



Student Handbook & Code of Conduct 2025-2026

**Grades K-12
A Statement of Policy
Adopted by the Elmore County Board of
Education June 2025**

Due to changes in the federal and state law throughout the year, there may be revisions to this document.

Revised August 2025



August 7, 2025

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year! The Elmore County School System is committed to providing a positive educational experience for all students in our school system. To achieve this goal, parents, guardians, students, and school personnel must work together and communicate effectively to create a positive school environment.

As school begins this year, it is important that everyone understand their school's basic expectations, rules, and procedures. The Elmore County Student Handbook outlines system policies and procedures that support safe, orderly environments. We encourage each student to actively and safely participate in the many activities available through his/her school. Please encourage your child to act and respond in a positive manner and to give his/her best effort every day.

Again, welcome back and we look forward to working with you and your child to make this year a success.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dennis
Superintendent

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Elmore County Board of Education does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

HARASSMENT POLICY

The Elmore County Board of Education strictly prohibits discrimination and maintains a learning environment free from harassment because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, gender identity, sex, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, marital status, age, veteran status, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, homeless status, or any other legally protected classification.

It shall be a violation of Board policy for any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel to harass a student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel through conduct of a sexual nature or regarding race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, gender identity, sex, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, marital status, age, veteran status, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, homeless status, or any other legally protected classification defined by this policy.

It shall also be a violation of Board policy for any teacher, administrator, or other Board employee to tolerate sexual harassment or harassment because of a student's race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, gender identity, sex, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, marital status, age, veteran status, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, homeless status, or any other legally protected classification defined by this policy, by a student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel, or by any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the Board.

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment because of his or her actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, gender identity, sex, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, marital status, age, veteran status, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, homeless status, or any other legally protected classification by a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, should immediately report the alleged acts to the Superintendent or the Title IX Coordinator.

Additionally, any person who has personal knowledge of any unlawful harassment of any student, teacher, administrator, or other Board personnel may file a report of such harassment. For information on filing complaints because of harassment based upon race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, gender identity, sex, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, marital status, age, veteran status, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, homeless status, or any other legally protected classification. Please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

COORDINATING COMPLIANCE FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX

Mr. Steve McKenzie
334-514-2810 ext. 24001

COORDINATING COMPLIANCE FOR SECTION 504

Mrs. Amy Kearley
334-285-2100 ext. 3232

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Student Attendance Policy.....	11
Absences/Check-Outs/Check-Ins.....	11
Tardies.....	12
Truancy.....	13
Denial of Credit.....	14
Elmore County Virtual School (EDGE) Attendance	14
Bullying.....	15
Lice Policy.....	16
Student Address Verification Procedures.....	16
School Arrival and Pick-Up Time for Privately Transported Students	17
Visitors	17
Academic Guidelines.....	17
Grading Scale	17
Promotion, Placement, Retention	18
Guidelines for Promotion.....	18
Semester Exam Exemptions.....	20
Graduation Requirements/Diploma Options.....	21
Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Act	26
Weekly Papers	26
Progress Reports.....	26
Report Cards	27
Conferences.....	27
Honor Roll	27
Advanced/AP/Dual Weights.....	27
Valedictorian/Salutatorian.....	27
Virtual School.....	28

Due Process.....	28
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	28
Statement of Policy.....	29
Discipline.....	29
Dress Code	29
Grievance Resolution Procedure	29
Emergency Procedures.....	31
Emergency Closing Procedures.....	31
Severe Weather	31
Fire Drills.....	32
Lock-Down Drills	32
School Property	32
Surveillance Equipment	32
School Property Damage	32
Tobacco Free Campus.....	32
Textbooks.....	32
Bus Transportation.....	33
Vehicle Transportation.....	33
Personal Issues.....	33
Personal Property	33
Selling of Items At School.....	34
Personal Parties and Gifts.....	34
Photos and Videos	34
Use of Digital Device During Administration of a Secure Test.....	34
Personal Electronic Device Use.....	34
Special Services.....	36
Special Education Services.....	36

Section 504 Services	36
Recording of IEP and Section 504 Meetings.....	36
ESL, Immigrant, Migrant, Homeless, & Foster Care Student Services.....	37
Gifted and Talented Education Program	37
Individualized Health Care Plans.....	38
Medication at School	38
Exclusion from School for Illness – Parent Instructions.....	39
Programs And Activities.....	40
Renaissance Learning.....	40
Alabama Reading Initiative	40
IXL.....	40
Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and Carolina	
Biological	40
Library Media Center.....	40
Field Trips.....	40
Extracurricular Activities.....	41
Extracurricular Activity Participation/Academics First	41
Athletics.....	42
Home-School Athletic/Band Enrollment.....	43
Responsible Use Guidelines for Students.....	43
Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Procedures.....	47
Cafeteria.....	48
Elmore County Student Code Of Conduct.....	50
Overview.....	51
Academic Honesty	52
Dress Code.....	53
Transportation Department Code of Conduct and Safety Rules.....	54

Searches by School Officials.....	55
Seclusion and Restraint Policy	56
Off-Campus Behavior.....	56
Elmore County Alternative Programs (Discipline Division).....	57
Taylor's Law.....	59
Classroom Discipline Procedures.....	60
Homeschool Athletic/Band Enrollment Discipline Procedures	60
Bus Discipline Procedures.....	61
COVID-19 Notice	62
Classification of Violations.....	62
Procedures for the Administration of Formal Disciplinary Actions.....	62
Class I Offenses.....	63
Class II Offenses.....	64
Class III Offenses.....	78
Class IV Major Offenses	88
Procedure for K-12 Corporal Punishment.	90
Other Discipline Procedures	91
Legal Reference.....	91

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Eclectic Middle School (5-8) 514-2131

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ECAP Millbrook Campus 567-1298

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Holtville Community 541-5858

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Redland Community 512-9646

O'Sheama Felix, Director

495 Scholars Dr. Wetumpka, AL 36093

Wetumpka Community 514-3925

Cathy Fulmer, Director

499 Alabama St. Wetumpka, AL 36092

Elmore County Public Schools
2025-2026 School Calendar
177 student days – 187 teacher days

August 2025

1-6 Professional Development (no students)

7 First day of school

September 2025

1 Labor Day

October 2025

10 1/2 Day Students/Teacher Workday/End of Grading Period

13-14 Fall Break

16 Parent Progress Report Day

November 2025

11 Veterans Day

24-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 2025

19 1/2 Day for Students

22 - Jan 2 Christmas Holidays

January 2026

2 & 5 Professional Development

6 Students Return

19 MLK Birthday

February 2026

10 Parent Progress Report Day

16 Professional Development/No Students

March 2026

13 1/2 Day Students/Teacher Workday/End of Grading Period

23-27 Spring Break

May 2026

21 Last Day for Students

22 Teacher Workday

25 Memorial Day Holiday

June 2026

19 Juneteenth Holiday

July 2026

4 Fourth of July

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CJ ROBINSON
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Office of the District Attorney and Elmore County Public Schools have partnered to implement the Helping Families Initiative. The focus of this program is to increase school attendance by keeping students in school, off the streets, and out of the criminal justice system. Our goal is to identify and intervene with students who are considered "at risk" for truancy but are not active in the juvenile court system.

We believe it is important for every student to have an opportunity to achieve success in life. A student's ability to perform well in school is directly linked to parental involvement and regular school attendance. Students with five (5) or more unexcused absences within a school year are considered truant and are more likely to fail grades, drop out of school, or engage in criminal activities.

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Law, Section 16-28-12, Code of Alabama, states that all children between the ages of six (6) through seventeen (17) must attend school regularly and behave appropriately. The District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with ECPS and the Juvenile Court, has the ability to legally enforce and hold accountable parents/guardians of children considered truant or misbehaving in school.

The law provides legal consequences for student(s) and parents/guardians who fail to comply with the compulsory school attendance and conduct law. Legal consequences include attending a court hearing, fines and jail time.

The District Attorney and ECPS Superintendent want every student to have an opportunity to achieve academic success.

Sincerely,

CJ Robinson
District Attorney

Richard Dennis
Superintendent

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

ABSENCES/CHECK-OUTS/CHECK-INS

All students, regardless of age, enrolled in the Elmore County School System are required to be in continuous attendance at their designated school. Prompt and regular attendance at school provides students with the skills needed for future success and aids in the development of good character. While occasional absences are unavoidable, state law places the responsibility for regular attendance upon the parent/guardian. **The Code of Alabama (16-28-15)** requires that a written note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence must confirm every absence **(to include check-outs and check-ins)** within three (3) school days. **Failure to furnish the written explanation for the absence may result in the student being considered truant with the knowledge of the parent/guardian or person in control of the student.** Participation in legitimate school activities or special reasons acceptable to the principal may be excused if permission is granted prior to the absence.

GRADES K-12

Any student in grades K-12 who accumulates seven (7) excuses that have not been verified by a physician's statement, may be required, at the discretion of the principal, to secure a physician's statement for all future absences.

Any student in grades K-12 who has accumulated more than fifteen (15) **excused or unexcused** absences **may be considered for retention** in grades K-8 and denial of credits in grades 9-12.

In addition, any student in grades 9-12 who accumulates more than seven (7) **unexcused** absences in a class may be denied credit for that course. Students will **not** be permitted to make up work for unexcused absences. Students in grades 9-12 who accumulate more than 4 **unexcused** absences in an eighteen-week class may be denied credit for that course. Required court appearances and physician-verified absences are considered excused absences.

ABSENCES

Documentation must be submitted no later than three (3) days after the student's returns to school through the online excuse platform at www.elmoreco.com under the attendance tab or through written documentation. After three (3) days an excuse will not be accepted, and the absence will be regarded as truancy. On the day of the student's return to school, he/she must arrange with the teacher for make-up work to be completed at a mutually agreed upon time. If the student fails to make arrangements or fails to meet the deadline, he/she will receive a zero for the missed work unless another absence has occurred. Students who are out of class due to college day or other approved activities should be prepared to complete make-up work the day they return to school.

For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, consideration should be given to the volume of make-up work required. The teachers should collaborate to establish a reasonable schedule for submission of make-up work. Make-up work for a preceding nine weeks should be completed within two weeks of the next nine weeks unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Parents are encouraged to check the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly to monitor their child's attendance and verify that all submitted excuses are accurately reflected in the attendance record. If a discrepancy is identified, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the school's attendance clerk to get the discrepancy corrected.

Excused absences include, but are not limited to:

1. Illness
2. Legal quarantine
3. Court-required appearance
4. Death in the immediate family
5. Inclement weather which could be dangerous to the life and health of the child as determined by the principal
6. Emergency conditions as determined by the superintendent or principal
7. Prior permission of the principal with consent of the parent/guardian

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

1. Failure to register or start to school on time
2. Truancy
3. Missing a bus or ride
4. Suspension
5. Unauthorized trips, such as family vacations without prior permission, shopping, hunting, fishing, ball games, etc.
6. Birthdays or other celebrations
7. Updating an expired immunization form
8. Any absence for which a written excuse was not provided within three (3) days

CHECK-OUTS/CHECK-INS

Check-outs, check-ins, and tardies will be considered as absences from those class periods missed and treated as any other absence to include:

1. Students who leave school for any reason must check-out through the school office following their school's check out procedure.
1. Only persons whose names appear on the school's registration form may check-out students unless the school receives permission in writing in advance from the parent/guardian.
2. Written permission is to be given first by the parent/guardian or "emergency person" shown on the school's registration form before each check-out, except in cases of sudden illness, accident, or similar incident where telephone confirmation is the only alternative.
3. Check-ins and check-outs are considered absences in classes missed. Excused/Unexcused will be determined based on whether or not an excuse is submitted for check-in/out. Students may, at the school's discretion, be required to bring a written note when they return to school from a check-out.

TARDIES

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students are required to report to their school no later than the official beginning of the school day. Tardy to school is excused for the same reasons as absences. (See previous section on absences.)

