in grade 8 must have a final grade average of a D (65) or higher average in the core academic program, including English, Math, Science, MS Studies/Geography.
- Students in grades 7 – 8 who fail to complete one (1) or two (2) core subjects may have the opportunity to complete the deficiencies in an Extended School Year (ESY) program. If the student does not attend nor successfully complete the course objectives in ESY, the student will be retained in the current grade.
- Students in grades 7 – 8 who do not complete the requirements for three (3) or more core subjects will be retained in the current grade. ESY will not be an option and the entire grade-level must be repeated.
- The report card shall serve as notice to parents of the student's progress throughout the school year.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Classification of High School Students

**Freshmen:** Students who completed 8th grade in an accredited school;

**Sophomores:** Students who have earned at least 8 credits;

**Juniors:** Students who have earned at least 14 credits;

**Seniors:** Students who have earned at least 18 credits;

**Graduate:** A student having met all Mississippi graduation requirements and having completed all local requirements.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

All incoming 9th graders will work towards a Tradition diploma, and take additional classes to earn an academic, distinguished academic or career and technical education endorsement. Students will identify an endorsement option prior to entering their 9th grade year. Endorsements can only be changed with parent permission.

To encourage community engagement and social responsibility among students, the school district requires all graduating seniors to complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours prior to graduation. Beginning with the Class of 2026, all seniors must fulfill the requirement of 10 hours of volunteer service in order to be eligible for graduation. The school administration will verify the hours, the verification forms will be available in the high school office in August. All hours must be completed by April of the graduating year. Students with extenuating circumstances may appeal for an exemption or alternative arrangement by submitting a request to the school administration. These 10 hours will be in addition to the required 40 FHS Beta Hours required for club membership.

Students who earn an academic or distinguished academy diploma endorsement from a public high school will be accepted into any of the state's public universities.

All general education students must take at least one course in each of the four core subject areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) each year.

Students may substitute career and technical or other classes in place of mandatory classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies), with the approval of the principal.

### SENIOR EARLY RELEASE

For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores) OR a student must meet ALL of the following:

- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Passed or met all MAAP assessments for graduation
- On track to meet diploma requirements
- Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literary.

Early release periods are after lunch. The parents of a senior who has his/her own transportation and qualifies for Early Release will be required to complete and sign a form that gives permission for that student to leave campus at lunch. To maintain eligibility for Early Release, a student must have all passing grades and transportation to leave promptly at the end of their class.

## TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA

Curriculum Area Carnegie		Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 <sup>1/2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 World History</li> <li>1 U.S. History</li> <li>1/2 U.S. Government</li> <li>1/2 Economics</li> <li>1/2 Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 1/2	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>24</b>	

### Recommendations

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement.
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area Carnegie		Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 <sup>1/2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 World History</li> <li>1 U.S. History</li> <li>1/2 U.S. Government</li> <li>1/2 Economics</li> <li>1/2 Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must complete a four-course sequential program of study</li> </ul>
Additional Electives	3 1/2	
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>26</b>	

## Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
  - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
  - Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential

## ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area Carnegie		Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 <sup>1/2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 World History</li> <li>• 1 U.S. History</li> <li>• 1/2 U.S. Government</li> <li>• 1/2 Economics</li> <li>• 1/2 Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Arts	1	
College and Career	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 1/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>26</b>	

## Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC)
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One Diploma Program-International Baccalaureate (IB) course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
  - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

## DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area Carnegie		Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • $\frac{1}{2}$ Economics • 1 U.S. History • $\frac{1}{2}$ Mississippi Studies • $\frac{1}{2}$ U.S. Government
Physical Education	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Health	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>28</b>	

### Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One Diploma Program-International Baccalaureate (IB) course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
  - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course.

## Alternate Diploma

Curriculum Area Carnegie		Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math Elements I-III • Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	• Alternate Biology Elements • Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History)  • Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics)
Physical Education	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Health	$\frac{1}{2}$	• Alternate Health Elements
Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>24</b>	

### Requirements

- The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.
- Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

### Testing Requirements

To receive a diploma for any pathway, students must pass Mississippi subject area tests (MAAP) **or** meet the Mississippi Graduation Assessment Options (State Board of Education Policy Rule 36.5) for each of the following courses: Biology I, English II and Algebra I. Credits for these three courses may not be earned through correspondence, summer school, or online. {MS Code 37-16-7} (SB Policy Chapter 36)

**Please contact the High School Counselor's office concerning assessment Options. Telephone: 601-384-2965**

## Miscellaneous

Only one high school credit may be earned through correspondence. Those seeking graduation within the current school year must complete correspondence work by the last school day of April OR by the date set by the agency furnishing the course, whichever is the earlier date.

Only one credit per year may be obtained through summer school upon failing the course during the regular school year. (Credit for Biology I, Algebra I, English II, and U. S. History may not be earned in summer school)

Credits earned through Mississippi Virtual School or other online resources will be considered when the course is not offered at the high school and must be approved by the principal.

When enrolling in English Composition I and/or English Composition II through the Dual Credit program at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, these courses may be used in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> English credit. When enrolling in College Algebra through Dual Credit, the credit will count as a “math higher than Algebra I.” Any other course taught by Dual Credit will be properly credited towards a relevant graduation requirement per administrative approval.

## University Admissions Standards

Following are the requirements for admission should a high school senior go directly to a Mississippi university after graduation.

Alcorn State University  
<https://www.alcorn.edu>

Delta State University  
[www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu)

Jackson State University  
[www.jsu.ms.edu](http://www.jsu.ms.edu)

Mississippi State University  
[www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu)

Mississippi University of Women  
[www.muw.edu](http://www.muw.edu)

Mississippi Valley State University  
[www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu)

University of Mississippi  
[www.olemiss.edu](http://www.olemiss.edu)

University of Southern Mississippi  
[www.usm.edu](http://www.usm.edu)

## College Eligibility Guidelines for Athletes

Students who wish to pursue college athletics should visit the NCAA website for more information. [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) and [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

## GRADING & TESTING POLICIES

All nine-week tests will be given during the last week of each grading period. Each nine weeks a test schedule will be announced. Nine-week tests will not be taken early and if missed can only be made up if the student presents a physician’s excuse or prior clearance is given by the principal. No checkouts will be permitted during the nine-week test time without prior written permission from the office.

Each nine-week period daily averages will count 3/4 of nine-weeks final average and all nine-weeks test will count 1/4 of the final nine-weeks average.

## **Final Grades will be determined by the following formula:**

**Semester 1 Average** = (1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks average + 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks average)  
divided by 2

**Semester 2 Average** = (3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks average + 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks average)  
divided by 2

**Final Average** = (Semester 1 Average + Semester 2 Average) divided by 2

### **Elementary Grading Scale**

**A = 95 – 100**

**B = 85 – 94**

**C = 75 – 84**

**D = 70 – 74**

**F = 69 and below**

### **Middle/High School Grading Scale**

**A = 90 – 100**

**B = 80 – 89**

**C = 70 – 79**

**D = 65 – 69**

**F = 64 and below**

## **Honor Roll**

Students are recognized each nine-weeks as Honor Students for all A's or all A's and B's. Beta Club is also recognized as an honor based on academic achievements and appropriate conduct.

## **Grade Point Average/Class Rank/Honor Graduates**

Seniors at Franklin County High School are ranked in the order of their Grade Point Average (G.P.A.). The G.P.A. includes final grades in all courses where credit is awarded. Seniors who complete their classes with a cumulative G.P.A. of 90.00 or above receive "Honor" status. These seniors are recognized at graduation as "Honor Graduates", and they wear Honor Cords. The valedictorian will be determined by the senior with the highest G.P.A. for all final grades where credit is earned. The senior with the second highest G.P.A. will be designated as the salutatorian. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year the valedictorian and salutatorian must have been enrolled at Franklin County High School as a junior the previous year for the full academic year AND must have completed the requirements for ONE of the following; Mississippi Scholar, Distinguished Academic Endorsement, Academic Endorsement, or CTE Endorsement. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be formally announced at the senior award ceremony. Both will be recognized individually at graduation.

## **Early Graduates**

In accordance with STATE policy, an application for early graduation must be submitted no later than August 31. Senior Privileges (senior homecoming maids, senior student council positions, hall of fame, beauty pageant, etc.) are NOT a possibility for early graduates. Early graduates are not eligible to be Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Students will ONLY be considered seniors after the junior ACT is given in the spring

semester. Students will be able to have their portrait in the senior section of the annual as long as student has been approved as an early graduate by August 31st. Early graduates may miss out on other opportunities for senior activities/recognitions throughout the year.

### **Exemption Policy for High School and Middle School**

Seniors with a yearly average of 90 or above will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test. Seniors with no unexcused absences and who have maintained a yearly average of 70 or above in a subject will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test. Students in grades 7-11 that are enrolled in semester courses shall not be exempt.

Students in grades 7-11 with a yearly average of 90 or above AND 5 or less unexcused absences will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test.

Students in grades 7-11 with a yearly average of 80 or above AND have perfect attendance for the year will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test.

Students in grades 7 and 8 must also meet grade level STAR and math requirements before exemption is considered.

### **Exemption Policy for Elementary**

Students who maintain a yearly average of 95 or above for the year will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test.

Students who have perfect attendance AND have maintained a yearly average of 80 or above in a subject will be exempt from that subject's 4th nine weeks test.

Elementary students must also meet grade level STAR and math requirements before exemption is considered.

### **ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE**

Bus transportation is provided for all students except preschool. Students should not arrive at school before 7:25 a.m. Students are expected to be in the classroom in their seat and ready for instruction when the tardy bell rings. Any student not in his/her assigned area, seated and ready for instruction, is tardy.

Being on time for school is important. When students are late for class, they miss valuable instruction. The following are consequences for student tardiness: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tardies—warning; 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy—referral to counselor; 4<sup>th</sup> tardy—parental contact; 5<sup>th</sup> tardy—office referral (parent is contacted, student may be placed in ISS, and school attendance officer is contacted).

