

Handbook Highlights

I. Student Identification Cards

Identification Cards will be issued to all staff and STUDENTS and must be worn at all times while on school premises including school buses.

II. Excused Absences

For an absence to be excused, all students must present an excuse from a parent or a doctor's excuse from a physician and/or nurse practitioner within five (5) days of their return to school following an absence. Up to two (2) parent excuses will be accepted per semester (4 per school year). Two of the total parent excuses accepted may be for mental health days. Parent excuses may be submitted through JCampus with the parent's biometric signature upon request.

III. Visitors

*****Visitors to all Avoyelles Parish Buildings must sign in electronically within the sign in system by scanning their official identification card. Exceptions are Avoyelles Parish School employees wearing an official Avoyelles Parish School badge.

IV. FIREARMS, DANGEROUS WEAPONS, KNIVES (Blade 2 ½ or greater), OTHER WEAPONS, and DRUGS

Any student, Grades 6 – 12, found guilty of being in possession of a firearm, a knife with a blade equal to or in excess of 2 ½ inches in length, or any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property (Act 337), on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school sponsored event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of 2 semesters, and shall be referred to the District Attorney for appropriate action. The weapon will be turned over immediately to law enforcement.

V. CONDUCT AT A DUAL ENROLLMENT SITE/INTERN SITES/TRAINING SITES

Student discipline policies for Avoyelles students participating in student programs off campus will be governed by both the school district and the off-campus program or university offering the courses, internship, or training. Disciplinary actions for Avoyelles Parish students will be in line with Avoyelles Parish policies. Exceptions: Cell Phones.

VI. Attendance

After verification of the **third (3rd)** and **fifth (5th)** unexcused absence, the school shall send a warning letter to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student informing them of the absences that their child has accrued. **High schools on BLOCK schedules should make parents aware that missing more than 6 unexcused days in a semester will cause a child to fail the semester. All schools should make parents aware that missing more than 12 unexcused days in a full year course will cause a child to fail.** (Notify Parent By Phone or Message Through JCampus after the 3rd and 5th Absence.....Parents Must Sign for the 3 Day Letter. After the 5th Unexcused Absence in a Semester a Student is Considered Truant and a meeting will be scheduled with the parent as well as a referral to FINS. **If the school cannot make successful contact with the parent after trying all numbers on file, the contact for FINS will**

be the 10 day letter mailed home to parents which now states that a FINS referral is being made. (Notify Parent By Phone or Message Through JCampus after the 5th Absence)

VII. Home Assignment for Discipline (HAD)

Home Assignment for Discipline (HAD) is a corrective consequence of 5 days or fewer for Level 2 behavioral infractions of the Student Code of Conduct that involves the temporary removal of a student from regular school classes and the placement of a student in an approved virtual school setting for the day(s) assigned. Students assigned to HAD are required to complete relevant social skills activities (SEL prescription) that relate to their referral concern(s), as well as their academic class work and other assignments that are in keeping with the student's curriculum. It is used, if appropriate, rather than utilizing out of school suspension. Students must complete their assignment to get credit for a HAD day. A student will revert to an OSS instead if the work is not completed. Like OSS, HAD will count towards a major infraction that can lead to an expulsion recommendation on the 3rd offense. Students will be allowed to complete assignments and receive full credit.

VIII. AVAP Virtual Expelled Students

Before virtually assigned AVAP students return to the home school, they will serve 30 assigned good days in person at AVAP with unless this would cause the student's total time spent there to be increased beyond their expulsion assignment or their assignment ends at the end of a school year and the in-person time has not been completed.

IX. Graduation Requirements

In addition to meeting the minimum graduation requirements as defined by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Students who plan to pursue postsecondary education or training are encouraged to complete and submit to the US Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Starting with the senior class of 2026, students will also be required to meet one of the accelerators (college, career or service) as defined in the State Accountability System in order to have early release or early graduation.