Personal vehicle problems or missing the school bus will not be considered an excused tardy. All students are provided with bus transportation. Unexcused tardiness may result in disciplinary action. Only an excused tardy will permit academic work to be made up. Any exceptions to this tardy policy will be reviewed by the administration. After 20 excused tardies, a doctor's excuse is required for each successive tardy. **Please note that a student will not be eligible for a perfect attendance certificate if the student has a tardy.**

TARDY TO CLASS

A student is considered tardy to class when he/she is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings.

GRADES 5-8

Students are to report to class for roll check before participating in any other scheduled activity. Students who report to class more than 10 minutes after class has started without a written excuse from a faculty member is considered skipping class.

GRADES 9-12

Instructional periods are approximately 90 minutes (this may vary between schools). Students are expected to be in their assigned classroom ready for work when the tardy bell rings. Students who report to class more than 10 minutes after class has started without a written excuse from a faculty member is considered skipping class. Students who are more than 25 minutes late to class unexcused will be considered absent from that class. The accumulation of tardies starts over at the beginning of each new nine-week grading period.

TRUANCY

The parent/guardian must be notified in writing by the school when a student has accumulated one (1) unexcused absence. **By law, all absences that are not explained by a written excuse within three school days are considered truant.** At that time, the parent will be provided a copy of Alabama's compulsory school attendance laws and advised of the penalties and procedures that will be followed in the event of further unexcused absences. If a parent/guardian believes that the school's attendance record is in error, he/she should contact the school.

The principal or designee must notify parent/guardian with a written notice when a student has accumulated three (3) unexcused absences. Failure to notify the parent/guardian would result in the student continuing in good status even if absences exceed the maximum number of absences.

Upon the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, the parent/guardian must participate in the early warning program provided by the juvenile court. Failure to appear at the early warning program shall result in the filing of a complaint/petition against the parent under Ala. Code 1975, §16-28-12(c) (failure to cooperate), or a truancy against the child, whichever is appropriate. In addition, the parent/guardian and student may be referred to the Helping Families Initiative Program.

If a student accumulates two or more unexcused absences after an Early Warning Truancy Conference during the school year and/or a total of at least ten (10) unexcused absences, the Elmore County

Attendance Coordinator will file a petition for the parent/guardian and the student to appear in juvenile court.

Child under probation

The school attendance officer should be notified by the juvenile probation officer of all children in the school system under probation supervision by the juvenile court as consistent with state statute, Ala Code. (1975).

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

DENIAL OF CREDIT

GRADES 9-12

Upon the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, a follow-up letter scheduling a conference with the principal, guidance counselor, student, and/or teachers will be required. The student and the parent/guardian will be notified at the conference that he/she may be denied credit. If a student receives seven (7) unexcused absences in a thirty-six-week course, the principal may decide to deny credit for that course.

If a student receives four (4) unexcused absences in an eighteen-week course, a conference will be held with the parent/guardian, student, and principal. At this time, the student will be notified that he/she may be denied credit for the course.

ELMORE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL (EDGE) ATTENDANCE

For our students who attend the Elmore County Virtual School, the EDGE virtual attendance policy will apply. EDGE virtual attendance is measured in the following manner:

- Each student in the Elmore County Virtual School (EDGE) will be assigned an advisor.
- Advisors will monitor student progress in Imagine Learning, Flexpoint, and/or other software programs daily via software dashboards, reports, assignments, and assessments.
- Advisors will monitor student usage weekly to monitor attendance (each Monday) in Imagine Learning and Flexpoint via dashboard and reports.
- Students are not allowed to fall below 15% progress or have a grade below 60%.

In cases in which students are off pace, the principal, administrative staff, and/or the attendance officer will intervene consistent with the schedule presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: ELMORE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL (EDGE) INTERVENTION SCHEDULE

Percentage off-pace in the course	Student intervention
Fifteen percent (15%)	When the student is fifteen percent (15%) behind in the course or has a grade below 60%, advisors will contact the student and/or guardians. If progress is not corrected, student is required to report to tutoring via Zoom or directly at the center with a certified teacher. If student fails to report to tutoring, progress has not been improved, or contact cannot be made by the advisor; a supervisor will attempt contact with the student and guardian(s) and possibly report the student to the Elmore County Truancy Officer. If the student continues to not meet the required criteria, student will be released from the Elmore County Virtual School to the base school and will no longer be considered for the EDGE virtual program.

BULLYING

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential of being repeated, over time. Both children who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

To be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

An imbalance of power: children who bully use their power – such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity – to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

Repetition: bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

There are three types of bullying:

1. Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:
 - a. Teasing
 - b. Name-calling
 - c. Inappropriate sexual comments
 - d. Taunting
 - e. Threatening to cause harm
2. Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:
 - a. Leaving someone out on purpose
 - b. Telling other children not to be friends with someone
 - c. Spreading rumors about someone
 - d. Embarrassing someone in public
3. Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:

- a. Hitting/kicking/pinching
- b. Spitting
- c. Tripping/pushing
- d. Taking or breaking someone's things
- e. Making mean or rude hand gestures

In addition to the three types of bullying listed above, cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles. Elmore County adheres to the Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act, No. 2018-472.

Incidents of bullying should be reported to an adult staff member at the school **immediately**. Bullying forms are also available for parents or students to file a report at the school or on the county website at www.elmoreco.com.

LICE POLICY

If a student is identified as having an active head lice infestation, he/she will be sent home immediately for treatment. The student may return to school as soon as the parent/guardian provides the school with proof of appropriate treatment and no evidence of **live lice or nits within 1/4 inch of the scalp**. Excused absences for lice treatment will be limited to two (2) consecutive days per occurrence. Two days is a reasonable length of time to correct the lice problem. Any length of time after two (2) days will be considered **UNEXCUSED**.

The parent/guardian must bring proof of treatment and accompany the student to school for the reexamination by authorized school personnel before the student may return to the classroom. Persons who need additional information on lice control may contact their child's school.

STUDENT ADDRESS VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

Elmore County Board of Education has established zones for students and requires each student to attend the school in his/her zone. All attendance zones will be strictly enforced. Every student enrolled and/or enrolling in the Elmore County school system must provide verification of residence, a street address is required that corresponds to a 911 address. A post office address will not be accepted for verification. Student residency is audited throughout the school year. The administration may request updated residency documents.

NEW STUDENTS

For new students enrolling in the Elmore County Public School System, the parent or guardian of each child must complete an address verification form and provide school officials with a deed, mortgage, or apartment/home lease, plus one of the following documents: a property tax record, a utility bill, a voter identification/registration, an automobile registration, or homeowner's insurance policy. If parents are divorced, the parent with physical custody must prove residence in Elmore County.

CURRENT STUDENTS

For students currently enrolled in the Elmore County Public School System:

- If a student's residence has not changed from the address verified the previous year, the parent/guardian needs only to complete an address verification form.
- If a student's residence changes at any time, the parent/guardian must complete an address verification form and provide school officials with a deed, mortgage, or apartment/home lease, plus one of the following documents: a property tax record, a utility bill, a voter identification/registration, an automobile registration, or homeowner's insurance policy.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND PICK-UP TIME FOR PRIVATELY TRANSPORTED STUDENTS

No student should be present on school property prior to 7:00 a.m. or remain on school property more than thirty minutes after the close of the official school day. Exceptions are students who are enrolled in an on-site school extended day program, participating in an authorized extracurricular school activity or program, or authorized by the school principal. School start and dismissal times vary within each community. Please check with your child's school for the correct start and dismissal times.

VISITORS

Parents are welcome at any time, and they are encouraged to visit classes and to attend school-sponsored activities.

- For the safety of all, including parents, visitors must obtain a visitor's badge and sign-in via the Raptor Visitor Management system at the school's office.
- Visitors are to always wear the visitor's badge. The badge must be visible.
- Permission cannot be granted for students to invite school-age or younger friends or relatives to the spend the day at school.
- School procedures must be followed.

ACADEMIC GUIDELINES

GRADING SCALE

- A – 100-90
- B – 89-80
- C – 79-70
- D – 69-60
- F – 59 and below

PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, RETENTION

The definitions for promotion, placement, and retention for K-8 students are as follows:

Promotion: the assignment of a student to a higher grade level based on the student's achievement of established criteria in the current grade.

Placement: In grades K-4, regarding the Alabama Literacy Act, the assignment of a student to a specific grade level based on the determination that such placement will most likely provide the student with instruction and other services needed to succeed and progress to the next higher level of academic achievement. Any student who is placed into the next grade must have individualized, intensive interventions which shall be progress monitored on a continual basis during the next school year.

Retention: the re-assignment of a student to the current grade level during the next school year. A student may not be retained more than once in grades K-8. Any student who is retained must have individualized, intensive interventions which shall be progress monitored on a continual basis during the next school year. In accordance with the Alabama Literacy Act, third grade students who do not demonstrate sufficient reading proficiency may be retained and provided with intensive reading intervention and support. If a student is retained under the Alabama Literacy Act, they may still be retained one additional time before the end of eighth grade, if necessary.

GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION

INTRODUCTION

It is expected that with the appropriate instruction, motivation, and attendance most students will be able to achieve at a satisfactory level that will prepare them for instruction at the next level. A variety of teaching strategies will be used at each grade level to increase the probability of students achieving a level of academic mastery that will enable them to benefit from instruction at the next grade level.

KINDERGARTEN

Teachers will send home the Kindergarten Promotion Criteria for parents/guardians to review and sign. The Kindergarten Report Card is a tool used to determine promotion of the student. The professional judgement of the teacher will be valued and is an integral part of the promotion process.

GRADES K-4

- Notification of possible retention must be identified on the 3rd quarter progress report.
- If parents fail to make contact with the school, a follow-up letter will be sent home by the teacher requesting a conference. If parents do not respond to the follow-up letter, the teacher should contact parents by phone.
- Due to the implementation of the Alabama Literacy Act, students may be promoted, retained, or placed.
- Any K-4 student who is placed or retained must have a personalized learning plan with specific, tiered intervention strategies in place with the next teacher(s). These interventions must be monitored accordingly. The personalized learning plan, along with the applied classroom interventions must be communicated to the legal parent/guardian. Any teacher meetings about student progress in the tiered interventions must include the legal parent/guardian.
- Kindergarten: Minimum acceptable average for promotion is 80%.
- First and Second Grade: Minimum acceptable average for promotion is 70%.
- Third through Fourth Grade: Minimum acceptable average for promotion is 60%.
- NOTE: Consideration for Tier 2/Title Intervention will remain at a year-to-date average of 70%.

- Recommendation from the teachers will be presented to the Promotion/Placement/Retention Committee, which is made up of the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)/Retention Committee. The committee makes the final decision to promote, place, or retain a student. At a minimum, the MTSS team should include the teacher, an administrator, and counselor. It is highly encouraged for the reading specialist and intervention teacher to attend, as well.
- In grades 1 and 2, the decision of promotion/placement/retention will be based on passing English Language Arts and Math.
- In grades 3 and 4, the decision of promotion/placement/retention will be based on passing English Language Arts, Math, and one of the Social Sciences (Science or Social Studies).

GRADES 5-8

- Notification of possible retention must be identified on the 3rd quarter progress report.
- If parents fail to contact the school, a follow-up letter will be sent home by the teacher requesting a conference. If parents do not respond to the follow-up letter, the teacher should contact parents by phone.
- Any 5 – 8 student who is retained must have a personalized learning plan with specific, tiered intervention strategies in place with the next teacher(s). These interventions must be monitored accordingly. The personalized learning plan, along with the applied classroom interventions must be communicated to the legal parent/guardian and any teacher meetings about student progress in the tiered interventions must include the legal parent/guardian.
- Minimum acceptable average for promotion is 60%.
- In grades 5 and 6, the decision of promotion/placement/retention will be based on passing English Language Arts, Math, and one of the Social Sciences (Science or Social Studies).
- Recommendation from the teachers will be presented to the Promotion/Retention Committee, which is made up of the Problem-Solving Team (PST). The committee makes the final decision to promote or to retain a student.
- In grades 7 and 8, a student must pass each academic subject and physical education to take the next grade level course in each subject area. For example, if a 7th grade student fails science, he/she will be promoted to 8th grade but will take 7th grade science class if not successfully completed in summer school.
 - Passing will be based on the yearly average.
 - Summer school may be available, or the course will be repeated the next year.
- It is strongly recommended that students attend summer school to make up failed courses.