### **ELEMENTARY CAMPUS**

Students are considered tardy if they arrive after 8:00 a.m. and must be accompanied to the office by an adult and signed in.

### **MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS**

Students who arrive after 7:57 a.m. must check in through the office. High school students will be considered tardy if a parent does not sign them in.

### **ELEMENTARY CAR RIDERS**

1. Parents bringing children to school should follow the small paw prints and unload in the lane closest to the Lower Elementary School Building.
2. Parents picking up students in the afternoon should follow the drive behind the playground, entering on the far side of the playground. Car riders will be dismissed with first load at 3:00 and will be lined up behind the Lower Elementary for pick up.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CAR RIDERS**

Parents that bring their child to school must drop them off next to the Middle School building in the parent drop-off area (Students should not be dropped off in the circle area where the buses unload or in the parking lot). The office should be informed by a parent note anytime a student will be a car rider in the afternoon.

## **HIGH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

Parents bringing children to school will drop students off at the high school building stairs (behind the gym and cafeteria).

Student drivers must complete paperwork and purchase a decal to park on campus. Student vehicles on Franklin County School District Campuses are subject to random searches.

## **PRESENCE ON CAMPUS AFTER HOURS**

Students on campus after 3:30 p.m. or after the buses leave the campus must be under the supervision of a teacher, school administrator, coach or club sponsor. Anyone who loiters on campus OR is not under the supervision of school personnel is considered being in an unauthorized area which will result in disciplinary action and/or trespassing charges being filed. Anyone responsible for vandalism or destruction of school property may be held responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of said property and appropriate criminal charges will be filed.

## **ATHLETICS - BAND - JROTC**

To participate, a student must provide a certified copy of their birth certificate and be examined by a physician and declared physically fit. The Principal, Athletic Director, and coaching staff have the prerogative to establish criteria for participation relative to the student's conduct and lack of academic progress. Additional information about all extra-curricular activities is available upon request.

The Children First Act eligibility rule requires students in sixth grade or above to maintain a 2.0 (or C) grade point average on a 4.0 scale to participate in sports or extracurricular activities. The State Department of Education would monitor eligibility based on a semester grade reporting period. Students who do not have a grade point average of 2.0 or above will be ineligible for the next semester. Ineligibility will remain in effect until the student's grade point average in a succeeding semester is a 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

## **ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR ATHLETICS AND OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

1. Be a full-time student and conduct him or herself properly.
2. Meet age requirements
  - a) 7<sup>th</sup> graders must not have reached 14 years of age prior to Aug. 1
  - b) 8<sup>th</sup> graders must not have reached 15 years of age prior to Aug. 1
  - c) High School: Not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1.
3. Not participated in athletics for more than four consecutive years after the date of entering ninth grade.
4. In order to participate in a school related activity, students must be in attendance for 66% of the school day. Exceptions may be made if the student presents a doctor, dental, court or principal's excuse.
5. The following academic rules for students participating in activities adopted by the State Board and the High School Activities Association Handbook define what students are required in order to be eligible for participation. Students must meet the following minimum scholastic requirements at the end of the school year to be eligible for the succeeding semester:

- a) The MHSAA eligibility rules require each student participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make “satisfactory progress toward graduation.” Each school district determines the requirements for “satisfactory progress toward graduation” through its graduation requirements. Each school district must interpret this according to its requirements. Additionally, according to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a C average. This will be measured at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of all the courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or a C average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester. At the end of the school year, each student’s grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. If the student does not have a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a C average, he/she will become ineligible for the fall semester.
- b) Special education students will be academically eligible if they are making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP).
- c) Out of school One or More Semesters: if a pupil who is eligible for a given semester drops out of school for one or more semesters, he/she is then ineligible until he/she passes 5 subjects that count toward graduation with overall average 70. A pupil who is eligible for a given semester cannot drop out of school during the semester or remain out of school for one or more semesters and then be eligible for the next semester he/she attends.

## **STANDARDS FOR ALL ATHLETIC AWARDS**

The head coach of all Franklin County Schools athletic teams will establish requirements for earning an athletic award letter. These requirements will be discussed with the athlete prior to the start of the first scheduled contest. Any athlete who quits, resigns, or is dismissed from a team before the season has ended, forfeits all rights to earn a letter in that sport. Franklin County Schools do not purchase athletic jackets for student athletes. It will be determined by the head coach of each sport if a student athlete letters and the student athlete will be responsible for purchasing his or her own athletic jacket from a vendor chosen by Franklin County Schools. The jacket colors and letter will be chosen by Franklin County Schools.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The Franklin County School District shall comply with the requirements of the “Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law” (Miss. Code § 37-13-91). Appropriate reports as required by law shall be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education’s Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement.

Regular school attendance is a vital aspect of developing and maintaining a successful educational experience. Regular attendance promotes a sense of responsibility, ensures educational continuity, and facilitates academic growth. Furthermore, daily attendance is important to both the school and the community in that it is the measure by which state funds are allocated to the schools.

**For a student to be counted present at school, they must be at school for at least 66% of the school day.**

## **MS Compulsory Attendance Law (Miss. Code § 37-13-91)**

If a compulsory school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of which said child is eligible to attend or if a compulsory school-age child has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences during the school year, the principal or superintendent will report such absences to the school attendance officer.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a compulsory school-age student who has not been enrolled in school within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the public school that the child is eligible to attend or parent(s)/guardian(s) of a compulsory age student who has accumulated twelve (12) unexcused absences during the school year are subject to prosecution.

Miss. Code § 37-15-33 - A student seeking to transfer from a non-accredited school, whether it is public, private, parochial, or a home-school program, shall be required to take a test to determine the level on which he/she is functioning.

It is very important that students are in school, all day, every day, to successfully learn our curriculum.

## **High School, Middle School and Elementary**

1. Students are allowed two parent excuses per nine weeks. An excuse from the parent must be submitted to the office or the teacher for a parent excuse within 48 hours of the absence. Otherwise the absence will be unexcused.
2. Excuses from the doctor, dentist, or court are excused. Doctor, dental, or court excuses should be turned in within three days of returning to school or the absence may be considered unexcused.
3. It is the student's responsibility to turn in excuses for an absence. Phone calls will not be accepted.
4. All excuses will be stamped and dated.
5. Days suspended out of school are considered as unexcused absences. The suspended student will be allowed to make up any work that is missed. The work must be made up within 5 days of returning to school and the maximum possible grade will be 80%. Suspension days are explained in detail under suspension guidelines later in this handbook.
6. Emergency excuses are left to the discretion of the principal.
7. In order to get credit for any course, Carnegie unit or otherwise, the student will have to make up the time and work for unexcused absences after the 12th unexcused absence. Students exceeding 6 unexcused absences in a ½ credit class will be required to make-up time for excessive absences.
8. The only absence that does not count against perfect attendance is an absence related to school activities.
9. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the teacher a time to make up missed work or tests for an excused absence. This work shall be made up within 5 days of returning to school.
10. In order for any student to participate in any extra-curricular or school sponsored activity, the student must be in attendance 66% of day on the day of the activity. Elementary and Middle School students must be in attendance 66% of the day prior to the field trip or school sponsored activity. Exceptions may be made if the student has a doctor, dental, court, or principal's excuse.
11. High School and Middle School students must be present for 80% of the class to be counted present for that class.

1. Any Student who accumulates 5 unexcused absences, not including out of school suspensions, will be referred to the school attendance officer. Parents of students, who accumulate 12 unexcused absences, not counting out of school suspensions, may have charges filed against them for contributing to the neglect or delinquency of child. Miss. Code § 97-5-39
2. Any preschool student with 12 or more unexcused absences may be dismissed from the program.

### **High School AND Middle School Attendance Policy for Earning Carnegie Units and Course Credit**

High school and Middle School students should adhere to the following attendance policy to assist in the earning Carnegie units or credit for promotion to the next grade for students in grades 8-12.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025, Process Standards, Section 13.2, page 29, states that a school district must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie Unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each 1/2 Carnegie unit offered.

140 hours of instruction at Franklin County School is 168 days of instruction per class. 70 hours of instruction is 84 days of instruction per class.

High school and middle school students should adhere to the following attendance policy to assist in the earning of credit or promotion to the next grade for students who are attempting to earn Carnegie units in grades 8-12.

- Must be present 84 days for a semester course. (Maximum 6 unexcused absences)
- Must be present 168 days for a full year course. (Maximum 12 unexcused absences)
- Upon excessive absences (unexcused) the principal or his/her designee will notify the parents of the school's concern and the student will be referred to the school's Teacher Support Team for interventions. (not counting out of school suspensions)
- Upon the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence the principal or designee will notify the Franklin County Attendance Officer and parents. (not counting out of school suspensions)

Students who exceed this standard may not, pending appeal, receive a grade or Carnegie unit credit in the course. A notation of inadequate attendance (IA) will be recorded on the report card and on the transcript if the student is passing the course. Students will, pending appeal, be required to make up class time on an hour for hour basis in order to remove IA status.

If the student is failing the course, the actual failing grade will be posted on the report card and on the transcript.

Out of school suspension days are not included when counting the maximum number of unexcused absences that can be missed for each Carnegie Unit of credit.

If the principal determines that credit should be withheld based on attendance, the parent will be notified in writing. Parents have the right to appeal the decision using the General Grievance Procedure published in the Student Handbook.

### **High School Opportunities for Make-up Days**

Summer school may be utilized to aid students in meeting the 168 day attendance requirement.