X. Dual Enrollment Policy

The Avoyelles Parish School Board believes that students who begin post-secondary coursework while still in high school are more likely to complete post-secondary education/training, thus resulting in higher earning potential and greater contribution to the local community. Therefore, the School Board shall provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit hours while simultaneously fulfilling Carnegie unit requirements necessary for high school graduation. In some instances, students who are working toward or completing an associate's degree may also be earning a Jump Start TOPS Career Diploma or a TOPS University Diploma.

REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER INTO DUAL ENROLLMENT:

TOPS University Diploma:

*** First six (6) hours of Dual Enrollment courses must only be from the District-approved list.

- Minimum of 2.5 grade point average
- Meet graduation requirements on LEAP exams in Math and ELA with a 2.5 GPA in these subject areas.
- ACT Math Subscore of 19; ACT ELA Subscore of 18

Note: Additional requirements or substitutions (i.e. Accuplacer) for these may vary according to the university and/or current policy of the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Jump Start TOPS Career Diploma:

- Minimum of 2.0 grade point average
- Meet graduation requirements on LEAP exams in Math and ELA with a 2.0 GPA in these subject areas.
- Test score requirements may vary according to program selection and criteria of the postsecondary partner.

Note: Additional requirements or substitutions (i.e. Accuplacer) for these may vary according to the post-secondary partner and/or current policy of the Louisiana Board of Regents.

TOPS University AND Jump Start TOPS Career:

Within a term, if a student fails a course or withdraws from a course with a “W” the student shall be ineligible to participate in post-secondary courses in the following term unless granted written permission by the principal. The Avoyelles Parish Schools will cover the dual enrollment cost for courses approved by the principal. However, for each course a student fails or withdraws with a “W”, the student/student’s guardian will be responsible to reimburse the District \$100 per credit hour to offset the cost the District paid for the course(s). All Dual Enrollment courses that are approved by the school principal and completed prior to graduation will be reflected in the student’s high school transcript.

REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE IN DUAL ENROLLMENT AFTER THE FIRST SIX (6) HOURS OF DUAL ENROLLMENT FOR TOPS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

- 20 or higher composite (no superscore) on the ACT
Or
- Gold or higher on WorkKeys and earned the Career/Service Accelerator Requirement
Or
- Fifty-Nine (59) higher on AFQT and earned the Career/Service Accelerator Requirement

REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE IN DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE FOR SENIORS AND GRADUATING JUNIORS

Jump Start TOPS Career:

- 20 or higher composite (no superscore) on the ACT
Or
- Gold or higher on WorkKeys and working towards the Career/Service Accelerator Requirement
Or
- Fifty-Nine (59) higher on AFQT and working towards the Career/Service Accelerator Requirement

Exception: The Avoyelles Parish Schools Superintendent has the authority to grant an exception and approve Avoyelles Parish Schools to cover the cost(s) for a student who has not met all the above criteria.

Revised: April 22, 2025

XI. Student Dress Code

Students are expected to be clean, neat, and dressed in good taste and are expected to groom in the same manner. Principals are authorized to make that determination. The only specifics imposed by the Avoyelles Parish School Board are:

1. Clothing, whether dresses, trousers, skirts, shirts, blouses, etc. must be appropriate for school wear, neat and unrevealing, and must conform to established restricted dress code standards.

<u>School</u>	<u>7th and 8th</u>	<u>9th – 12th</u>
AHS	Gold	Blue or White
BHS	Gray	Red or white
LaSAS	Green or Yellow	Green or Yellow
MHS	Gold	Purple or white

2. The restricted dress code applies to all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Pre K-6 students must wear navy blue bottoms and light blue tops with approved school logo. Logos are optional in grades Pre-K- 6th. Grades 7-12 students must wear khaki bottoms and school designated color shirts with approved school logo.
3. Any pullover must be a school approved color with the school logo. (Logos are optional in PK-6.) Outer garments may not be worn around the waist at any time. Only school approved logos are authorized for wear on all shirts/blouses and must be permanently attached to the shirt/blouse/pullover. Any pullover outer garment may not contain vulgar, obscene, alcohol, weapon related, or racial language/symbols.
4. Students may wear any jacket when weather dictates except for trench coats, dusters, knee length starter jackets or jackets