GRADES 9-12

A student must pass his/her required and elective courses to obtain the credits necessary for graduation. A student's promotion to the next grade will be dependent on the number of credits he/she has earned, as follows:

- Promotion to 10th grade requires at least 5 credits
- Promotion to 11th grade requires at least 12 credits
- Promotion to 12th grade requires at least 17 credits

- Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, in a block high school, a student's promotion to the next grade will be dependent on the number of credits he/she has earned, as follows:
- Promotion to 10th grade requires at least 6 credits
- Promotion to 11th grade requires at least 15 credits
- Promotion to 12th grade requires at least 20 credits
- Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, in a block high school, the number to graduate will be 28 credits.
- Students are only promoted to the next grade at the end of each semester, with the exception of students enrolled at The EDGE.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Promotion or graduation of any student in a special program will be based on his/her accomplishment of goals stated in the IEP in conjunction with other regular program requirements.

SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Students will begin taking semester exams in the ninth grade. Students in grades 9-12 may exempt semester examinations if they meet the following criteria:

- An "A" average with no more than 2 excused absences
- A "B" average with no more than 1 excused absence
- A "C" average with no absences

Any student taking AP courses who does not take the qualifying exam for the course will be required to take the final exam and will not be exempt.

Any student who has skipped either a class period or a school day, been assigned to in-school suspension or detention for 5 or more days, been suspended, or been assigned to the Elmore County Alternative Program (ECAP) will forfeit the opportunity to exempt any final examination regardless of grade average. Three unexcused tardies to class will forfeit exemption status in that class. **Virtual engagement days, school authorized field trips, a college day (with proper documentation), and military absences (with proper documentation) do not count as absences towards exemptions.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING WITH 9TH GRADE 2013-2014

Graduation requirements for students who began 9th grade in 2013-2014 or after and will graduate in 2017 or after are shown in the charts below. Parents and/or students who have questions are encouraged to contact the school's Guidance Department for assistance.

DIPLOMA OPTIONS

All students will begin their ninth-grade year on Diploma option A. Once a student's pathway becomes clear, students will have the option to move to Option B by making the request to the school counselor and by filling out required paperwork. Paperwork with parent signature will be required for any changes between Diploma Options.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026 and 2027 OPTION A

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	English Language Arts credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Three credits to include:	Credits
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra II, or its equivalent/substitute	1
	One credit from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics or mathematics-credit eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses	1
Mathematics Total Credits		4
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
	Two credits from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Science or science credit-eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses	2
Science Total Credits		4
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Social Studies-credit eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the Civics Exam.	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology <u>or</u> Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness		1
Health Education		0.5
Arts Education		
Career and Technical Education		3
World Languages		
Electives		2.5
Total Credits		24
* Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA. **Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.		

February 11, 2025

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026 and 2027 OPTION B

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
English Language Arts credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.		
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
Mathematics Total Credits		2
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
Science Total Credits		2
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
Social Studies credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.		
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the <i>Civics Exam</i> .	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology <u>or</u> Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness		1
Health Education		0.5
Career and Technical Education	Credits must be earned from an approved CTE Program of Study, resulting in CTE Completer status.	3
Electives		6.5
Total Credits		24
* Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA. **Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.		

February 11, 2025

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2028 AND BEYOND OPTION A

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	English Language Arts credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Three credits to include:	Credits
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra II or its equivalent/substitute	1
	One credit from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics or mathematics credit-eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses	1
Mathematics Total Credits		4
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
	Two credits from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Science or science credit-eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses	2
Science Total Credits		4
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Social Studies credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the Civics Exam.	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology or Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness	Students are required to complete an accompanying financial literacy examination as part of this course.	1
Health Education		0.5
Arts Education		
Career and Technical Education		3
World Languages		
Electives		2.5
Total Credits		24
*Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA. **Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.		

February 11, 2025

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2028 AND BEYOND OPTION B

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	English Language Arts credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
Mathematics Total Credits		2
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
Science Total Credits		2
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Social Studies credit-eligible options may include Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the <i>Civics Exam</i> .	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology <u>or</u> Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness	Students are required to complete an accompanying financial literacy examination as part of this course.	1
Health Education		0.5
Career and Technical Education	Credits must be earned from an approved CTE Program of Study, resulting in CTE Completer status.	3
Electives		6.5
Total Credits		24
* Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA. **Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.		

February 11, 2025

Seniors who are working toward but do not meet the requirements for the Advanced or Standard Diploma will NOT participate in graduation ceremonies.

Area of Study	Alabama High School Diploma	Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Endorsement	Credits
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12	Advanced English 9, 10, 11, and 12 or Any AP	4
Mathematics	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II One additional math elective	Advanced Algebra I Advanced Geometry Algebra II W/ Trig One additional advanced math elective	4
Science	Biology A physical science 2 additional science electives	Advanced Biology An advanced physical science 2 additional advanced science electives	4
Social Studies	World History U. S. History (2 Years) Government/Economics	Advanced World History Advanced U.S. History (2 Years) Advanced Government/Economics	4
Physical Education	LIFE (Personal Fitness) JROTC credit may be used to meet this requirement	LIFE (Personal Fitness) JROTC credit may be used to meet this requirement	1
Health Education	Alabama Course of Study: Health Education	Alabama Course of Study: Health Education	.5
Career Preparedness	Career Preparedness Course (Career & Academic Planning, Computer Applications, Financial Literacy)	Career Preparedness Course (Career & Academic Planning, Computer Applications, Financial Literacy)	1
CTE and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education	Students choosing CTE, Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language are encouraged to complete two courses in sequence	Advanced Endorsement requires a minimum of 1 Foreign Language; remaining credits may be chosen from CTE, Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language	3
Electives	2.5 credits	2.5 credits	2.5
Total credits required for graduation	24*	24*	24*

***Will vary based on the type of school schedule such as a block schedule or a seven-period day**

Notes

- Students working toward an Alabama High School Diploma who complete three consecutive Career-Technical Education courses in the same program will earn the Alabama High School Diploma with Career-Technical Education Endorsement.
- Students working toward an Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Endorsement who complete three consecutive Career-Technical Education courses in the same program will earn the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career-Technical Education Endorsement.

- Students must take a minimum of 12 advanced-level core courses, with all 11th and 12th grade core courses being advanced level, to earn the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Endorsement.

ALABAMA LITERACY ACT

In 2019, the Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Literacy Act which became effective September 1, 2019. The first group of students to fall under this act is 1st graders during the 2019-2020 school year. The Alabama Literacy Act was established to implement steps to improve the reading proficiency of public school kindergarten to 3rd grade students and ensure that those students can read at or above grade level by the end of the 3rd grade.

The law states that all 3rd grade students (with a few “good cause” exemptions) shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to 4th grade, beginning with the 2021-2022 School Year.

So why 3rd grade? Research shows that “90% of children with reading difficulties will achieve grade level in reading if they receive help in the 1st grade. Seventy percent of children whose help is delayed to age 9 or later continue to struggle throughout their school career.”

A parent, custodial parent, or legal guardian of any K-3 student who exhibits a consistent deficiency in reading or characteristics of dyslexia at any time during the school year shall be notified in writing.

Due to the implementation of the Alabama Literacy Act, the following may apply to students at the lowest level in reading on state assessments and/or universal screeners:

- Student Reading Improvement Plan (SRIP) will be created
- Tutoring will be offered
- Summer Reading Camp will be offered
- A portfolio will be maintained

ALABAMA NUMERACY ACT

In 2022, the Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Numeracy Act to implement steps to improve mathematics proficiency of public-school kindergarten to 5th-grade students and ensure that those students are proficient in mathematics at or above grade level by the end of 5th grade by monitoring the progression of each student from one grade to another, in part, by his or her proficiency in mathematics.

WEEKLY PAPERS

Weekly papers will be sent home for students in grades K-4. Parents may view grades in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Parents may view student papers upon request.

PROGRESS REPORTS

A detailed student progress report will be issued in each subject at the midterm of each grading period. In addition, parents may request in writing or by telephone a weekly progress report. After the school

office notifies the teacher that such a report has been requested, the teacher will provide the student with a weekly printout of current grades. The requested progress report should be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the teacher.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be issued following the end of each grading period.

CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with teachers concerning the progress of their child. Conferences are scheduled after school hours and during teacher planning periods. **Teachers are not available for conferences during the time that they are teaching.** Please call the school to set up an appointment for a conference.

HONOR ROLL

Grades 1-2 will be calculated using grades from core curriculum: English language arts, mathematics, and social science. Physical education grades will not be used to determine honor roll.

Grades 3-4 will be calculated using grades from core curriculum: English language arts, mathematics, and social science. Physical education grades will not be used to determine honor roll.

Grades 5-6 will be calculated using grades from core curriculum and physical education.

Grades 7-8 will be calculated using grades from core curriculum, physical education, and electives.

Grades 9-12 will be calculated using grades from core curriculum, physical education, and all electives except for those with an “aide” descriptor.

ADVANCED/AP/DUAL WEIGHTS

When calculating the grade point average on a four-point scale, one point will be added for Advanced Placement courses and .2 will be added for Advanced courses. Students who receive a qualifying score on the AP Exam will receive an additional .2 weight. When calculating the grade point average on a four-point scale, one point will be added for Dual Enrollment core academic courses (Math, English, Science, Social Studies) and .2 will be added for Dual Enrollment elective courses.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

Grade point averages calculated for determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian will include only the first four core courses attempted in each core subject and the first foreign language. (A fifth math course may count if the student received an Algebra I credit in the eighth grade from his or her base school.) Additionally, in order to qualify for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, a student must attend an Elmore County High School for a minimum of 3 years. A student’s overall GPA must be in the top 5 percent of the senior class. Students must earn an Advanced Endorsement Diploma to be Valedictorian/Salutatorian.

Honors/advanced, Advanced Placement (AP), and dual enrollment courses will be weighted. Grade point average will be computed through the fourth nine weeks of the twelfth grade. The principal makes the final determination in the event of a tie and/or extraordinary circumstances.

Grade weights will be changed to reflect the Elmore County grade weight guidelines for students transferring from another school system. This may result in a different GPA than the student had at the previous school.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Alabama Act No. 2015-89 requires, “at a minimum, each local board of education to adopt a policy for providing a virtual school option for eligible students in grades nine through twelve. The policy offers students an online pathway for earning a high school diploma.” The Elmore County Public School System does provide a virtual pathway option for students in grades K-12. Students enrolled in the virtual pathway option are required to complete and pass all classes. Students who are interested in enrolling in the virtual option should contact the school they are zoned for to obtain eligibility criteria and enrollment documents. Upon completion of all graduation requirements, students enrolled in the virtual option will receive an Elmore County Public Schools diploma.

DUE PROCESS

Students shall be treated with fairness in all discipline matters and shall be afforded procedural due process when the discipline measures of corporal punishment, short and long-term suspension, or expulsion are applied. Before being punished for violation of a Board policy or local school rule or regulation, the local school principal or designee shall ensure that students are afforded due process. See specifics in the Code of Conduct section related to the Alabama Legislative Act HB188.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy interest of parents and students with regard to educational records. Generally, FERPA gives parents the right to inspect and review their children’s records, request amendment of the records, and have some control over the disclosure of the information from the records. For secondary students, FERPA restricts the release of their school records or information from their records that could identify the student.