## BELL SCHEDULES

### Middle School High School/Career & Technical Bell Schedule

<u>7th &amp; 8th Grade</u> <u>M, T, W, Th, F</u>	
7:53	Morning Bell
7:57-8:47	1st Period
8:50-9:40	2nd Period
9:40-9:50	Break
9:53-10:43	3rd Period
10:46-11:36	4th Period
11:39-12:25	Homeroom
12:25-1:04	Lunch
1:04-1:14	Break
1:17-2:07	5th Period
2:10-3:00	6th Period

**Morning Bell Rings**  
**Everyday at 7:52 A.M.**

<u>M, T, W, Th, F</u>	
1st Period	7:57-8:47
2nd Period	8:50-9:40
<b>Break</b>	9:40-9:50
3rd Period	9:53-10:43
4th Period	10:46-11:35
<b>Lunch 9th &amp; 10th</b>	
<b>Homeroom 9th &amp; 10th</b>	11:35-11:55
<b>Lunch 11th &amp; 12th</b>	
<b>Homeroom 9th &amp; 10th</b>	11:58-12:22
5th Period	12:25-1:15
6th Period	1:18-2:08
7th Period	2:11-3:00

## BUS DISCIPLINE

**1<sup>st</sup> minor offense will result in counseling**

**2<sup>nd</sup> minor offense will result in parent contact**

**3<sup>rd</sup> minor offense will result in a 1 day suspension from the school bus**

**Each additional offense will result in an added day of suspension.**

**All minor or suspendable offenses will require a parent signature on discipline form**

- Any suspension will warrant notification of parent or guardian of suspension

### Immediate Suspendable Offenses

Disrespect (Degree Thereof).....	1 day
Eating or Drinking.....	1 day

Standing While Bus is in motion.....	1-day
Throwing Objects .....	2 days
Horseplay/Hitting/Tripping .....	2 days
Verbal offensive remarks.....	2 days
Obscene Gestures .....	2 days
Refusal to Obey Driver.....	2 days
Gambling/Stealing.....	2 days
Hanging object or any body part from the bus window .....	2 days
Use of any tobacco product .....	3 days
Destruction of Property and payment of damages.....	5 days
Shining light (laser/other) in mirror* .....	5 days
Tampering with equipment .....	5 days
Sexual Harassment (Discretionary)* .....	2-5 days
Fighting* .....	10 days
(Suspension and/or Expulsion from School with Referral to Youth Court)*	
Alcohol, Drugs, and/or Weapons* .....	Calendar Year
(Suspension and/or Expulsion from School with Referral to Youth Court)*	

\*School buses and school vehicles are an extension of the school campus. Due to the serious nature of these offenses and based upon the individual circumstances of each instance, students will be subject to additional penalties set forth in the Student Handbook and the Mississippi Code. Each discipline referral will be handled at the principal’s discretion. Balloons will not be allowed on any school bus. Repeated offenses or serious offenses may result in multiple days of suspension or removal from the bus for an extended period of time.

## BUS NOTES

If it becomes necessary for a student to ride another bus or get off at another stop, the student **MUST** present a note **SIGNED** by his/her parent or guardian stating the following:

- **WHO** is to ride or get off the bus
- **WHERE** he/she is to “get off” the bus
- **WHAT DAY(S)** the person is to continue this practice
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER** where a parent/guardian may be reached so the note may be VERIFIED. Please include the bus number if it is known.

All bus notes **MUST** be submitted to the school office **before NOON** each day. **NO LATE NOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO AUTHORIZATION WILL BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE.** A permission slip will be given to the student to present to the bus driver in order to board the bus.

## CAFETERIA

For Cafeteria meal prices, visit [www.franklincountyschools.ms.com](http://www.franklincountyschools.ms.com) or [FCdogs.net](http://FCdogs.net) and go to Departments — Cafeteria

### Elementary Cafeteria

The student code of conduct applies in the cafeteria. Free and reduced prices for meals are on a prior approval basis only.

**Lower Building (Grades PreK-3)** When a student arrives at school he/she should go directly to the classroom and then go to breakfast.

**Upper Building (Grades 4-6)** When a student arrives at school, he/she should go immediately to the cafeteria for breakfast. Students are expected to follow the rules and procedures established for the cafeteria.

When sending money to pay for breakfast and/or lunch for a student, the parent/guardian should put it in an envelope with the child's first and last name and the student's cafeteria number on it, noting what the money is for. The envelope should be sealed. Breakfast and lunch money can be paid daily, weekly, or monthly. It is preferable to pay weekly or monthly. When a parent comes to eat with his/her child(ren) in the cafeteria, only the child(ren) of the parent may sit with the parent.

**IF A CHILD IS A CAR-RIDER AND NEEDS TO EAT BREAKFAST, HE/SHE MUST ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BY 7:45 IN ORDER TO EAT AND RETURN TO CLASS ON TIME.**

### **Middle / High School Cafeteria Procedures**

Students must observe the following rules in and relative to the cafeteria:

1. Students should go immediately to the cafeteria upon their arrival to school if eating breakfast.
2. At lunchtime, all students eating lunch should go to the cafeteria when the bell rings at the beginning of their designated lunch period.
3. Students should line up single file in certain designated areas.
4. Follow the established procedures for dispensing of your tray, eating utensils, food, trash, etc.
5. Remain in the seat in which you originally sit.
6. At breakfast, middle school students are to enter and leave the cafeteria on the side designated as the middle school side, and they should go through the serving line and sit on that side. High school students are to do the equivalent on the side designated as the high school side.
7. No food or drink is to be taken out of the cafeteria.
8. Once passing through the checkout counter, students will not be allowed to return through the cafeteria line to buy extra food, get eating utensils, etc.
9. All discipline referrals made by workers in the cafeteria will be sent to the Food Services Director for review and then forwarded to the high school or middle school office.

### **CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER**

The purpose of the Franklin County Career & Technical Center is to provide career and technical education and services to students. Some programs are designed as two-year courses with the purpose of providing students with the adequate training necessary to enter a trade upon graduation from high school or for entering post-secondary career technical training. Some classes are 1 hour courses that can be taken as electives for graduation credit.

#### **CAREER & TECHNICAL PROGRAMS:**

##### **2-year Programs (2 Period Classes)**

Ag and Natural Resources

##### **1-Period Classes**

Family Dynamics

Welding	Health
Health Sciences	Nutrition
Robotics & Engineering	Cyber I
Educator Preparation (Teacher Academy)	Cyber II
Construction/Carpentry	

## **SAFETY**

A general safety test will be given to all incoming students. This test will provide evidence that the student understands and can demonstrate basic safety skills before entering the shop. Each student will be required to retest if necessary, until he/she makes 100% on the test.

## **CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER PARKING**

Student must have approval from Career & Technical Administration.

## **GRADING, CREDIT & COURSE SELECTION**

1. Career technical programs are 2 credit (full year) classes. In order to receive these credits, students must complete the entire year. No partial credit will be given.
2. A student must complete their chosen program but may take an additional program if credits allow and with approval of the career technical administration.
3. Students will be selected by highest grade in the prerequisite class, score of 5<sup>th</sup> grade level or higher on the STAR test, good attendance and/or lack of discipline referrals.
4. 9<sup>th</sup> graders may be considered for a career and technical program upon director approval. All considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis.
5. Students (absent an IEP ruling) must earn a final passing average or above, have good attendance, and 70% or higher on the NCCER test in Year I of a career technical program in order to be eligible for Year II. Construction I and Welding I (absent an IEP ruling) also require a student to successfully complete all National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) Core Modules to be eligible for Year II.
6. A rubric will be used to determine student entry into CTE programs with a high request volume for year I and II. All admissions into the CTE programs will be approved by Administration and CTE teacher on a case by case basis.
7. Students must have permission from Career Tech administration in order to park at the Career Tech Center.

## **CHEATING**

Students are encouraged to work cooperatively in certain classroom and extracurricular activities. However, in some situations, students must work independently. **Students who cheat will be given a zero (0) for the task and may face further punishment.**

## **CHECK OUT POLICY**

A student will be permitted to leave school when a person on their enrollment form comes to the school to check out the student. The person must sign out the student and record the time of dismissal. The person checking out the student may be required to present photo identification. Anytime a student leaves school, he/she must sign out in the office and sign in upon his/her return. A student who leaves school without permission and does not follow correct procedures to check out of school will be charged with an unexcused absence and skipping class.

A student who is checked out during the day cannot check back in without a doctor, dental, court, or principal's excuse.

A student cannot be checked out after 2:30 p.m.

## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

School officials are required by Mississippi Law to report suspected incidences of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation. (Miss. Code § 37-11-29)

## **CRIMINAL RECORDS BACKGROUND CHECK / CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY CHECK**

All new hire licensed and non-licensed employees shall have a state child abuse registry check and criminal records background check.

The fingerprints shall be forwarded by the district to the Department of Public Safety who shall in turn forward them to the FBI.

## **CHILD FIND**

The FCSD participates in an on-going statewide effort to identify, locate and evaluate children ages birth through twenty-one, who are physically, mentally, communicatively, and/or emotionally disabled. Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is very important. The information gathered from contacts with parents and other agencies will be used to help determine present and future needs as progress is made toward the goal of providing a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.

The Director of Special Services works with the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, local education agencies, ministers, physicians, and other individuals to locate and identify children who are in need of special services. For additional information, please contact Sarah Stebbins, Director of Special Services, Franklin County School District, P.O. Box 666, 340 Edison Street South Meadville, MS 39653, 601-384-2133.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The purpose of the discipline policy is to clearly define those things that cause problems within the school environment and to make sure that all students understand what is expected and the consequences of violation of these expectations. It is the goal of this school district to provide a safe school environment and one that is conducive to learning. Any students who choose to prevent these two goals will be dealt with accordingly.