5. Pants must be slacks and legs shall not be rolled up at any time. Slacks and shorts may have inside or outside pockets and must be hemmed. No cargo or watch pockets are allowed. No laced closures are allowed.
6. Jeans of any color and/or type are not allowed except on designated days for positive behavior and/or achievement. This includes all pants that have rivets. Jeggings, leggings and stretch pants are not allowed.
7. Bottoms with belt loops require the wearing of belts except Pre-K and Kindergarten.
8. Belts with no logos are to be worn. The entire length of the belt must be worn inside the loops. Hanging of any part of the belt and/or attachments outside the belt loops is not allowed. Belt buckles must be a permanent part of the belt.
9. Shirts and blouses must be tucked in at all times.
10. All shirts/blouses must have sleeves and collars.
11. If an undershirt is worn, it must be solid white or school approved color with no inscriptions, logos, pictures, etc. Exception: Approved school related undershirts are allowed.
12. Sagging pants cannot be worn to school.
13. All pants must be worn at waist level.
14. Socks or hose are required with all footwear.
15. Bellbottoms are allowed for wear unless they are jeans, and cannot be frayed at the bottom.
16. Transfers in and out of parish will be allowed five (5) school days to obtain proper dress code apparel relative to the school they attend.
17. Pullover/sock/knit/watch caps are allowed in the outdoor setting only. No logos are allowed. No other headgear is allowed. This includes but is not limited to: scarves, sweatbands, active wear caps and night caps for hair. (Headbands with a width not exceeding 1 ½ inches are allowed.)
18. Proper footwear must be worn at all times. Shoes must be worn appropriately at all times. The back of the shoe must have a strap. No beach shoes, shower clogs, rafting sandals, etc. with or without straps are allowed. Steel-toed footwear is not allowed except for an approved school activity. No crocs or slippers are allowed.
19. No visible vulgar, suggestive, obscene, or gang related tattoos are allowed.
20. No vests may be worn
21. Earrings, studs, or pins may be worn in the ear and nose only.
22. All neck ornaments/jewelry must be worn inside the collar, shirt, or blouse. No chains of any type are allowed.
23. Students in Grades K-12 are allowed to wear shorts. In Grades K-2, shorts may be worn no shorter than mid-thigh length. In grades 3-12, shorts must be no shorter than two (2) inches from the floor when measured in a kneeling position. The measurement will be taken by the principal or his/her designee. Shorts must be hemmed. No biker shorts are permitted for any student. Dress and skirt length requirements are the same as for shorts.
24. Identification cards will be worn on the upper front torso where name is visible at all times while on the school campus during the school day except during PE activity classes (High School Only). Students found in violation shall be disciplined in accordance with established policies and procedures. ID cards shall not be defaced and/or altered in any way. Violators will be required to purchase a replacement.

25. Each individual school may establish more specific dress code policies as long as it has been approved by the Superintendent and the school board. In such cases, students will be informed through printed handouts after having been approved by the board.
26. Artificial nails will not be allowed for students in grades PreK-6

Adopted 3.18.25

2025-2026 Avoyelles Parish Schools Calendar

- 4-6 Staff Development
7 1st Day for Students

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 5-6 Staff Development
7 3rd 9 weeks begins
13 Report Cards Sent Home

- 9 Progress Reports Sent Home

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- 5 Progress Reports Sent Home
17 Mardi Gras Break

- 9 1st 9 weeks ends
10 2nd 9 weeks begins
16 Report Card Night

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 12 End of 3rd 9 weeks
13 Staff Development
17 4th 9 weeks begins
19 Report Card Night

- 11 Veteran's Day
12 Progress Reports Sent Home
25-28 Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- 3-10 Easter Break
23 Progress Reports Sent Home

- 19 End of 2nd 9 weeks
23-2 Christmas Break

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 18 MHS Graduation
19 AHS Graduation
20 BMHS Graduation
21 LaSAS Graduation
26 Last Day for Students
27 ½ Day Records and Closing