An important exception to the “prior consent requirement” deals with “directory information.” A school can disclose “directory information” without prior parental consent after giving notice of the intent to do so.

Elmore County Schools will provide the following “directory information” on students based on reasonable request:

Name, address, and telephone number, date and place of birth, homeroom assignment (for the purpose of data exports of pictures, School Messenger, and software only), major field of study, official activities, dates of attendance, height and weight (for sports), diplomas and honors received, most recent previous education institution, and photograph.

The system considers these items to be directory information, and in most instances, disclosure is helpful to both the student and the school. Parents can, however, retain the right to consent to the disclosure of this directory information. Parents who wish to retain this right must so advise the school

principal in writing.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

In addition to applicable federal and state laws, each Elmore County school operates according to policy and procedures adopted by the Elmore County Board of Education. The policy is posted on the Elmore County web page (www.elmoreco.com) under “Publications”.

DISCIPLINE

See the Elmore County Student Code of Conduct in the second section of this handbook.

DRESS CODE

See Elmore County Student Code of Conduct in the second section of this handbook and the individual school’s student handbook.

GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Reference: ECBOE Policy 4.6, Revised March 2019

Education is a shared responsibility among home, school and the surrounding community. The Elmore County Board of Education believes all stakeholders have both the right and responsibility to express school-related concerns and grievances to school faculty and administration. All stakeholders are always welcome to make appointments to discuss any concerns they may have regarding their school. The faculty and administration will strive to resolve grievances at the school level (**at the lowest possible administrative level**). It is expected that most grievances will be resolved satisfactorily at this level. However, in the event that the grievance cannot be settled at this level, then the parties involved may pursue the grievance to the Superintendent and then to the Board.

For the purpose of this procedure, a grievance is defined as a claim submitted by an employee, a student, parent/guardian of a student, or a community member of violation, misinterpretation, or inequitable application of local Board policy, local school rule/regulation, or local administrative procedure. A grievance is also a concern regarding identification, evaluation, eligibility, or services related to instructional programs within the school. The term “grievance” shall apply to matters which fall within the discretionary powers of the principal, Superintendent and/or Board but shall not apply to areas where the principal, Superintendent or Board has no authority to act. The Board is the final authority in all matters pertaining to grievances unless the grievant should desire to exercise proper redress through the courts or utilize appeal procedures as established by law.

The normal procedure usually followed by any employee, parent/guardian or student regarding a personal grievance is to discuss the matter with the teacher or administrator directly involved. When the nature of the grievance dictates otherwise, the employee, parent/guardian or student upon notifying the staff directly involved, may request a meeting with the school principal. Such meetings should be granted within five (5) working days at a reasonable time and place. A student expressing

concern may request the presence of one faculty member of the student's choice or his/her parent/guardian(s) to be present at such meeting.

To resolve concerns prior to filing a formal grievance, the following steps should be taken by an **employee, parent, student, and/or community member**:

1. The initial contact should be a school conference requested by the grievant(s) within 10 school days of the incident where the issue/concern will be presented orally and/or in writing.
2. The immediate supervisor to whom the conference request is presented should schedule a conference within five working days of the request.
3. School informal conferences should be documented.
4. In cases when a concern cannot be resolved through an information conference at the local school level, the grievance procedure herein should be followed.

FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

For this procedure, a grievance is defined as *a claim submitted by an employee parent/guardian, community member, or student regarding a violation, misinterpretation, or inequitable application of local board policy, local school rule and regulation, or local administrative procedure, (i.e. matters concerning curriculum, sports, disciplinary problems, school calendar, classroom policy, etc.)* Incidents/issues not addressed in this grievance procedure are grades, promotion, placement, Title I, Title IV, 504, and FERPA. Employee grievances should not be submitted for issues regarding dismissal, terminations, transfers, reassignments and any other procedures already established by law and/or the Students First Act.

The following steps should be followed **sequentially** to file a grievance:

1. Principal/Immediate Supervisor

- a. A completed grievance resolution form should be submitted to the principal/employee's immediate supervisor within 10 school days of the information conference that is the subject of the grievance. (This form may be obtained from the principal or Board of Education Office).
- b. The school staff and involved parties are to be immediately given a copy of the completed form by the principal/immediate supervisor and given an opportunity to respond within 3 school days.
- c. The principal/immediate supervisor will schedule a formal mediation conference with the involved parties and complete the School Conference Report form for documentation (conference scheduled within five days of submitted grievance). The principal shall provide a response on the grievance resolution form to the grievant within ten days of the formal mediation conference.

2. Superintendent

- a. If the grievance is not resolved at a level one, the grievant(s) may proceed to level two by submitting the original grievance with the principal's response, and the School Conference Report to the Superintendent's office within 5 school days of the principal's decision.
- b. The Superintendent or his/her designee will review the principal's decision and may arrange for a meeting to review the situation.

- c. The Superintendent may refer the grievant(s) to the appropriate administrative staff to resolve the situation.
- d. A decision will be rendered by the Superintendent or his/her designee within 10 school days after receiving the forwarded grievance from and principal's response.

3. Elmore County Board of Education (ECBOE)

- a. If a grievance is not resolved at level one, the grievant(s) may proceed to level three by presenting the established record, including the original grievance, response, decision and any evidence submitted to the Board President within 10 school days after the Superintendent's decision.
- b. The Board will review the record, consider the evidence and vote to affirm or deny the grievance at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, or as soon as practicable after receipt of the grievance.
- c. The Board may schedule a hearing with the grievant before making a final decision, if the Board deems a hearing necessary.
- d. The grievant(s) will be notified of the Board's decision within 10 school days of the Board's vote.
- e. The decision of the Board shall be considered final.

Failure at any step of this procedure to communicate decisions at the levels and in the manner required at the respective level shall permit the grievance to proceed to the next level. Failure at any step of this procedure to appeal a grievance to the next level within specified time limits shall be deemed an acceptance of the decision rendered at that level and this procedure shall terminate for the given grievance.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Occasionally, a circumstance arises with makes it necessary to close school before the usual time. Such a circumstance might be snow, storms, floods, or other unforeseen emergencies. When this occurs, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1. School Messenger will be used to notify all parents.
- 2. Parents need to monitor/check the system website – www.elmoreco.com.
- 3. Parents should listen to area radio and TV stations that will inform them of school closings.
- 4. Parent should monitor/check the Elmore County Public Schools Facebook page for updates- <https://www.facebook.com/ECBOE/?fref=ts>
- 5. Buses will transport students to their usual home station.
- 6. Parents who normally pick up their children will need to come to school immediately after the emergency announcement.

SEVERE WEATHER

In case of a tornado watch or warning or any natural disaster, children will be taken to a place of safety. Drills are conducted during the year so that children will know how to react in the event they are faced with an actual tornado or threatening weather conditions.

The children will go to a pre-assigned area, kneel on the floor, and cover their heads. Parents should not call the school or pick up their children if an emergency of this nature occurs. Children will be safer at

school than in a car during severe weather. Parents who insist on picking up their child/children during severe weather must report to the office and sign the child/children out of school. The parent's signature will be kept on file indicating that the child/children was/were checked out of school during severe weather.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills will be conducted multiple times annually. When the signal sounds, students will file out quietly, orderly, and quickly in the direction indicated by the teacher. An evacuation plan is posted in each classroom.

LOCK-DOWN DRILLS

Lock-down drills will be conducted at least two times during the school year. Students will follow directions indicated by the teacher. In the event of an actual lock down, no students or school personnel will be allowed to enter or leave the school during the lock-down (no check-in or check-out). All exterior doors will be locked.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

To provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and authorized visitors, Elmore County Public Schools may use surveillance equipment on properties owned and/or maintained by the school district. Properties include school buildings and grounds in addition to vehicles owned and/or operated by the school district. Any information obtained using surveillance equipment may be used for disciplinary or law enforcement purposes.

SCHOOL PROPERTY DAMAGE

Students and their parents will be responsible for all damage to equipment or school property. This responsibility applies in the matter of books and supplies of all types, as well as equipment, buildings, and grounds.

TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS

Smoking/tobacco is not permitted by any person on school properties (inside or outside buildings) that are operated by the Elmore County Board of Education. Smoking/tobacco use is also not allowed by parent chaperones or school personnel while attending field trips or participating in any school sponsored activity.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are furnished. Each student must have a signed textbook permission slip before textbooks can be issued. If a book becomes damaged or lost, it must be paid for before another book will be issued.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Elmore County Public Schools makes every attempt to pick up at approved bus stops, take to school, and take home all school-age children of Elmore County. Transportation service is a privilege and may be adjusted, suspended, or removed from any child through the proper procedures as set forth in the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, and Board Policy as approved every year by the Board of Education of Elmore County.

All bus routes reflect the best possible routes that can be established by the Transportation Department on state, county, and city roadways. The school bus shall not be used for transportation of school children to and from school on or through private property unless approved by the Superintendent. Approval must be through the submission of a Private Road Agreement Application. This approval must meet criteria regarding safety, road condition (to include, but not limited to, width, distance, proper road maintenance, and road surface), and appropriate turnarounds. If controversy arises due to bus service on or through private roads, bus service will be terminated until the conflict is resolved. The expense of the resolution will be the responsibility of the property owners.

The Transportation Department requests that your child(ren) arrive at the designated stop at least 5 minutes prior to the bus arrival. Bus drivers have been instructed not to wait for students unless inclement weather conditions occur. Please note that the driver is directed to stop only **ONCE** at a designated stop. Often drivers travel through a street and must return by passing a designated stop again. **BUS DRIVERS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO MAKE ONLY ONE STOP.**

In order for a bus driver to release nine-year-old and younger students off the bus, an adult guardian must be present at the stop. If an adult is not present at the stop, the bus driver must transport the student back to school to be picked up. If the parent would like the child to be released without an adult supervisor at the stop, the parent must complete and sign a letter of release.

The routes should reflect the safest and most efficient use of the school bus as possible. When any roadway is determined to be unsafe for school bus travel by the Superintendent of Elmore County, the Elmore County Board of Education Transportation Department, or the Alabama Department of Pupil Transportation, the route will be adjusted to reflect the best possible alternative route. For the safety of all children, no one is allowed to enter or ride a school bus unless he/she is assigned as a regular route.

VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION

Elmore County Public Schools allows high school students to drive to school if they meet certain criteria. At no point are middle school students allowed to drive to school. Students who are authorized to drive to school are subject to random drug testing per the Extracurricular Activity/Student Driver Drug Testing Policy. This includes but is not limited to mopeds and motorcycles. Please refer to the back of this handbook for additional information and forms regarding vehicle transportation. Students found under the influence may lose privileges such as driving to school and enrollment in courses like driver's education.

PERSONAL ISSUES

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The responsibility for a student's personal property belongs to the student. Teachers are not responsible for keeping up with any items, including money, which belongs to the students. Each parent is requested to mark his/her child's name in or on personal items to reduce the number of disagreements over ownership. Students should bring only the amount of money that is needed for juice, snack, lunch, and school supplies.

SELLING OF ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Students will not be allowed to sell non-school related items at any time.

PERSONAL PARTIES AND GIFTS

Invitations to any non-school related event must not be given out at school. Deliveries (balloons, flowers, etc.) to schools from florists will not be accepted. We do not accept deliveries of any kind to students at school under any circumstances.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Photos and video may be taken of students for public relations (i.e. press release) or educational activities unless a parent/guardian notifies the school principal and the classroom teacher in writing that he/she objects to the use of any photos and video of his/her child. Students are not allowed to take photos or video with cell phone cameras or any other type of electronic device (camera, iPad, laptop, etc.) during the school day unless they have the permission of the principal.