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the Franklin County School District shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons. Financial liability must be paid before the student can be enrolled for the next school year. If the student is a senior, no cap and gown will be issued until all financial obligations to the school district have been met.
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the Franklin County School District may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official, for a conference regarding the destructive acts of their child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the Franklin County School District who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference; and
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in this district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students are allowed to socialize before school, during morning break, at lunch and after school. It is recognized that interacting with other students is normal and a part of the school experience. **All students should understand that the degree of freedom of interaction that exists in this school is unique as compared to other school districts.** Because of this, each student should demonstrate responsible behavior during these times. Responsible behavior means that all school rules should be followed during these times. If too many students demonstrate irresponsible behavior, it is possible that all students might lose this freedom of interaction. Consequently, we encourage all students to demonstrate proper behavior during these times and to encourage your classmates to do so as well. We do recognize that students have certain rights with regards to free speech, but these rights are governed by certain limits in a school setting. Also, student publications are subject to review and editing by the school administration. (Miss. Code § 37-11-53)

### Classroom Discipline

The following is a list of rules that applies to all classrooms. Additional rules may be added by each classroom teacher:

- *Students should be in the classroom **when** the tardy bell rings*
- No eating, drinking, or gum chewing
- No talking or excessive noise as defined by the teacher
- Respect school and personal property and the rights of others
- Be prepared for class (pen/pencil, paper, book/workbook, etc.)
- Be engaged and make an effort to participate in class

*Teachers will use discipline forms to record classroom offenses. Each teacher will implement his/her own consequences/procedures for the first four classroom offenses. After the fourth offense the teacher will attempt to make contact with the parent or guardian. Upon occurrence of the fifth offense, the student's discipline card will be*

*referred to the office. A classroom offense referral form will be considered as a Category One offense.* Students who consistently and flagrantly violate classroom procedures may be written up as a Category Two offender. Each discipline referral will be handled at the principal's discretion.

### **Smart Watches**

Franklin County School District does not wish to ban smart watches and other similar devices worn by students. However, in certain classroom situations, the teacher may require the student to leave his/her watch with the teacher during class. The device will be returned to the student by the end of the school day. Failure to follow such a request will result in a Category Two offense.

### **Meta/Smart Glasses**

Meta glasses, also known as smart glasses, are prohibited at school.

## **Classifications of Violations**

### **Category One Offenses**

*The following represents what may happen when a student is sent to the office for category one offenses.*

- Counseling
- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Alternative placement
- Parent involvement
- Short term in-school suspension
- **Lower/Upper Elementary** -Corporal Punishment. Please mark no on the enrollment form if you do not want corporal punishment used.

The following are considered Category One Offenses:

1. Running on campus or in the buildings
2. Littering
3. Horseplay, wrestling
4. Throwing objects (rocks, grass, food, etc.)
5. Dancing
6. Violation of cafeteria procedures
7. Presence in unauthorized areas
8. Unauthorized eating/drinking/gum chewing
9. Excessive noise in hallways, gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium, athletic events, etc.
10. Standing on the bus while the bus is in motion.
11. Loitering: failure to make a reasonable effort to go to class after the bell rings
12. Illegal parking: unauthorized parking
13. Gambling, card playing, etc.
14. Letter writing/ note passing
15. Five or more tardies
16. Habitual violation of the dress code

### **Category Two Offenses**

Certain offenses may warrant in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or alternative placement.

1. Skipping class or school, leaving class or school without permission

1. Going to another class or building without permission
2. Profanity, cursing or making obscene gestures (verbal or written)
3. Public display of affection (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc)
4. Use of racial slurs, verbal abuse, name calling
5. Disrespect to other students
6. Failure to follow the reasonable request of a school employee
7. Extortion- obtaining by force or threat from another
8. “Bizzard Syndrome” – creating a problem by running to a fight or disturbance
9. Confronting/harassing other students about a problem instead of alerting school officials
10. Violation of dress and grooming procedures
11. Possession of unauthorized items (Cell phones, headphones, radios, tape/compact disc players, beepers, cameras, electronic games, trading cards, iPods , MP3’s, toys, games, toy weapons etc. Any unauthorized items seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated by school officials and kept for a period of time as follows: First offense 5 days, second offense 10 days, each subsequent offense will add an additional 5 days. These items may be picked up by a parent at a time determined appropriate by the school administration. Parents have the option of paying \$20 on the first offense prior to the end of the 5 day period to receive the confiscated item back. On the second offense and each offense thereafter, the cost will be \$40 to receive the confiscated item back prior to the end of the assigned days described above. School officials will not be responsible for returning these items to students. **School officials are not responsible for lost or stolen confiscated items.**

### Category Three Offenses

Certain offenses may warrant automatic suspension for up to nine days and/or alternative placement for an indefinite amount of time.

1. Fighting\* or instigating/ provoking a fight
2. Possession, transfer or use of tobacco, matches, cigarette lighters
3. Possession or use of e-cigarettes, JUUL, vape pens, MODs, ehooka, or any other vaping devices not listed. Once confiscated, These items will not be returned.
4. Indecent exposure
5. Stealing
6. Creating a disturbance (fussing, arguing, etc)
7. Hindering the educational process
8. Disrespect to a school employee
9. Destruction of school property or personal property on school property / vandalism (Miss. Code § 37-11-53)
10. Unauthorized use of school computers
11. Bullying or other threatening behavior

**\*If students fight at school, a referral will be made to the Franklin County Youth Court for minors and charges will be filed in Franklin County Justice Court for adults.**

Students who fight and/or provoke a fight may lose their break and lunch privileges with the general student body for the remainder of the year. If deemed necessary, law enforcement officials will be requested to come to the school to transport the guilty party or parties away from school. Otherwise, an effort will be made to contact parents/guardians to immediately come to the school to take their sons or daughters home.

Past experience has shown that arguments, confrontations, fights, etc. usually do

not occur without reason. It is our philosophy that there are windows of opportunity that exist to avoid these negative behaviors. Students who do nothing to avoid arguments, confrontations, fights, etc. when the opportunity exists will face school disciplinary punishment and possibly criminal charges. It is the responsibility of all students to inform the principal and/or teacher(s)/school personnel of any situation in which another student is harassing or confronting them with some type or negative behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school- sponsored function or on a school bus, and that: (a) Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or (b) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. For purposes of this section, "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that is bullying or harassing behavior.

No student or school employee shall be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by school employees or students. No person shall engage in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. A school employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior shall report the incident to the appropriate school official. A student or volunteer who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior should report the incident to the appropriate school official.

Students who experience bullying, harassment, or any type of threatening behavior should take the following steps to defend themselves against these acts:

- Follow school rules and procedures and make the effort to avoid confrontations
- Report all acts of bullying, harassment, or threatening behavior to a school official
- Walk away from the student who is threatening or harassing you
- Notify and move to the nearest teacher or principal in the event of an impending confrontation

### **Category Four Offenses**

Certain offenses are so serious to the maintenance of an appropriate learning environment that they may receive an automatic suspension of as many as nine days and possible expulsion from school along with automatic referral to law enforcement (Miss. Code § 97-37-17).

Those offenses are listed below:

1. Flagrant disrespect, defined as threatening, hitting or cursing any school employee (Miss. Code § 97-3-7)
2. Possession, use and/or transfer of alcohol
3. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
4. Any type of gang, cult, or similar group related activities
5. Sexual offenses/sexual harassment (Any inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advancements)
6. A Student may not possess, view, send, or share pictures or texts that have sexual content while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school buses. Students are prohibited from possessing sexual material in electronic or any other form which includes but is not limited to

1. the sexual material contained in a cellular telephone, camera phone, or personal digital assistant, and sexual material transmitted by text message, e-mail, or any electronic communication device.
2. Vandalism
3. Any attempt to physically harm or assault another student

Students involved in Category Four offenses may be given alternative placement for the remainder of the school year or for as long as deemed appropriate if allowed to return to school after suspension.

### **Category Five Offenses**

1. Possession, transfer, and/or use of a weapon
2. Possession, use and/or transfer of controlled substances as defined by the Mississippi State Law, and not prescribed by a physician
3. Any form of threat to the safety and welfare of the school district.

Miss. Code § 37-11-18 gives the principal or superintendent the authority to expel students for these offenses.

Miss. Code § 37-11-18 states: "Any student of any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniformed Controlled Substances Law, a knife, hand-gun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Miss. Code § 97-37-17, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent of the school shall be authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local school board."

**Any student that withdraws from school before serving assigned discipline (ISS, OSS, Alt Ed., etc.) shall not be on campus for any reason until permission is granted by the Superintendent of Education.**

### **Expulsion**

A student who has been expelled may, at the discretion of the Principal, be required to seek treatment, evaluation or counseling prior to being admitted back to school.

### **Search of Students**

A student's person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. Random searches of groups of students may be conducted at the discretion of administration. Students will be asked to remove outer clothing layers, empty pockets, backpacks, etc.

If a pat-down search of a student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness present. As a part of this pat-down search, students will be asked to empty pockets, backpacks, etc.

It will be an extremely rare situation that requires a more intrusive search of student's person than a pat down. Only if extreme emergency conditions exist, and only upon prior approval by the central office, shall a more intrusive search be conducted. If such a search is necessary, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex, and adult witness of the same sex, the student's parent(s), and law enforcement.

## Unclassified Offenses

It is not possible to list every offense that can be classified as a violation of our discipline policy. The school administration reserves the right to add any other offenses that may reasonably fall into the five categories of violations. All offenses listed apply to student behavior on school buses and during school related activities. Offenses that occur on the bus may result in consequences that include a combination of out of school suspension, alternative school placement, and suspension off of the bus.