USE OF DIGITAL DEVICE DURING ADMINISTRATION OF A SECURE TEST

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

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

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE

- Use of all personal electronic devices – including smart phones, laptops, tablets, readers, handheld devices, smart watches, storage devices, etc. – used on district property or attached to the district network is subject to all guidelines of Responsible Use Guidelines, Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Procedures, and the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct. A laptop, tablet, phone and any other electronic device may belong to the user, but the network belongs to Elmore County Public Schools (ECPS). Therefore, all ECPS network rules apply. If personal devices disrupt network operations, ECPS has the right to discontinue future use, and the user may be liable for restitution for damages and/or disciplinary action.
- Responsibility to keep the personal technology secure rests with the individual owner. ECPS is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. The district cannot replace or provide financial restitution for any stolen or damaged personal technological device.

- Furthermore, users must agree to the following conditions:
 - Personal electronic devices cannot be used to bypass the district internet filter. Internet access is filtered by the district on personal devices in the same manner as District-owned equipment. If network access is needed, connection to the filtered, wireless network provided by the district is required. Devices which utilize their own personal cellular network (i.e. 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.) cannot be monitored through district resources. Students' using cellular service to bypass the district filter may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - Although the District provides the ability for students to bring their personal electronic device to school, a student will not be required to bring a personal electronic device as a factor in grading or assessing student work. Students who do not have access to personal electronic devices will be provided with a comparable District or campus- owned device on which to complete the assignment OR given similar assignments that do not require access to electronic devices.
 - All personal devices off while on school campuses.
 - Each user is responsible for his/her own device: set-up, maintenance, charging, and security. District personnel will not support, diagnose, or repair personal devices.
 - Personal technology must be charged prior to bringing it to school and must run off its own battery while at school.
 - The technology may not be used to cheat on assignments or tests, or for non-instructional purposes in the classroom.
 - Students are prohibited from trading or selling personal devices to other students while on school property including buses or attending any school-sponsored activity on campus during school activities and/or hours.
 - Personal devices may only be used to access files, applications or internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum. Non-instructional games are not permitted.
 - Personal electronic devices are only to be used for educational purposes at the direction and under the supervision of a classroom teacher. Although the district provides the ability to access electronic resources on personal electronic devices, the use of personal electronic devices during the school day is at the discretion of teachers and other campus personnel.
 - The teacher and campus administrators have the right to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices at certain times or during designated activities (i.e. campus presentations, theatrical performances, guest speakers, etc.) that occur on campus.
 - An administrator may examine a student's personal telecommunication device and search its contents, in accordance with disciplinary guidelines and the laws of the State of Alabama.
 - Printing from personal technology will not be possible at school.
 - Use of personal devices to make phone calls in common areas and/or after school hours will be determined by the campus administration.

In addition, ECPS is:

- NOT responsible for stolen or damaged personal technology devices,
- NOT responsible for the maintenance or repair of any personal technology, and
- NOT responsible for any costs incurred due to the use of personal technology.

SPECIAL SERVICES

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Elmore County School System's Special Education Policy states:

Elmore County School System ensures that a free appropriate public education, consistent with the standards established by this plan and by state and federal regulations, is being provided to all children with disabilities ages 3-21.

The Elmore County School System ensures that all children residing within the jurisdiction of the local educational agency, birth to twenty-one years of age, regardless of the severity of their disability and who need special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated.

If you have concerns regarding your child's progress and would like more information about these services, please feel free to contact the school's administrator, the student services facilitator, or the Chief Compliance Officer at (334) 567-1224.

SECTION 504 SERVICES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination based on a disability and requires that appropriate educational services (accommodations) are provided to qualified students. The Elmore County School System provides accommodations in the educational setting that do not alter the content of the curriculum or level of expectation for a student with a disability but allows the student to access the general education curriculum to participate in public education programs and activities.

If you have any questions, please contact the 504 designee at your child's school or reach out to the district 504 coordinator.

RECORDING OF IEP AND SECTION 504 MEETINGS

The recording of an individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 meeting is prohibited unless a parent/guardian, or authorized representatives of a parent/guardian is unable to understand or meaningfully participate in the IEP or Section 504 process, or the planning of the relevant student's educational program, due to a disability, language barrier, or some other impairment.

If a parent/guardian believes that recording an IEP or Section 504 meeting is necessary, the parent/guardian should notify the principal or designee in writing at least five (5) days before the IEP or Section 504 Team meeting of the request to record the meeting and the reason the recording is required. The principal or designee will notify the parent/guardian at least two (2) school days before the meeting of the grant or denial of the parent's/guardian's request to record the meeting.

If the principal or designee denies the request to record the IEP or Section 504 meeting, the reasons will be stated in writing for the denial. Authorized exceptions to the general prohibition against the recording of IEP or Section 504 meetings involve situations when a parent/guardian, or authorized representative of

a parent/guardian, is unable to understand or meaningfully participate in the IEP or Section 504 process or the planning of the relevant student's educational program due to a disability, language barrier, or some other impairment.

If a parent/guardian is permitted to record the meeting, the parent/guardian must use his or her own audio recording device. If the school district records an IEP or Section 504 meeting, the resulting recording shall become a part of the student's educational record and will be maintained in accordance with state and federal law.

For purposes of this policy, a recording is defined as the capture of moving visual images, voices, and other ambient sound electronically, digitally, or by any other means for the purpose of retrieval and review.

Video recording, including recording of visual images, at an IEP or Section 504 meeting is strictly prohibited.

The use of court reporter services at an IEP or Section 504 meeting is strictly prohibited.

ESL, IMMIGRANT, MIGRANT, HOMELESS, & FOSTER CARE STUDENT SERVICES

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, for serving students who are homeless, in foster care, migratory, limited-English proficient (LEP) and immigrant students, requires that children must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated. In the Elmore County Public School System, all language-minority students with identified academic or social needs are provided accommodations in the regular program and assistance with the acquisition of English language skills.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress and would like more information about these services, please feel free to contact the school's administrator, the ESL School Coordinator, the District ESL/Parent Liaison at (334) 514-2810 ext. 24004, or the Director of Federal Programs at (334) 514-2810 ext. 24008.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Gifted and Talented students are those who perform at or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. The students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student. Additionally, all second-grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.

For each student referred, information is gathered in the areas of aptitude, characteristics, and performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services. To make a referral, contact the gifted teacher at your child's school.

INDIVIDUALIZED HEALTH CARE PLANS

An individualized health care plan (IHP) is an organized plan that outlines specific medical, nursing, and emergency care for an individual student. An IHP is recommended for students who are identified as having a health condition that affects or has the potential to affect their participation and performance in school. Students with conditions such as asthma, life-threatening allergies, seizures, diabetes or any health condition requiring professional observation or intervention at school should have a health care plan specific to the student's needs. The parent/guardian of any student who may need an IHP should contact the administrator or school nurse with information about the student's health condition and work with the school to put a plan of care in place for the student. To ensure that students who have IHPs are receiving all necessary services and protections to which they are entitled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the school administrator.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Medication should be scheduled to be given at home whenever possible. Students requiring medication at school due to illness or medical conditions must adhere to the Student Health Services Medication Guidelines. The complete guidelines may be obtained at any school in the system. **Medication authorization forms are available at each school, in the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct Required Forms booklet, and on the district website (www.elmoreco.com) under Health Services.** The form may be photocopied.

Some key points of the guidelines are as follows:

- **A School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician before any prescription or over-the-counter medicine will be given.**
- A new Prescriber/Parent Authorization form is required for each new school year and for any change in dose, time, or method of administration.
- All medications must be transported to and from school by a parent/guardian or designated adult unless the medicine is used for emergency care or chronic illness and has been approved through the school nurse for transport. Consult the school nurse for securing permission for a student to carry and self-administer an emergency medicine or medicine that is required for a chronic illness.
- The parent/guardian must pick up student medications by the last day of school or within one week if it is discontinued during the year. Medication that is not picked up will be destroyed.
- Prescription medication must be in the original pharmacy labeled container that provides the time for the medication to be given at school. Inhalers must have a prescription label on the inhaler.
- Over-the-counter medication must be in the sealed original manufacturer's container with the student's name clearly written on the container without obscuring the manufacturer's instructions.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL FOR ILLNESS – PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

Based on the signs and symptoms that your child reports or exhibits, it is possible that your child may have an illness or condition that is considered a communicable disease. The table below includes conditions that are frequently seen in the school setting. Please follow the instructions for exclusion before returning your child to school if you suspect your child has a communicable disease. If you have questions regarding these instructions, you may contact your child's school.

Illness/Condition	Signs/Symptoms	Instructions for Exclusion
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge	Exclude from school until after treatment has been initiated with proof of treatment by physician.
Rash	Any type of flat or raised area of redness with or without drainage on any area of the skin	Exclude until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease. Impetigo – exclude until 24 hours after treatment Chickenpox – exclude until all sores have dried and crusted Shingles – exclude if the rash cannot be covered up Ringworm (scalp) – exclude until proof of treatment by physician Ringworm (body) – exclude until proof of treatment
Diarrhea	Watery stools or blood in stools that is not associated with a change in diet	Exclude from school until the diarrhea goes away OR if diarrhea is caused by salmonella, shigella, or e-coli, student may return with health care provider approval
Fever of unknown origin	Above 100° F	Exclude student from school until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication or on antibiotics for 24 hours.
Vomiting	Two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours	Exclude from school until vomiting stops, or until a health care provider determines that the cause of vomiting is not contagious nor in danger of dehydration with a physician statement provided to the school

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

RENAISSANCE LEARNING

STAR Early Literacy (STAREL)/STAR 360 Reading and STAR 360 Mathematics will be administered in grades K-8 grades as universal screeners. Assessment results will be used by teachers to determine necessary classroom instruction in areas assessed.

ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE

The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) is a statewide initiative managed by the Alabama State Department of Education. The goal of ARI is to significantly improve reading instruction and ultimately achieve 100% literacy among public school students. The Alabama Reading Initiative provides teachers with training to help them teach in proven and effective ways.

IXL

IXL is a comprehensive online digital program providing students in various grades and schools, the ability to work on math, language arts, and social studies skills aligned to the standards. Students can use this program at school and at home.

ALABAMA MATH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (AMSTI) STRATEGIES

AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative) is an Alabama Department of Education initiative to improve math, science, and technology education across the state. Using inquiry-based hands-on learning will be used to teach science in some K-8 Elmore County classrooms. AMSTI helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in post-secondary studies and the workforce.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Books and reference materials are in the library/media center. Students are encouraged to check out and read books. Students visit the library/media center either as a group or individually on an unlimited, as-needed basis during times specified by the classroom teacher. In an effort to remind students of the importance of returning books in a timely manner, a library fine may be charged to students. Each library/media center follows the board approved criteria: Grades K-4-no fines charged; middle schools - \$.10 per day; high schools - \$.25 per day with a cap of \$5.00. You may contact the school principal or librarian for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips will be taken by various classes during the school year. Students will be transported in school-owned or chartered buses with teachers in charge. All parents must sign permission slips if they wish for their child to go on these trips. A student will not be permitted to go on a field trip if his/her permission slip is not signed by the parent/guardian and returned. The permission slip will be sent home with the student a few days before the trip. If for any reason parents do not wish for their child to go on a field trip, the child will be supervised at school during the school day.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is the policy of the Elmore County Board of Education to encourage participation in extracurricular activities and clubs by students. No eligible student is to be denied the opportunity to participate in any activity or club. The sponsor, coach, or director of each extracurricular activity is available, upon request, to fully inform any student about his or her program.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION/ACADEMICS FIRST

The Elmore County Board of Education recognizes the value of all extracurricular activities as they relate to the total education of students. The Elmore County Board of Education also recognizes and supports high academic standards and the necessity of developing a framework to annually assess each student involved in extracurricular activities and his/her progress toward graduating from high school on schedule with his/her class. The Board of Education recognizes that the Class of 2000 and subsequent classes will be required by the State Board of Education resolution and the Alabama Administrative Code to earn a minimum of 24 credits in Grades 9-12 with four (4) credits each in science, mathematics, social studies, and English. The Elmore County Board of Education prescribes the following regulations for eligibility by students in this school system to participate in all extracurricular activities:

- Students entering grades 10-12 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school if applicable, have a passing grade and earn the appropriate number of credits in each of six (6) subjects that total six (6) Carnegie units of credit, including four (4) credits for the four (4) core subjects composed of English, science, social studies, and mathematics with a composite numerical average of 70. Students entering grades 8 and 9 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school, if applicable, have a passing grade in five (5) subjects with a composite numerical grade of 70 with all rules applying the same as to students in grades 9-12. Students promoted to the seventh grade are eligible.
- Physical education may count as only one (1) unit per year.
- In regard to extracurricular activity, no more than two (2) credit units may be made up during the summer. If a unit(s) or subject(s) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for the unit(s) or subject(s) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
- A student who is eligible at the start of the academic year remains eligible for the entire academic year. Students deemed ineligible at the beginning of the school year by virtue of having failed to meet the requirements may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the requirements for eligibility in the two most recently completed semesters, including summer school. Eligibility restoration must be determined no later than five (5) school days after the beginning of the succeeding semester. An ineligible student may not become eligible after the fifth school day of each semester. Bona fide transfers may be dealt with according to rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for sports and rules established by the Board of Education as they pertain to other extracurricular activities.
- Each eligible student entering grades 10-12 must have a minimum composite numerical average of seventy (70) and a minimum of six (6) Carnegie units from the preceding year, including summer school. Summer schoolwork may substitute for regular schoolwork repeated in computing the seventy (70) average.
- Each eligible student involved in athletics must meet the definition of a regular student as defined by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

- Any student who earns more than four (4) credits in the core curriculum in any given year or who accumulates a total in excess of the required four (4) per year may be exempt from earning the four (4) core courses in the succeeding year as long as that student remains on schedule for graduation with his/her class by earning eight (8) core credits over any two-year span including summer school.
- Each student involved in athletics must meet all the requirements of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for eligibility. These requirements are available at each school.
- Any student participating in extracurricular athletic programs (i.e. sports, cheerleading) must have proof of and maintain full coverage medical insurance.
- Each student must attend school at least half day to participate in performances or contests.
- Each student involved in extracurricular activities for grades 7-12 is subject to random drug testing. The complete Extracurricular Activity/Student Driver Drug Testing Policy is available online:
<http://www.elmoreco.com/Download.asp?L=1&LMID=92160&PN=DocumentUploads&DivisionID=2445&DepartmentID=&SubDepartmentID=&SubP=&Act=Download&T=1&I=566931>

Extracurricular activities associated with athletics are defined as those recognized and sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, and other extracurricular activities are defined as those that are sanctioned by the school, which are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course(s). Regular curricular activities are defined as those that are required for satisfactory course completion. School sponsors are required to submit a request for each curricular activity that occurs outside the regular school day and/or school to the principal, superintendent, and the local Board of Education for approval. Each request for full participation by all students regardless of academic standing in a curricular activity shall be granted if the principal, superintendent, and Board of Education approve participation in the activity as an extension of a course(s) requirement(s) and it is an event sanctioned by a state/national subject matter association.

Notwithstanding anything contrary to this policy, student participation in extracurricular activities offered by the school through math, science, band, choral music, and other courses and attendance at events such as athletic events (pre-game, game, half-time, or other breaks), club conventions, parades, amusement park trips and competitions, trips by tour companies, performances at various meetings, etc., are extracurricular, and students academically ineligible under this policy shall not be allowed to participate. Decisions regarding a student's participation in extracurricular activities will be consistent with the requirements found in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1997) and its implementing regulations, both federal and state, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student is identified eligible under these statutes, rules, and regulations, and such participation is determined to be appropriate.

ATHLETICS

Participation in Board sanctioned athletic programs will be on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Board, provided in applicable law or established by any athletic association of which the Board is a member. School may establish terms and conditions for participation in such programs as long as school eligibility criteria are not inconsistent with system-wide eligibility or participation criteria, rules, regulations, or standards established by any athletic association or organization of which

the Board is a member, or any rule, principle, or provision of applicable law. In order for athletes to participate in contests or games, they must attend school for at least half a day in order to compete.

HOME-SCHOOL ATHLETIC/BAND ENROLLMENT

Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) sanctioned sports will be available to homeschool students. The Elmore County Public Schools will allow athletic student enrollment for non-traditional students. Non-traditional students may participate in the following AHSAA sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling. Home school students must be enrolled within the first 20 days of the semester in the school they are zoned to attend (residency documents required) in order to participate in athletics. Any homeschool student that is currently participating in band, as of the 2021 school year, may finish out his/her school career as long as he/she is eligible and maintains participation requirements.

RESPONSIBLE USE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

With the use of technology, Elmore County Public Schools (ECPS) is expanding learning access for students, staff, parents, and the entire Elmore County community. With this opportunity comes the obligation for appropriate and responsible use.

The Elmore County Public Schools district is pleased to be able to provide our students, staff, and guests with access to computer technology, including access to the Internet and a robust network. We strive to provide technology that enhances our abilities and connects us worldwide.

The operation of technology in the district relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users. Every ECPS user has the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every other user in our community. ECPS users must act responsibly, ethically, and legally, following the missions of their resources and the laws of Alabama and the United States.

Use of Personal Technology Devices as directed by the Alabama State Department of Education through the Focus Act:

- Beginning in 2025-2026, students cannot use wireless communication devices in public elementary or secondary schools during instructional hours.
- Students must keep wireless communication devices turned off and stored in lockers, cars, or similar locations during school hours.
- A student may use, operate, or possess a wireless communication device in a public-school building during the instructional day in any of the following circumstances:
 - 1) The use, operation, or possession is pursuant to the student's Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 plan, or Individualized Health Plan.
 - 2) For educational or learning purposes.
 - 3) An emergency.
- District and Schools are not responsible for stolen or damaged personal technology devices.
- District and Schools are not responsible for the maintenance or repair of any personal technology.

- District and Schools are not responsible for any costs incurred due to the use of personal technology.

Adherence to the following is necessary for continued access to ALL technology resources while at school:

Users must respect and protect the privacy of others by:

- Using only assigned accounts/passwords and not sharing login/password information with others.
- Access passwords, data, or networks only if authorized.
- Do not share confidential details like names, birth dates, addresses, phone numbers, or Social Security Numbers.
- Adhering to the principles of digital citizenship ethical behavior is the norm. This includes avoiding actions that could be harmful to others or the learning environment.
- Users should employ technology resources in ways that are conducive to collaboration, learning, and community building, ensuring that their actions reflect integrity and respect for the educational mission of ECPS on blogs, web forms, or other websites using the ECPS network.

Users must respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources by:

- Observing all district Internet filters and posted network security practices.
- Reporting security risks or violations to a teacher or administrator.
- Not accessing data, networks, hardware, software, or other resources that do not belong to them, without clear permission of the owner.
- Not making any changes to settings in hardware, software, or the network.
- Not vandalizing data, networks, hardware, or other resources. Vandalism is any deliberate act to harm or destroy data, property, or networks.
- Conserving, protecting, and sharing these resources with other users.
- Notifying a staff member or administrator of computer or network malfunctions.
- Not installing software onto computers without appropriate approval.

Users must respect and protect the intellectual property of others by:

- Following copyright laws (not making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
- Citing sources when using others' work (not plagiarizing).

Users must respect and practice the principles of the community by:

- Communicating only in ways that are kind and respectful.
- Reporting threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or administrator.
- Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that violates the district's code of conduct (such as messages/content that is pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
- Respect the rights of others by refraining from cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation in messages, blogs, web content, social media, and other electronic mediums.
- Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works) through messages, blogs, web content, social media, and other electronic mediums.

- Not using district resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the district's code of conduct.
- Avoiding spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
- Refraining from buying, selling, advertising, lobbying, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved as a school project.
- Only using the Internet and other electronic resources that are in support of education and with the educational goals, objectives, and policies of Elmore County Public Schools.

Users may, if in accordance with the above guidelines:

- Design and post web pages and other material from school resources. Students may have the opportunity to participate in electronic publishing. From time to time, your child's school or the district may wish to publish examples of student projects, quotes, photographs, student recognitions, and/or videos that include your child. Student work or images published on school web pages may include the student's name and the use of personal information will follow the guidelines set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) section of the code of conduct. Any information about ECPS students or activities, even if hosted on outside servers, should follow ECPS web posting procedures. The district respects the rights of parents to restrict their children from publishing on the Internet and will secure parent permission for the current school year. Parents must sign a form to deny permission for their child's work, pictures, and/or name to appear on the Internet/Intranet.
- Communicate electronically via tools such as email or document-sharing resources. All accounts with third-party providers will be used for school projects and to support the mastery of effective and proper communications. ECPS cannot and does not guarantee the security of electronic files located in external repositories. Despite content filters, the district cannot guarantee users will not encounter unsolicited information. Ensure student confidentiality when using third-party resources.
- Participate in videoconferencing activities including virtual field trip connections with entities such as zoos, museums, universities, and government agencies. Classes can connect with other classrooms locally or globally, through point-to-point or multi-point conferences.
- In distance learning/ACCESS Courses, the teacher and students' voices, presence, and participation transmit to other sites. Recording these events may occur at the discretion of the organizers.

Consequences for Violation

School computer systems are for use by authorized individuals only. Unauthorized access can result in legal consequences. Use of any other network or computing resources must be consistent with the rules appropriate to that network. The use of personal hotspots, Wi-Fi devices, or VPNs to access content while at school is prohibited.

Use of the district network is not a right, but a privilege, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege, disciplinary action, and/or prosecution. Prior to participation, a potential network user will receive information pertaining to the proper use of the network and sign a user agreement. School

and district administrators will decide what constitutes inappropriate use of the network and their decision is final. The Elmore County Public Schools' Student Handbook and Code of Conduct along with state and federal laws will determine the consequences of the violations.

Supervision and Monitoring

- Information networks are "public places," and user actions are visible to others on the network. Elmore County Public Schools can monitor network usage to keep it working well for everyone.
- Anyone using electronic networks expressly consents to such monitoring.
- Administrators automatically receive monthly Internet usage reports.
- Prosecution and/or termination of user privileges will occur without warning.
- As required by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), ECPS Internet access shall have a filtering device or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or to any material deemed harmful to minors as defined by CIPA and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. In the classroom, teachers will direct and monitor students' Internet use, but it is not possible to control all content on the global network, so students may encounter inappropriate information.
- Despite filtering, the school district cannot completely prevent access to material that does not align with its educational mission and policies.

Warranties

- Elmore County Public Schools and joint providers of the network make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services provided.
- ECPS will not be responsible for any damage suffered while using the system. These damages include loss of data, delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions caused by the system, or service interruptions caused by user errors or omissions.
- The district specifically denies responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through Internet connections.
- The Board owns its technological resources, but user-generated data, such as email content and digital images, represents the author's individual perspective and not that of the school or school system.
- Students and their parents must be aware that Elmore County Public Schools cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources.

Accessing the District WiFi Network

The district believes technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a vast amount of academic information. The district seeks to improve student access to digital resources and provide technology-based information as readily as traditional pen and paper.

Students should adhere to these guidelines when accessing the district Wi-Fi network:

- The district is not responsible for any content accessed by users who bypass the district Internet filter by connecting to the Internet via their personal cellular network (i.e., Mobile networks or personal VPNs instead of using the district Wi-Fi).
- Users are responsible for backing up their personal data and other important files regularly.
- Those who use district-owned and maintained technologies to access the Internet at home are responsible for the set-up and cost of home Internet service.

Expectations for Use of District-Issued Technology Devices

Responsible use of district-issued technology devices is the same as the use of classroom and lab computers that belong to the school--it is ethical, respectful, academically honest, and supportive of student learning. Each user has the responsibility to respect others in the school community and on the Internet. Users should follow network etiquette rules. General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to the use of the Internet and other school technological resources.