## Senior Offenses

Seniors who commit an offense so near the end of school that the student cannot complete the disciplinary consequences – at the sole discretion of the Franklin County High School Principal - may not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

## PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

### **Miss. Code § 97-37-17. Possession of weapons by students; aiding or encouraging.**

1. The following definitions apply to this section:
  - a) "Educational property" shall mean any public or private school building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any local school board, school, college, or university board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution or during a school related activity; provided however, that the term "educational property" shall not include any sixteenth section school land or lieu land on which is not located a school building, school campus, recreational area, or athletic field.
  - b) "Student" shall mean a person enrolled in a public or private school, college, or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five (5) years from a public or private school, college, or university, whether the person is an adult or minor.
  - c) "Switchblade knife" shall mean a knife containing a blade or blades which open automatically by the release of a spring or similar contrivance.
  - d) "Weapon" shall mean any device enumerated in subsection (2) or (4) or this section.
2. It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle or air pistol. Any person, violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years, or both.
3. It shall be a felony for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than eighteen (18) years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle or air pistol. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years, or both.
4. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), and any sharp-pointed or edged

1. instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation or food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.
2. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than eighteen (18) years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade, knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving) and any sharp-pointed or edged clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.
3. It shall not be a violation of this section for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind on educational property if:
  - a) The person is not a student attending school on any educational property;
  - b) The firearm is within a motor vehicle; and
  - c) The person does not brandish, exhibit or display the firearm in any careless, angry or threatening manner.
4. This section shall not apply to:
  - a) A weapon used solely for educational or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a school-approved program conducted under the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by the school authority;
  - b) Armed forces personnel of the United States, officers and soldiers of the militia and National Guard, law enforcement personnel, any private police employed by an educational institution, State Militia or Emergency Management Corps and any guard or patrolman in a state or municipal institution, when acting in the discharge of their official duties;
  - c) Home schools as defined in the compulsory school attendance law, Miss. Code § 37-13-91;
  - d) Competitors while participating in organized shooting events;
  - e) Any person as authorized in Miss. Code § 97-37-7 while in the performance of his official duties;
  - f) Any mail carrier while in the performance of his official duties; or
  - g) Any weapon not prescribed by Miss. Code § 97-37-1 which is in a motor vehicle under the control of a parent, guardian or custodian, as defined in Miss. Code § 43-21-105, which is used to bring or pick up a student at a school building, school property or school function.
5. All schools shall post in public view a copy of the provisions of this section.

## GENERAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

We do recognize that students and parents may disagree with decisions that are made relative to discipline matters or other school-related concerns. All students and their parents have the right to be given due process in order to express their complaints and grievances. A grievance procedure is in place to offer an orderly process to resolve the complaints and grievances of the student. To file a grievance or complaint parents or guardians should do the following:

1. The parent or guardian should contact the school office in order to set up a conference with the person who made the decision in question, within ten (10) days of the decision.
2. If the matter remains unresolved, the student or the parent or guardian may bring that matter before the principal, within ten (10) days.
3. If the matter still remains unresolved, it may be brought to the superintendent for his/her consideration, within ten (10) days.
4. Complaints that remain unresolved following any action of the superintendent may be referred in writing to the board of education, within ten (10) days.

Parents/guardians and students should understand that an effort will be made to resolve all grievances and complaints at the lowest possible level. School officials will listen to concerns; if profanity is used by parents or guardians or if out of control behavior is demonstrated by the parents or guardians, the school will not hesitate to consider legal action. (1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; CFR Part 86; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; 45 CFR Part 84.)

All students regardless of sex, religion, handicap or ethnic origin may present any grievance to the proper school official:

**Sex Bias Contact:** Sarah Stebbins, Title IV Coordinator

**Handicap/Disability Contact:** Sarah Stebbins, Coordinator of Special Education

**Regular Contact:** Randy Youngblood, Franklin County Middle School

## Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001

The Mississippi Legislature passed an act entitled the “Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001.” This act included provisions to require school districts to take necessary steps to insure the safety of all students. In addition, the act provides specific parameters of student behavior.

Section 6 establishes definitions for “disruptive behavior” and “habitually disruptive” behavior. Disruptive behavior is defined as conduct that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher’s or administrator’s ability to communicate to students in the classroom, with student’s ability to learn, or with the operations of a school or school related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or school –related activities.

Habitually disruptive behavior refers to the action of a student who has caused disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year and which was initiated by the student and required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. No student shall be considered habitually disruptive before the development of a behavior modification plan. This plan will be formulated by the principal, alternative school personnel, teacher, and parent.

Any student who is thirteen (13) years of age or older that does not comply with the behavior modification plan shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to automatic expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during the school year. After the second act of disruptive behavior during a school year by a student younger than thirteen (13), a psychological evaluation shall be performed upon the child.

Section 7 provides that the teacher be given authority in the classroom. Subject to the approval of the principal, a teacher may remove a disruptive student from his/her classroom to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement of the student. The student may not be returned to the classroom until a conference has been held with the parent/guardian and agreement is reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. Upon request from the teacher, the principal must provide justification if he does not approve of the teacher's recommendation to remove the student from the classroom. (Miss. Code § 37-11-55)

### **Suspension/Expulsion Guidelines**

1. Every effort will be made to keep students in school. However, it is sometimes necessary to suspend students out of school if they fail to follow the discipline policy.
2. The purpose of suspending students out of school is to let the student and parent or guardian know there has been behavior that is unacceptable.
3. Out of school suspension days are not included when counting the maximum number of unexcused absences that can be missed for each Carnegie Unit of credit. The suspended student will be allowed to make up any work that is missed. The work must be made up within 5 days of returning to school and the maximum possible grade will be 80%.
4. If the suspension occurs during nine weeks tests, the student may be allowed to make up these tests since they are reflective of a greater portion of the year than a daily grade or chapter test. If the student is allowed to take the test, an incomplete will be given until certain conditions are fulfilled by the student as determined by the teacher and principal.
5. Class assignments will not be sent home to students suspended from school.
6. If the parent or guardian does not attend a required discipline conference, they are subject to being charged with a misdemeanor, which is subject to a fine not to exceed \$250.00. (Miss. Code § 37-11-53)
7. While suspended, students cannot participate in or attend any extracurricular or school sponsored activities or come on campus. This loss of privilege begins at the moment of the notification of the suspension.
8. Students can be recommended to the school board for expulsion by the principal or superintendent if a student is repeatedly suspended from school.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

In-school suspension will be used as discipline for certain minor offenses. The following is a list of some the major premises of the in-school suspension program:

1. Classroom teachers will furnish a written list of the class assignments for the student or work will be assigned by the in-school suspension instructor.
2. A zero will be recorded as a daily grade for work not done by the student while in ISS.

1. Students are expected to follow all rules governing in-school suspension.
2. Students who do not follow the rules of in-school suspension will be subject to out of school suspension and/or alternative school placement.
3. Students are expected to bring all books and materials to in-school suspension.
4. Students are expected to check with the classroom teacher upon their return to the classroom about any work or tests that may have been missed during their time in in-school suspension.
5. Students assigned to in-school suspension may participate in extracurricular activities at the end of the school day.
6. The fifth time a student commits an ISS offense; the student may be assigned three days to ISS.
7. The sixth time a student commits an ISS offense; the student may be assigned to alternative school for ten days.

### **Alternative Placement (Middle/High School)**

There are two types of alternative placement that may be an option for those students who cannot adapt to the regular educational setting. Students may be assigned to a long-term placement which lasts from a nine weeks to the remainder of the school year. Short-term placement will last for a minimum of ten days for the first offense, fifteen days for the second offense and twenty days for the third offense. Short-term placements for less than 10 days are possible for IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) students. **Students placed in alternative school for disciplinary reasons, cannot attend, participate in any extra-curricular activities, or be on campus after hours.**

The parent/guardian must come to the alternative school office (located in the old cafeteria behind the auditorium) to be orientated and to sign placement forms. Should the parent/guardian fail to come and sign the forms after proper notification, it will be assumed by school authorities that their consent for placement is by remission. Participation in all training programs of the alternative school will be administered to the student in the absence or neglect of the parent/guardian to sign the proper placement forms.

All students will participate in a behavior modification program and instructional maintenance (completion of all assignments sent by the regular teacher). While assigned to the Alternative School, students cannot interact with other students during the day.

High school long-term placement curriculum will be designed to allow students to receive credits that will lead to fulfilling the requirements for graduation through the regular route or through the General Education Development route. The long-term teacher along with Individualized Instructional Plan committee will be responsible for obtaining the assignments from the student's other teachers. In order to keep the students from having idle time, teachers will be encouraged to assign MORE WORK than is being assigned in the classrooms and the long-term teacher will have discretion of supplementing any assignments.

In accordance with existing legal precedent, the Franklin County School District reserves the right to place any student who has been arrested by law enforcement in alternative school until such time as a determination can be made as to the gravity of the offense and its effect on the school setting.

## CONFERENCES

Report Card conferences are held three times per school year. Only parents or legal guardians may pick up report cards. Any parents/legal guardians who do not come for a designated conference within a reasonable amount of time may be reported to Youth Court officials. Any parent or guardian wishing to set up a parent/teacher conference should call the office of the respective school.

## COURTESIES

The national anthem as well as the national flag represents the struggle and success of the United States as a nation; they are symbols of the people, their land and their institutions. When we show respect during the playing of the “Star Spangled Banner” and presentation of the flag we are showing respect for the nation. To ensure the proper courtesies are observed during the playing of the national anthem, the following protocol should be followed:

### **Outdoors**

When outdoors and the national anthem is played, everyone present should rise, stand at attention, face the flag (if the flag is not visible, face the music) and place the right hand over the heart. A male removes his hat and holds it in his right hand over his heart. Women do not remove their hats; they place their right hand over their heart.

### **• Indoors**

When indoors and the national anthem is played, stand, face the flag and take the place of attention. If the flag is not visible, take the position of attention and face the music or the front.

### **• Respect for the U.S. Flag**

Because of what the flag symbolizes—justice, unity, and pride in your country—it should be honored with respect and dignity.

When you are outdoors and the flag passes (as in a parade), stand at attention with your right hand over your heart. If you are wearing a hat, hold it in your right hand and over your heart. When the colors pass indoors, stand at attention until the colors are six steps past.

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Teachers will review the Crisis Management Plan with students at the beginning of the year.

## DELIVERIES AND MESSAGES

School personnel will make every effort to get items and messages that are delivered to the school to the appropriate person. However, the school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or undeliverable items. Instructional times will not be interrupted for messages or to get or give items to students. At no time will the school accept deliveries of balloons or items with floating attachments. Delivery of all non-school sale items to students and staff for the celebration of Valentine’s Day is prohibited. (Franklin County School Board Policy KK).

To limit unauthorized individuals from being on campus while students are at lunch, Franklin High School campus will be closed to the general public between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. unless students are being checked out of school. No deliveries or drop-offs of any kind will be accepted during these times.