Students who are issued district-owned and maintained devices will sign a contract agreeing to district guidelines.

School district technology users must respect property and use equipment responsibly. Users are to follow all instructions regarding maintenance or care of the equipment. Users are accountable for any loss or damage to devices while they are in their possession. The school district is responsible for any routine maintenance or standard repairs to school system devices.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACCEPTABLE USE PROCEDURES

These procedures outline the acceptable use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications within Elmore County Public Schools to ensure their safe, ethical, and responsible use. Elmore County Public Schools acknowledges that technology is ever-changing and tremendously impacts our global society, local community, and classrooms. Artificial intelligence (AI), including generative forms of AI, is becoming more of a part of our everyday lives. Our responsibility is to educate and train students and employees to utilize AI ethically and educationally.

Therefore, Elmore County Public Schools are not banning the use of AI by students or employees. However, each student and employee must be aware of the limitations and guidelines of its usage:

- Student accounts and device access to specific open AI software, such as ChatGPT, are blocked due to data and security concerns.
- Any misuse of AI tools and applications, such as hacking or altering data, is prohibited.
- Teachers may allow the use of AI for curriculum purposes, i.e., Magic School, with proper licensing or subscription.
- Access to specific websites will be granted when it is assured that adherence to specific data and privacy guidelines regarding age restrictions and usage is intact.
- Access requests may be submitted to the system's technology director and will be approved by the superintendent. College Board and Dual Enrollment, college and university classes may have additional restrictions and limitations regarding using artificial intelligence. Students participating in AP and dual enrollment programs must adhere to the AI policies of those institutions.
- Students and employees who use AI software with a personal device and/or personal credentials should do so at their own risk, acknowledging that each platform is collecting various forms of data. Most AI software becomes the owner of the data that is added to it.
- Students must acknowledge their use of AI in any capacity related to their schoolwork, including text, images, multimedia, etc., just as they would any other source.

- The use of AI could be subject to the Academic Dishonesty Policy. Students should acknowledge that AI is not always factually accurate nor seen as a credible source and should be able to provide evidence to support its claims.
- All users must also know the potential for bias and discrimination in AI tools and applications.
- Students and employees may be subject to disciplinary action for using AI that is unsafe, unethical, or violates local, state, or federal law.

CAFETERIA

The Elmore County Public Schools Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is in compliance with the State Department of Education Wellness Guidelines. The Elmore County School Board recognizes that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to learn, grow, and maintain good health. All meals served meet patterns established by the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Our goal is to assist in reducing the concerns of obesity in school age children in addition to providing appetizing meals to sustain our students in their academic endeavors. Students who need substitutions or special diets must have a Medical Statement/Diet Prescription form completed by a state recognized medical professional, which is available through the school nurse or the school office.

All Elmore County Public Schools students will receive breakfast and lunch reimbursable meals at NO CHARGE! Free/reduced applications are NOT required.

Category	Breakfast	Lunch
Paying Student	FREE	FREE
Reduced Price	FREE	FREE
BOE Employees	\$3.15	\$4.85
Visitor	\$3.50	\$6.00
Milk	\$0.75	\$0.75

Menus are posted on the Elmore County Public Schools website under Child Nutrition as well as on Elmore County Child Nutrition's Facebook page. Menus are subject to change based on food availability. Students may purchase extra food items in each cafeteria. À la carte items and pricing vary among schools.

No glass items/containers or carbonated drinks are allowed in the school cafeteria. Foods and drinks brought into the cafeteria in competitive packaging, i.e. fast foods, are prohibited.

A lunch number (POS#) is established for each student. All students are provided a lunch card with their own unique POS# to scan at the point-of-sale area. This allows students to quickly check out and have

more time to eat and connect with peers.

À la carte items will be available, and parents have a couple of options to pay for these:

1. online at www.myschoolbucks.com; or 2. with cash or a personal check.

Check Policy

1. The total amount of the check will be deposited into your child's lunch account and cannot be used to pay for other school items such as field trips, library fees, etc.,
2. The Elmore County Child Nutrition Program recognizes that occasionally a parent may inadvertently overdraw a checking account, and a check may be returned by your bank. In order to recover these funds in a private and professional manner, CNP has contracted with Checkredi, LLC, for collection of returned checks.
 - i. Checks should be written on a commercially printed check with your name, address, and contact telephone number. When a person writes a check to a lunchroom, he/she agrees that, if the check is returned for any reason, it may be represented electronically on the same account, and that the service fee for returned checks established by law may be debited from the same account.
 - ii. If the check and fee are not collected electronically, Checkredi will contact the check writer by mail and/or by telephone to make payment arrangements. All payments need to be made directly to Checkredi, P.O. Box 3829, Huntsville, AL 35810

Charge Policy

All students will receive breakfast and lunch reimbursable meals at no charge.

- À la carte items and/or second meals may not be charged for any reason
 - Employees of Elmore County Public Schools are not allowed to charge a meal
 - Guests/Visitors of Elmore County Public Schools are not allowed to charge a meal
- My School Bucks allows parents access to their student's account **AT NO CHARGE!**
1. FREE-view your child's account and send money as needed for extras and/or à la carte items
 2. FREE-receive emails when your child's balance gets to a certain amount (you set the amount)
 3. \$2.75 fee-deposit funds electronically through My School Bucks; however, you can allocate funds to more than one student account per deposit
- For additional information and instructions go to the website: www.myschoolbucks.com or call 855-832-5226. Please take advantage of this beneficial and convenient service.

Assistance to Households

- Households with questions or needing assistance may contact the Child Nutrition Program office at: (334) 567-1222, 100 H.H. Robison Drive, Wetumpka 36092, or email the CNP Director at ElmoreCNP@elmoreco.com.

Elmore County Schools

Student Code of Conduct

2025-2026

ELMORE COUNTY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

OVERVIEW

Instruction should occur in an environment that is conducive to learning. Good order and discipline are basic elements of such an environment and contribute to an atmosphere in which students, parents, and school personnel work cooperatively toward mutually recognized and accepted goals.

As students progress in the Elmore County Schools, they will be expected to assume greater responsibility for their actions as they increase in age and maturity. This Student Code of Conduct is issued to each student and teacher, and the procedures will be followed until necessary revisions are approved by the Board of Education. (Ala. Code §16-28A-3). The procedures described in this Code of Conduct shall apply to all students, parents, and school personnel except those students with disabilities that are subject to relevant state and federal laws.

To assist students, parents, and school personnel in developing and maintaining an environment conducive to learning, these procedures will serve as a basis for increasing communication between home and school and for providing a framework for educational progress by all students in our schools.

The Elmore County Board of Education will comply with *Ala. Code* § 16-28-12 which states that each parent/guardian or other person having control or custody of a child required to attend school who fails to require the child to enroll, to regularly attend school, or to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in accordance with this written policy, shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days.

Any student enrolled in schools in Elmore County who accumulates more than the maximum number or excused or unexcused absences in a class/homeroom during a semester/school year may be denied credit for that class or retained at that grade level.

Students enrolled in the Elmore County Public Schools should:

1. Arrive at their designated school at the appropriate time.
2. Report to all classes promptly.
3. Prepare assigned work and participate in all learning activities as directed by teachers.
4. Respect individuals and their property.
5. Refrain from the use of profanity.
6. Abide by rules of good citizenship.
7. Obey the laws of the city/county, state, and federal governments.
8. Obey all reasonable or proper orders, directives, or instructions of school personnel.
9. Dress appropriately for school (See Dress Code).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating

It is expected that all academic work completed by any student in the Elmore County School System will be his/her own work. Elmore County Schools will not tolerate cheating in any form. Students will not engage in any act of deception or falsification of work projects. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating by receiving unauthorized aid or assistance.
- Giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work to include use of electron device(s) to text/take pictures of/convey exams and/or answer sheets.
- Possessing materials that invalidate any academic course work either during or prior to the work being assigned (test or course work).

Any student completing any academic work dishonestly will receive a zero for that assignment with no opportunity to make it up. The teacher will also contact the parents/guardians of the student and inform them of the student's actions.

Students who provide information and/or commit cheating will be disciplined in accordance with Class I Offense AK. The teacher will also contact the parents/guardians of the student and inform them of the student's actions.

Plagiarism

Teachers in all subject areas, especially those assigning research, must inform and instruct students regarding plagiarism and the seriousness of the offense. A variety of resources are available for teacher and student use to aid in preventing plagiarism such as the following websites:

• <http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/> • <http://www.duplichecker.com/>

According to the *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, to “plagiarize” means:

- To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- To use (another's production) without crediting the source
- To commit literary theft
- To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

All the following are considered plagiarism:

- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

DRESS CODE

The Board is aware that personal dress and appearance constitute individual expression, and within certain limits, wishes to allow students the freedom to express themselves in their own unique manner. The faculty and administration of each school shall encourage all students to be aware that dress and personal appearance may, in a very real manner, influence the image and attitude others have on the

student as an individual. Therefore, the Board shall require each student to consider reasonable judgment, tact, and decency in the selection of clothes for school and personal appearance.

The administration of each school shall maintain absolute authority in making subjective judgment concerning a student's dress and personal appearance. Dress code violations will be dealt with according to the Elmore County Code of Conduct. (Class II Offense BV)

In general, all students must dress appropriately for school. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruptions.

Students in the Elmore County School System shall wear the following:

1. Clothing conducive to learning and respectful of the learning environment
2. Clothing which fully covers the shoulders, cleavage, abdomen, and back
3. Clothing that is appropriate to student's size
4. Pants/slacks at the natural waistline
5. Shoes appropriate for the activity and safety: class, gym, shop, etc.
6. Skirts and dresses no more than two inches above the knee
7. Shorts that are mid-thigh

Students are prohibited from wearing the following:

1. Sunglasses in the building except with a doctor's prescription
2. See-through, skintight and/or revealing clothing, yoga pants, or spandex. Jeggings or leggings may be worn if shirt length is approximately mid-thigh
3. Open or chain belts, belt buckles not buckled, electronic belts, or buckles, or cap "fishhooks"
4. Unfastened overalls
5. Pants/slacks with the appearance of sagging
6. Hats, caps, headgear, and any other head cover in the buildings on campus
7. Curlers, picks, combs, or chopsticks
8. Bandannas or sashes anywhere as a part of a dress
9. Clothing with holes more than two inches above the knee and/or with skin showing.
10. House shoes/slippers are inappropriate unless approved by the school administration.
11. Clothing depicting unacceptable and/or inappropriate decals, slogans, or pictures; profanity; language containing or referring to suggestive or immoral behavior; gang activity; alcohol, drugs, or tobacco
12. Any clothing and/or headgear which directly or by innuendo disrespects (or is perceived to disrespect)

a student's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability and/or creates, supports, or promotes a hostile learning environment contrary to the anti-harassment policies of the Board of Education (including negative feelings, disharmony, racial or religious discord, intimidation, embarrassment and/or fear)

13. Trench coats or Matrix coats, pajamas, blankets or stuffed animals shall not be worn at school or brought to school

14. Costumes of any kind are prohibited without specific principal permission.

15. Face covering including the hair is prohibited without medical approval.

Exceptions may be made to any of the above when physical or other circumstances warrant or for certain groups during performances or special activities as authorized by the administration.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND SAFETY RULES

Safe transportation is the responsibility of school officials, parents, and students. The authority of school officials extends to and includes transportation of students. All students are expected to conduct themselves as good citizens and abide by the following:

1. Do not stand or play in a public road while waiting for your bus.
2. Be sure the bus is completely stopped before you board or get off your bus.
3. Keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times.
4. Never use the emergency door except in an emergency.
5. Participate in no activity that may divert your driver's attention from driving.
6. Always remain in your seat until time to leave the bus.
7. In an emergency, remain in your seat until the driver tells you otherwise.
8. Assist the driver in assuring the safety and comfort of small children.
9. When getting off the bus, be sure the driver can see you at all times. Don't loiter.
10. Never eat or drink on the bus.
11. Absolute quiet is necessary at main intersections and railroad crossings.
12. Live, dead, or preserved animals or objects larger than 24" x 24" are not permitted on the bus.
Band instruments, sports bags, etc. may be allowed on the bus at the driver's discretion.
13. Be at your designated stop five minutes prior to expected bus arrival.
14. The bus driver is in complete authority; extend to him/her your support and cooperation.
15. Always show courtesy and respect for the rights of others.
16. Do not deface or damage the bus in any manner; assist in keeping it clean.
17. Electronic communication and gaming device use is allowed if the device is not audible to others.
18. Vulgar language, profanity, or loud noise is prohibited.
19. Never throw any object in the bus or from the bus.
20. Students are expected to ride their assigned bus and board or get off at their designated stop, except by permission from the principal. In order to get off at a location other than his/her designated stop, a student must have two notes: one from his/her guardian and one from an adult at the alternate location.