## **DRESS AND GROOMING CODE**

The dress and grooming code applies to students at school during the regular hours and to those who are representing the school away from campus. Any exceptions to the dress and grooming code for attendance or achievement or any other reason will be announced by the building principal to the students. Dress code enforcement starts when students get on the school bus or arrive on campus and continues until students get off the school bus or leave campus. All clothing must be of the proper fit – no undersized or oversized clothing. Clothing should not be torn, mutilated, or have price/informational tags on them. Students in violation of dress code will be asked to either remove the item, or call home for proper attire.

### **Shirts**

1. Shirts must be polo styled with a collar. Shirts must be tucked into the pants.
2. Shirts must be buttoned except for the collar button and collars must be turned down.
3. A small logo (no larger than 3 x 5 inches) on the chest area of the shirt is acceptable as long as the logo is not vulgar, offensive or distracting.
4. Polo shirts may be long or short sleeved and must be of a solid color either white, navy blue, gold.
5. School sponsored T-shirts (long or short sleeved) must be white, navy, gold or grey. T-shirts must have school related print only.
6. A solid color t-shirt, as long as it is one of the allowable colors—white, navy, gold, and grey may be worn as an undergarment. This may be short or long sleeved, regular or mock/turtle necked.

### **Pants / Skirts**

1. Pants/Skirts must be khaki/chino/twill cotton or cotton/polyester (no denim/blue jeans). Pants may be standard or cargo pants.
2. Pants also refer to shorts and capris, and these along with skirts must also meet the following criteria:
  - a. Shorts/Skirts must be knee length or longer.
  - b. Slits in skirts must be no higher than the knee.
  - c. Lettering or logos on pants larger than 3 x 5 inches are not allowed.
3. Colors for pants, skirts, shorts, or capri pants must be navy or khaki.
4. Belts must be worn and buckled appropriately for pants that have belt loops.
5. Pants must fit properly so they do not fall below the waistline with or without a belt.
6. No sweat, jogging nor athletic pants shall be worn unless approved by the principal.

### **Outerwear**

1. Sweatshirts, sweaters, or vests may be worn over the collared shirts or T-Shirts and must comply with the stated colors and logo restriction.

1. Coats and Jackets:
  - a. Coats, jackets, and hoodies must be predominantly navy, white, gold, brown, grey, or black. No Camouflage.
  - b. Coats, jackets, and hoodies must be of the proper fit and not extended below the waist area.
2. No caps, hats, or bandanas are to be worn or brought to school. Coat or jacket hoods may be worn outside the buildings in extreme weather, but is not allowed to be worn inside of any building.
3. Headbands and earmuffs may be worn outside the buildings during extreme weather.
4. Improperly worn/fitting outer wear garments shall not be worn.

## **Shoes**

1. Elementary students must wear shoes with a back on them.
2. Shoes must be tied, buckled, laced, or secured relative to the shoe.
3. Socks must match.
4. House slippers are not to be worn to school.
5. Shoes/shoe strings that cause distractions shall be banned.

## **Jewelry / Hair**

1. No facial rings or mouth jewelry, such as nose or tongue, are to be worn to school.
2. Any jewelry that creates a disturbance or hindrance or that is symbolic of anything related to gangs, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, obscenity, vulgarity, or anything illegal is not to be worn or brought to school.
3. Grills/mouthpieces are not to be worn or brought to school.
4. Sunglasses are not to be worn in the building.
5. No item should be worn or brought to school that could be used as a weapon, (for example, belt chains, dog chains, choke chains, heavy necklaces, sharp pointed combs).
6. All hair should be clean, groomed, non-distracting, uniform in style, and worn out of the eyes so that vision is not impaired.
7. Facial hair shall be trimmed neatly.
8. No design shall be cut in the hair that represents anything symbolic of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, anything gang, cult or group related, vulgar or obscene.
9. No combs, picks, or rollers will be allowed in the hair.
10. Hair coloring shall not be predominately of an un-natural color (e.g. blue, green, purple).

## **Exceptions**

1. JROTC students, Health Science students, and Career & Technical shop students will be allowed to wear their designated clothing/uniforms as instructed by their teacher and approved by the principal.
2. Athletic teams, cheerleaders, band members, and academic teams will be allowed to practice/compete in their designated uniform/equipment as approved by the sponsors, coaches, or principal.
3. Physical education classes will be given, by their teacher, a defined type and color of shorts and shirts to wear during class.
4. Transfer students will have five (5) days from enrollment to adhere to the stated

1. dress code.
2. Special Services students dress shall be governed by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

The band director, coaches and sponsors of other extra-curricular activities may have additional standards relative to dress and grooming and expectations that go beyond what is stated in the student handbook. Students must abide by these standards and the athletic handbook or they can choose to not participate.

Elementary and Middle School students shall be accompanied by an adult in order to gain entry into extra-curricular activities.

With the exception of Service Animals, as defined by 28 C.F.R. 35.104, all animals are prohibited on Franklin County School District property. The Franklin County School District reserves all right concerning Service Animals pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 35.136.

## **DUTY TEACHERS**

Teachers are on duty at all times. Teachers on duty are located in various places inside and outside the buildings. Students are expected to follow the instructions of these teachers at all times. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Tornado and Fire drills will be conducted on a regular basis throughout the school year. All drills should be taken seriously and students should follow the directions of school personnel in proceeding to the designated areas in the buildings that have been determined to offer the best protection in case of a tornado or severe weather alert or a fire.

The signal for both drills will be an announcement of which drill and/or a continuous ringing of the bell. **Tornado Drill:** Students will sit on the floor against the wall, keep quiet, and remain there until the alert is over. **Fire Drill:** Orderliness and efficiency in fire drills may save lives. A schedule provided for each teacher will be posted in the room showing the exit to be taken by students from different rooms of the building. Monitors are to remain in the room and make sure it is clear. When the room is clear, the monitor will close the door and proceed out of the building. Students should remain in line.

## **ENROLLMENT**

**Only parents or legal guardians (with guardianship papers) are allowed to enroll a student. Students without the proper documentation will be denied admission to school.** (Miss. Code § 37-13-91)

To enroll a student, the following documentation must be presented or on file:

1. Residency may be established in the following manner:
  - a. **Students Living with Parents or Guardians**

The parent or legal guardian of a student seeking to enroll must provide the school district with at least two of the items numbered

(1) through (8) below as verification of their address. The document used for verification of address must show the 911/physical address.

**Documents with only a post office box will not be accepted.**

1. Property Deed/Mortgage Documents (must show 911/physical address)
2. Apartment or home lease;
3. Utility bills; (Must be dated within the last two months)
4. Driver's license
5. Voter precinct identification;
6. Automobile registration;
7. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district; and, in the case of a student living with a legal guardian who is a bona fide resident of the school district;
8. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted.

**a. Homeless Children**

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Sections 11431 (1), 11432 (e) (4) and 11302 (a), the Franklin County School District shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).

**b. Students Living with Adults Other Than Parents or Guardians**

1. The non-parent claiming district residence must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) above required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit stating his/her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The Franklin County School Board or its designee will make the necessary factual determinations under subsection II.1 (c) (2). Examples of situations where "in loco parentis" authority of an adult should be recognized to establish residency of the minor, include but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Death or serious illness of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - b. Abandonment of the child
  - c. Child abuse or neglect
  - d. Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a

- a. detrimental effect on the child
  - b. Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families
- a. Families Living with a Resident Family**
- a. The family claiming district residence must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) above required of a parent or legal guardian.
  - b. The Resident Family must provide the school with an affidavit stating his/her relationship to the student, and that the family will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The Franklin County School Board or its designee will make the necessary factual determinations.

### **Enrollment for Out of County Students**

Out of county students: 1) must be released from the county in which they reside; 2) must receive an acceptance letter from the Franklin County School Board; and 3) must submit two current proofs of residency.

### **Enrollment for Transferring Students**

Students transferring into the district must provide the following **BEFORE** being enrolled: 1) withdrawal record or final report card from previous school, 2) birth certificate, 3) immunization form (form 121), and 4) the completed registration packet.

Any student seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or homeschool, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to the Franklin County School District may be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are carefully planned for the students in each grade level, not for siblings. Teachers may request parents to serve as chaperones, as needed. If you are asked to chaperone, you will be expected to assist the teacher with students, lunches, tickets, etc.

### **GIFTED EDUCATION**

The Franklin County School District provides for students who have been identified as intellectually gifted through FLAME in grades 2 – 6. FCSD conducts referrals in the spring of each year and the assessments are done at the end of each school year. Additional information may be found at [www.franklincountyschoolsms.com](http://www.franklincountyschoolsms.com) and [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org).

### **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The guidance office is responsible for counseling students, arranging conferences,

registering and withdrawing students, maintaining student records, administering standardized tests, assisting in scheduling, and referring families and students to other agencies as appropriate.

All new students and a parent or guardian must meet with the guidance counselor to register for school. Any student and parent or guardian withdrawing from school must also meet with the counselor to complete the appropriate forms. Registration and withdrawal is not official until the student and parent or guardian has talked with the school counselor.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted each year on all elementary students. Students may also be screened through parent or teacher request or as a part of the intervention process. If a student fails his/her vision and/or hearing screening twice, a notice will be sent home to the parents and periodic follow-up will be done.

The school nurse or a trained staff member will be responsible for the administration of first aid. In all cases of illnesses or injury assessed and believed to be of a potentially serious nature, every effort will be made to contact the student's/staff members' parent or guardian.

**HEAD LICE** - If a student is suspected of having head lice, he/she will be inspected by the school nurse. If a student is found to have head lice, the parent will be contacted to pick up the student from school for treatment. Written instructions for proper treatment will be given to the parent/guardian. The parent must bring the student, along with proof of treatment, the following day to be checked by the school nurse. In order to remain at school, the student must be free of nits. If the student is in a self-contained classroom and found to have head lice, all of the students in that classroom will be checked for head lice. For any student who has had lice 3 times during one school year, the principal shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student. The student shall not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained. (Miss. Code § 41-79-21) The school nurse shall conduct parent conferences regarding special requirements for care as needed.

Information concerning vaccinations including flu and meningitis can be found at [www.franklincountyschools.com](http://www.franklincountyschools.com), Departments, Health Services, Immunization Information.

## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

Homebound instruction will be provided to special education students and general education students. For special education students, placement on homebound will be decided by the IEP Committee. For general education students, homebound instruction will be used at the discretion of the school principal. Placement on homebound instruction will be addressed in a parent/guardian school conference to develop a Homebound Student Plan. The duration of homebound instruction will be set by the school principal. The student will receive credit for the work satisfactorily completed during homebound instruction. Excessive absences from homebound instruction will be reported to the school attendance officer.

The site of homebound instruction will be established during the scheduled meeting with the parent/guardian. The site will be a public setting such as the public library, city hall, sheriff's office, etc. The parent/guardian will be responsible for

providing transportation to the site of instruction.

Non-Disabled homebound students cannot participate in any school-sponsored activities, (prom, ball games, club activities school sponsored trips, etc.) or come on campus without permission from the principal.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is a responsibility of every student. As a general rule, students will have to spend some time at home each day on work from school. Students who are absent from school are responsible for arranging to make-up work and turning it in to the teacher as assigned. Failure to turn in make-up work will result in a lower grade.

## **LOST, FOUND, AND STOLEN ITEMS**

### **Valuables and Possessions**

Each student is encouraged to mark coats, backpacks, etc. with some type of permanent marker so these items can be identified if necessary.

School officials are not responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen at school. **It is recommended that students only bring a minimum amount of money to school that is necessary for school purposes.** Any item found at school that fits into the category of illegal or restricted items should be left alone and reported to a school official. Any student who brings these items into his/her possession is subject to punishment for possession of the item.

## **MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL**

All medications given at school (prescription or non-prescription) must first be authorized by the student's parent/guardian and physician on the *Permission to Give Medication Form*. No medication will be administered to a student without this complete form. This form is furnished by the school nurse or school office and requires the signature of the parent or guardian, and the student's physician prior to the parent bringing the medication to the school. Unless otherwise specified by the doctor, we will not give any medication such as stimulants or antibiotics ordered once or twice a day. This frequency may be given at home. Please be advised that the school cannot supply medications for any student. All medication authorized to be given on school campus by the school nurse or designated person is to be secured in the nurse's office or school office with the only exception being the use of an inhaler. Students with permission forms for an inhaler of the treatment of asthma may keep their inhaler with them at all times. In the case of students in elementary grades or special circumstances, it may be appropriate to have the inhaler secured in the homeroom teacher's desk for convenience and prompt accessibility in the case of an asthma attack. No medication is to be brought to the school by the student. The only exception to this rule is the use of the above mentioned prescription inhalers or ordinary cough drops. All medications must be delivered in a new, unopened container to be labeled and secured for the student by the school nurse. All prescription medication must be in the container supplied and labeled by the pharmacy or physician.

The first dose of any new medication will not be given at school. This is to protect

against the possibility of the student having an allergic reaction while at school.

Before the last student attendance day in May of each year, each student's parent/guardian must pick up all remaining medications. Medications cannot be sent home with the student.

Each parent/guardian will be sent home a written reminder at least two weeks before the end of school. Any remaining medications will be discarded by the last nurse work day.

## **MEDICAL CANNABIS**

Medical Cannabis may be provided or administered, pursuant to a medical Doctor's Order, to a student, in oral form only, by the student's parent/custodian/legal guardian in the Nurses Station or school office with a written permission form, the prescribing Doctor's order and medical cannabis card on file with the building principal. The student's parent/custodian/legal guardian shall bring only a single dose for administration. The Franklin County School District will not store medical cannabis.

## **SALES**

While on school property, students are not to sell goods or services for their personal gain or benefit nor are they allowed selling goods or services for non-school related organizations. Items not on the MDE List of Approved Items for Vending will not be sold on school property during the school day. All fundraisers must be approved by the administration.

## **SCHEDULES**

Students will have a specific time at the beginning of school to change schedules or drop courses.

The time frame for changing a schedule or dropping a course is as follows:

1. The last day for students to change or drop a course is Friday, **August 28, 2026**.
2. The last day for students to drop a second semester (1/2 credit) course is Friday, **January 29, 2027**.
3. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, all students' schedules must include at least one course in each of the four core subject areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies).
4. Teacher change request will not be honored.
5. Only seniors are eligible for early release and must meet criteria established by the Mississippi Department of Education.

## **SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS**

At sporting events and all school-sponsored events, students are expected to show

good sportsmanship whether participating or watching, be courteous to out-of-town visitors as well as others, and to observe with dignity the playing of the national anthem or flag-raising. Students are expected to follow all school rules and the student handbook code of conduct will be used to determine consequences for violations of school rules. Students who do not display good sportsmanship or who behave inappropriately will be asked to leave. A school administrator may ban offenders from any and all extra-curricular school events.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Franklin County School District offers a variety of programs to meet the unique needs of each exceptional student. Special services are available for children between the ages of three through twenty who are physically, mentally, communicatively and/or emotionally disabled.

Classes are available at the preschool, elementary, middle school and high school levels. Exceptionalities served include: autism, specific learning disabilities, language/speech disabled, intellectually disabled, multiple disabilities, hearing impaired, visually impaired, other health impaired, orthopedically disabled, and emotionally disabled. Both resource and self-contained classes are available; a home-based program is available to students who are unable to come to school because of a disability, illness, accident or surgery. Other special programs can be added as the need arises. Parents of children with disabilities are strongly urged to take advantage of the special services available.

Elementary special classes emphasize academics. Secondary special classes include career & technical training, academics, and community involvement. Related services are available for transportation, counseling, physical therapy, and occupational therapy and any others as needed. Three options are available for graduation, depending on the student's functioning level. Special students may earn a high school diploma if they meet the criteria established by the Mississippi State Department of Education. They may receive an Alternate Diploma if they successfully complete the requirements of the program as set out by the Mississippi State Department of Education. Students may receive a certificate of satisfactory completion of a special education course of study. For information about the special services department, parents should contact Sarah Stebbins, Director of Special Services, Franklin County School District, P. O. Box 666, 340 Edison Street South, Meadville, MS 39653, 601-384-2133.

## **504 / ADA Coordinator**

The Franklin County School District provides a free appropriate public education to each qualified person with disabilities who is in the district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the person's disability. The provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of the persons with disabilities as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled persons are met and that are based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The school district has adopted grievance procedures that incorporate appropriate due process standards and that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints. Section 504 and ADA complaints should be addressed in writing to the

504 Coordinator, Sarah Stebbins, P.O. Box 666, Meadville, MS 39653. A copy of the grievance procedures is available from any school principal or counselor.

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

## **CHILD FIND**

The FCSD participates in an on-going statewide effort to identify, locate and evaluate children ages birth through twenty-one, who are physically, mentally, communicatively, and/or emotionally disabled. Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is very important. The information gathered from contacts with parents and other agencies will be used to help determine present and future needs as progress is made toward the goal of providing a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.

The Director of Special Services works with the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, local education agencies, ministers, physicians, and other individuals to locate and identify children who are in need of special services. For additional information, please contact Sarah Stebbins, Director of Special Services, Franklin County School District, P.O. Box 666, 340 Edison Street South Meadville, MS 39653, 601-384-2133.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

### **Permanent Records**

Each student has a permanent record of work on file in the office. Each phase of work is recorded and serves as a recommendation to employers or colleges.

### **Certification of Immunization**

State law requires that all students in grades K-12 provide the school a Certificate of Immunization (*Form 121*). Students who transfer to Franklin County must produce proof of immunization from their transfer school or secure the necessary inoculations. This must be done before a student may attend class.

### **Directory Information**

A principal may release the following types of information to the public, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family and the totality of the surrounding circumstances: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous school or institution attended by the student, photos, videos, information released to press, and other similar information. This does not allow the release of any of the above information to which a parent/guardian has filed an objection in writing. When a parent/guardian so objects, the student records will clearly distinguish and identify what types of information are not to be released. If a parent/guardian objects to any of the above stated information being released, please send a note to the principal within five (5) school days after receiving this student handbook.

## Transfer of Records

Student records will be mailed upon receiving a written request from the receiving school.

## TESTING

All entering English Language Learners (ELL) will be administered the LAS Links Placement Test by trained personnel in the school district. The school counselor administers the Otis Lennon School Ability Test to 1<sup>st</sup> graders during the school year and is available to discuss test scores with parents.

### Test Dates for State Testing

- Test dates for State Testing will be posted on the district website as they become available. [www.franklincountyschoolsms.com](http://www.franklincountyschoolsms.com)

## TEXTBOOKS

### State Owned Textbooks

Textbooks are “public property.” They are not given to students; they are on loan. Textbooks are numbered and issued to all students at the beginning of the school year. Online textbooks may be provided instead of physical textbooks. Students will be assessed fines to cover damaged books and excessive wear.

### Textbook Damages

Fines and damages are as follows:

1. Any textbook lost will be replaced at its face value regardless of the age of the book.
2. New books:
  - a) Cover torn off-student pays face value of the book
  - b) Pages torn out-student pays face value of the book
  - c) Marks on or inside books
    - 1) Pictures defaced – 5% of book value
    - 2) Scribbling on pages – 5% of book value
    - 3) Names on pages – students pay face value of book (20% of each year of book’s value is depreciated up to three years or 60% of value)

### Library Books

The library functions as a service for the students and teachers. The library is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. **Middle / High School** books are checked out for a period of three weeks and may be renewed. **Elementary School** books are checked out for a period of two weeks and may be renewed. **Elementary / Middle / High School** fines for overdue books are \$.10 per day (excluding weekends and holidays). Books must be returned and fines paid before report cards are issued. Students are expected to work in the library in an orderly fashion.

## UNAUTHORIZED AREAS (HIGH SCHOOL)

### Campus Boundaries

Students are to remain on campus after arriving in the morning and cannot leave without permission from a school administrator. When a student enters the parking lot or any road onto the campus, he/she is considered present at school and must receive permission from a school administrator in order to leave the campus. High school students are to remain in the area around the high school, unless properly authorized to do otherwise. The **red poles** on the high school and middle school campuses mark the dividing line between the campuses. Students are not to go past the red poles.

The following are guidelines that define certain areas that are off limits:

1. There should be no middle school students at the high school or high school students at the middle school before school, during morning break, during lunch, after school or at any time without a pass.
2. Students should stay off entrance areas to the buildings and should not loiter on the sidewalks and other designated areas.
3. Restrooms are off limits after the 8:00 bell, after break and after lunch, without the proper pass.
4. The parking lot is off limits for all students who ride the bus.
5. Any area beyond your stated class schedule without specific, written permission.
6. Students should not walk across the football field going to and from the Career-Tech.
7. The restroom facilities at the football stadium are off limits to all students during the regular school day.
8. While waiting for the buses in the afternoon, students should remain in their own bus stop area.
9. Without prior approval from the principal, all areas are unauthorized to early dismissal students after their last class of the day.

### VEHICLES / STUDENT PARKING / PARKING LOTS

The following defines expectations relative to students who drive their vehicles to school:

1. **Students must have a valid driver's license.**
2. Middle School students are not allowed to drive to school.
3. Driving and/or parking on any property owned or operated by the Franklin County School District **is a privilege, not a right.**
4. The speed limit on all school property is 10 mph. Students are expected to drive in a safe manner at all times.
5. Loud pipes/mufflers/engines and loud music are not permitted.
6. Loitering in the parking lot at any time is not permitted.
7. Students should not go to the parking lot during the school day without an office pass or permission from an administrator.
8. Students who ride the bus should not go to the parking lot at any time.
9. All vehicles coming onto school property are subject to search in accordance with applicable laws and procedures.

1. Students violating either school policy or state law in the operation of a motor vehicle on school property will be subject to disciplinary action including the loss of the privilege of operating a vehicle on school property.
2. All students who drive to school will purchase a parking permit from the school. The permit must be affixed to the rear view mirror.
3. Students may not drive from the Career-Tech Center to the High School or from the High School to the Career-Tech Center between classes.
4. Students may not park at the Career-Tech without prior written permission from the Career & Technical Director.

## **PARKING FEES**

Students will be assessed a \$20 fee for a parking permit. Seniors will have the option of paying \$40 for a closer spot that they can paint and customize. All students will park in the circle in front of the high school. Students will be given 5 days to purchase the permit before enforcement starts. Any student who doesn't have a permit by then will be given a written or verbal warning to comply. If not in compliance at the end of the second 5 day period, the student will not be allowed to drive or park on campus for 20 days. The 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will mean the student will not be able to drive or park for the remainder of the semester. The 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will prohibit driving or parking for the remainder of the school year.

Senior parking spots will be sold and painted on designated day. Lost or misplaced permits will cost the student an additional \$5. Students who switch vehicles should have the decal in the car they are using. The student needs to provide written notification to the SRO if the change in vehicle is permanent.

## **VISITORS**

All visitors and parents on campus must report to the office, state your reason for the visit and destination, and obtain a visitor's pass. All visitations are subject to Principal approval. Exceptions to this requirement are when visitors are attending general school functions deemed open to the public such as pep rallies assembly programs, athletic events, etc.

As part of the district's safety and security program, only school or district personnel, law enforcement officials, or educational professionals designing an individual education program shall be allowed to visit classroom during instructional times. Parents and/or legal guardians may schedule a visit to the classroom with teacher and principal approval.

## **WEBSITE**

The district website can be found at <http://franklincountyschoolsms.com>, individual school sites can also be accessed from this site. Active Parent can be accessed from the district website or at <https://ms1900.activeparent.net>. The Franklin County School District website complies with the American Disabilities Act.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

If it becomes necessary to withdraw from school, a student should obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office. All school property must be returned and all fines paid to complete the withdrawal process.

## **ASBESTOS REINSPECTION NOTICE:**

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act (AHERA), in the summer of 1989 we performed inspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos containing materials (ACM). The inspection reports and asbestos management plans have been on file in each school's administrative office since that time.

The EPA requires us to perform re-inspection of the asbestos materials every three years.

During the months of July and August 2025, accredited asbestos inspectors performed our three year re-inspections. An accredited asbestos management planner will review the results and recommend any actions we should take to safely manage all asbestos materials in our school buildings.

All asbestos materials in the schools are in good condition and we will continue to manage them in place, as recommended by the accredited management planner.

The asbestos management plans and all inspections are on file at the schools administrative office. Everyone is welcome to view these at any time during normal school hours (M-F, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.). The Asbestos Program Managers, Brad Mullins and Mickey Smith, are available to answer any questions you may have concerning the asbestos in our schools. Call 601-384-5889.

## **Disturbance in Public Places, Miss. Code Ann. § 97-35-13**

Any person who shall enter any public place of business of any kind whatsoever, or upon the premises of such public place of business, or any other public place whatsoever, in the State of Mississippi, and while therein or thereon shall create a disturbance, or a breach of the peace, in any way whatsoever, including, but not restricted to, loud and offensive talk, the making of threats or attempting to intimidate, or any other conduct which causes a disturbance or breach of the peace or threatened breach of the peace, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$ 500.00) or imprisoned in jail not more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

## **Suicide Prevention**

Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance to Franklin County School District. The Franklin County Board of Education has adopted a suicide prevention policy which will help protect all students through the following steps:

1. Students will learn about recognizing and responding to warning signs of suicide in friends using coping skills, using support systems, and seeking help for themselves and friends. This will occur in all health classes.
2. The Franklin County School District suicide prevention coordinator is Amber Combs who serves as a point of contact for students in crisis and to refer students to appropriate resources. (Office Phone: 601-384-2441)

1. When a student is identified as being at risk, they will be assessed by a school employed mental health professional who will work with the student and help connect them to appropriate resources.
2. Students will have access to national resources which they can contact for additional support such as:

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline-1-800-273-8255  
(TALK) [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

5. All students are expected to help create a school culture of respect and support in which students feel comfortable seeking help for themselves or friends. Students are encouraged to tell any staff member if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of help.
6. Students should also know that because of the life or death nature of these matters, confidentiality or privacy concerns are secondary to seeking help for students in crisis.
7. For a more detailed review of policy changes, please see the district's full suicide prevention policy at <http://www.franklincountyschoolsms.com>

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

A copy of the Consolidated Federal Program Application Plan, as well as needs assessment results, is on file and is available upon request. Parents also have an opportunity to provide school officials with input by completing a Needs Assessment Survey and by attending the School-Wide Planning Meeting.

## **TITLE IX**

All classes and activities are open to all students.

## **FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records

which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA.

The Franklin County School District designates its School Resource Officer as a school official with limited access to education records. This designation is based upon the legitimate educational interest of the School Resource Officer in the education records, which includes promoting school safety and protecting the physical security of students enrolled in the Franklin County School District. Therefore, the written consent of a parent or guardian of a student for disclosure of personally identifiable information is not required.

### **Franklin County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan School Year 2026-2027**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Franklin County School District** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and

distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The *Franklin County School District* agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/ family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The **Franklin County School District** will involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan(s) under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The **Franklin County School District** will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The **Franklin County School District** will take actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The **Franklin County School District** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools in school years when the school district receives a Title I allocation of greater than \$500,000.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The **Franklin County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, *such as: Head Start, etc.* that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The **Franklin County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics: The challenging State

academic standards, the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, the requirements of Title I, Part A, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The **Franklin County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 parents and schools.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

The **Franklin County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents will offer the following activities to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school district to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA:

- a. Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- b. Developing solutions associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- c. Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- d. Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- e. Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
- f. Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

## **ADOPTION**

This plan was adopted by the Franklin County School District and will be in effect for the period of the 2026-2027 school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

## **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

No student enrolled in the Franklin County School District nor their parent/s shall, on the basis of gender, race, religion, national origin, disability, or on migratory status be excluded from participation under any educational program or activity that is included in the Franklin County School Program.

**Franklin County School District's  
Notice Regarding Title IX Amended Regulations**

Title IX states “[n]o Person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a)

The Franklin County School District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, and this District is required by Title IX, as amended, not to discriminate in such a manner.

Title IX was originally enacted in 1972. Amended regulations addressing student and employee sexual harassment under Title IX were issued on April 19, 2024 and are effective as of August 1, 2024. The amended regulations define student and employee sexual harassment under Title IX and establish procedures to respond to an allegation of Title IX sexual harassment. The District is updating its policies implementing the amended regulations. Below is a summary of these amendments/updated policies.

This Notice explains how to report a complaint of sexual harassment, the steps the District takes to investigate the complaint, the decision making process, and the appeal process.

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING REPORTING  
ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

To all students, parents or legal guardians, employees, and applicants for employment:

The District's Title IX Coordinator is:

Selma Wells  
P. O. Box 605  
Meadville, MS 39653  
swells@fcsd.k12.ms.us  
601-384-2340

The District's Alternate Title IX Coordinator is:

Sarah Stebbins  
P. O. Box 666  
Meadville, MS 39653  
sstebbins@fcsd.k12.ms.us  
601-384-2133

The Title IX Coordinator is the person authorized by the school district to coordinate the District's Title IX compliance program. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sex harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination), in person, by mail, by telephone, or e-mail, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Any District employee who knows or learns information concerning conduct related to sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator.

Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the Title IX Coordinator's telephone number or email address, or by mail to the Title IX Coordinator's office address, listed above. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the District may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator or to the Assistant Secretary of Education at the United States Department of Education, or both.







# Franklin County Bulldogs 2026 Football Schedule

All Games Begin at 7:00 p.m. (Except where noted)

Date	Opponent	Location
August 21	Natchez (Jamboree, 6 p.m.)	Away
August 28	North Pike	Away
September 4	Brookhaven	Away
September 11	Wesson	Home
September 18	Perry Central	Away
September 25	Magee	Home
October 2	Crystal Springs	Away
October 9	Port Gibson	Home
October 16	Hazlehurst	Away
October 23	Loyd Star	Home
October 29 (Thurs.)	Jefferson County	Home



**GO BULLDOGS!**