21. Any activity that is not conducive to good conduct will not be allowed. Students unwilling to conduct themselves as good citizens may forfeit the right to ride a school bus.
22. Failure to identify self may result in suspension from the bus.
23. When a student is assigned to ECAP for a bus violation, that student is also suspended from the bus until the completion of their ECAP assignment. (Suspension from a bus includes suspension from all Elmore County route buses).

If parents decide to use the school system transportation to transport their child(ren) to and from school daily, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure someone is home to receive the student(s) in the afternoon. When an adult is not present to receive the child, the bus driver has been instructed to return the child to his/her school of attendance and contact a parent to pick up the child from school. The school system understands that emergencies occur, and situations may arise to keep you from making it home in time to receive your child from the school bus. The following procedures are in place regarding parents not being present at the time of bus drop off:

1. The first incident will result in a phone conference and/or meeting with the school administrator. A letter will be sent home to parents explaining the transportation procedures regarding an adult not being present at school bus drop off time.
2. The second incident will result in the student losing bus privileges for 10 days. A letter will be hand-delivered or sent via certified mail to parents explaining the transportation procedures regarding an adult not being present at school bus drop off time. The Department of Human Resources may be contacted.
3. The third incident will result in the student's bus privileges suspended for the remainder of the school year. A letter will be hand-delivered or sent via certified mail to the parents explaining our transportation procedures regarding an adult not being present at school bus drop off time, citing all three dates student was returned to the school and notifying them that their child's bus privileges are suspended for the remainder of the school year. The Department of Human Resources may be contacted.
4. For special education students who receive transportation as a related service, Elmore County Public Schools will adhere to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act*.

SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

School Property

Desks and lockers are public property, and school authorities may make regulations regarding their use. They may be searched on a random basis at any time by the school principal or his/her designee. School officials shall also inspect or search lockers or desks if there is a reasonable cause to believe that articles are kept there that may endanger individuals in the school or that such articles possessed are contrary to law or the regulations of the Board.

Individuals

School officials (school principal or approved designee only) may make searches of a student and/or personal belongings if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student is carrying articles that may endanger individuals in the school or that such articles possessed are contrary to law or the regulations of the Board. School officials may collect such articles. If a student is searched, it shall be in private by a

school official of the same sex with a professional staff member of the same sex present. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by the principal or his/her designated representative of the search as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

Automobiles

School officials may search selected vehicles while on school property when there is reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle contains articles that may endanger individuals or that are contrary to law or regulations of the Board.

By Law Enforcement

The Board believes that school should be a safe place for all children and respects the rights of all persons in the schools and will uphold those rights. For that reason, law enforcement should not use the school or school day to inappropriately circumvent the rights of students or their parents unless the circumstances warrant. School officials will use their discretion to cooperate with law enforcement officials in their effort to enforce the law by adhering to all federal and state guidelines involving searches by law enforcement officials.

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

Elmore County Schools adheres to the seclusion and restraint requirements of *Administrative Code 290-3-1*. The Seclusion and Restraint policy may be found on the Board of Education's website at www.elmoreco.com under Publications, Elmore County BOE Policy Manual, Section VI: Students.

OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR

It is the policy of the Elmore County Board of Education that student conduct, both on and off campus, is important in reflecting the community's perception of the school's education mission. Off-campus behavior negative to that perception may result in disciplinary action that limits or prohibits participation in extracurricular activities. When incidents occur off campus, disciplinary action may be taken regarding those incidents. The superintendent has the authority to place children in an alternative school setting when facing serious pending criminal charges and/or returning from a criminal sentence until such time as the Board is able to determine the most appropriate placement.

ELMORE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (Discipline Division)

The Elmore County Alternative Programs (ECAP) disciplinary program is a highly structured alternative educational program designed to provide a cohesive learning environment in which students may develop skills necessary for school success. The program seeks to develop positive attitudes and appropriate behaviors. Objectives for the student may include improving attendance, punctuality, and communication skills. Increasing knowledge of consequences of behavior, developing respect for authority, developing skills for conflict resolution, improving self-confidence, and developing the ability to accept responsibility are additional objectives for student growth.

A student assigned to the Elmore County Alternative Programs for discipline will not be allowed to attend or to participate in any school related activity, including practices, during his or her assignment. Non-participation begins when a student is assigned to ECAP without regard as to when he/she actually begins attending ECAP.

Students will not be assigned to Virtual ECAP, which is a home assignment through an approved virtual platform, except at the discretion of the curriculum director and/or superintendent.

Days assigned to ECAP will be aligned with the school calendar. Non-school days such as holidays and weekends are not counted towards assigned ECAP days.

Transportation to and from ECAP for discipline will not be provided. It is the parent's/legal guardian's responsibility to provide transportation to and from ECAP daily when his/her child has been assigned to ECAP as a result of disciplinary action. Students will be assigned to Homebound Virtual ECAP if parents cannot provide transportation to and from ECAP. However, students are still required to complete their assigned days at ECAP before returning to the base school.

Days assigned to ECAP in one school year, but not completed in that school year will roll over to the next academic year.

The ECAP staff will work closely with all base school administrators, teachers, and counselors in order to establish a high level of academic success. ECAP will also work with local and county law enforcement to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment.

Parents/legal guardians must work with the ECAP staff to help students improve their behavior and academic skills. Parents/legal guardians must attend conferences, counseling sessions, and parent-training sessions when deemed appropriate. ECAP attendance is paramount. Parent/legal guardian must call the school by 9:00 a.m. if a student is absent and must send a signed note explaining the nature of the absence on the day of the student's return.

Elmore County Alternative programs will make educational opportunities available to Special Education students to the maximum extent of the law. ECAP is not responsible for educational hours when a parent chooses to bring a student late.

To the extent possible, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and lab participation will be included in students' academic experience. However, due to the nature of AP course structure, content, and schedule availability, a student may not be able to continue in the AP course which would require transfer to a regular course in the same subject area. Comparable work and additional assignments may substitute for lab experience as needed.

ELMORE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS 2025-2026

RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Dr. Blair Andress, Director

1. **A parent or guardian must bring students on their first day at ECAP for intake.** Your intake is scheduled for 7:20 on _____. Please know that depending on the number of students starting on this day, you might have to wait. Parents must park on either side of the street. Do not park in the parking lot, and make sure that your vehicle is completely out of the street. ***If you arrive after 7:45, you will be required to come back the following day.***
2. Students are required to wear tan/khaki pants with belt loops, belt, and a collared shirt of any color tucked in each day. Students will not be allowed to wear capris or pants with elastic/tie strings (joggers) around the waist. Students cannot wear sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, coats, jewelry (watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings (or piercings of any type), hats, caps, armbands, high heels, cleats, flip flops, sandals, or shorts. All shoes must be closed toe and closed heel. All students will be searched daily upon entering the building and must remove their shoes as part of that process.
3. Students should be dropped off between 7:20-7:40 but not before that time. All students are tardy at 7:45. Please park and bring your student inside to sign them in. If a student is tardy, that day will not be counted as a day of their ECAP assignment time. Students must be picked up between 2:40 and 3:00. Walking is not allowed without a signed permission form.
4. Students should bring paper, pencils, headphones, and a calculator (if needed) to school. No book bags, purses, candy, chips, or sodas are allowed on the campus of ECAP. Students assigned to ECAP for disciplinary reasons are not allowed to bring cell phones. **(Headphones or earbuds are a necessity!)**
5. To ensure students are making appropriate academic progress, they must successfully complete five or more activities in each subject and a minimum of twenty activities each day. Failure to do so will result in that day not counting and will extend their ECAP release date. (Note: this requirement is for students completing assignments in Edgenuity and may be adjusted for students using other learning platforms.)
6. If a student is absent, he/she must bring an excuse when they return to school. A student's time at ECAP will be extended by two days for every unexcused absence. After three absences while at ECAP, excuses must come from a doctor.
7. Additional days will be added for any violation of the Elmore County Code of Conduct and for disrespect, sleeping in class, truancy, destroying school property, not doing class assignments, misuse of computers, not following dress code, and for not bringing a fully charged Chromebook.
8. Students will use Chromebooks and work on assignments given by their base schoolteachers. Just as at their base school, if students damage a Chromebook, the damage must be paid for. **STUDENTS MUST BRING THE CHROMEBOOK AND CHARGER ASSIGNED TO THEM BY THEIR BASE SCHOOL. THE CHROMEBOOK MUST BE FULLY CHARGED EACH DAY.**
9. All medication must be turned in to the office when the student arrives at ECAP by the parent or legal guardian with updated and completed forms. All medication must be in the original container and have the student's name on the label. Staff cannot administer medication without a prior authorization form from a physician.
10. Students are allowed to bring lunch from home. It can include a sandwich, pizza, soup, a snack, and something to drink (water, Kool-Aid, Capri sun, PowerAde, Gatorade) but no sodas or glass bottles. Please no chips and juice only for lunch. All of these items must be in a clear Ziploc bag. No exceptions. **Our students will not be using water fountains. Each student may bring either an unopened bottle of water or an empty, clear plastic water bottle/container.**
11. Students who are assigned to ECAP for disciplinary reasons are not allowed on any school property or allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities in Elmore County Schools. If this rule is violated, thirty additional days will be added to the student's stay at ECAP.

The above rules and expectations must be signed by parent/guardian and student upon entry into the Wetumpka or Millbrook location. The Wetumpka location number is (334) 567-1298 and the Millbrook location number is 285-9450.

TAYLOR'S LAW

Code of Alabama, Section 32-6-7.4.

Disciplinary point system - Age of student eligibility.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each student over the age of 12 years who is enrolled in a public or private secondary school shall be subject to a disciplinary point system for an infraction committed on school property to determine the age at which the student shall be allowed to apply for a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, driver's license, or any license required by the State of Alabama for the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel. The disciplinary points imposed for a disciplinary action shall be as follows:

1. One day in-school suspension - 1 point.
2. One day out-of-school suspension - 2 points.
3. Alternative school placement - 6 points.
4. Expulsion - 20 points.

(b) 1. The points shall accumulate on a yearly basis, beginning with the school year including summer school in which the student turns 13, and accumulate each year until the student is eligible to apply for a driver's license under the imposed point system. Each accumulated point shall add one additional week to the age at which the student is eligible to be issued a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, or driver's license.

2. Notwithstanding subdivision (1), the age at which a student may apply for a license or permit shall not be extended by Act 2009-713 beyond one year from the date the student initially applies for a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, driver's license, or any license required by the State of Alabama for the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel.

(c) The following subdivisions are contingent upon the technical capability of the student data management system to track, manage, and coordinate the data:

1. Points shall be accrued on a school-year basis.
2. Points may not accrue for the first three days of in-school suspension in any school year; however, beginning with the fourth day of suspension in any school year, all days, including the first three, of in-school suspension shall be counted in determining the points.
3. Points may not accrue for an initial out-of-school suspension of two days or less in any school year; however, the days of the initial suspension shall be used to determine the points after a second out-of-school suspension in any school year or all days will be used to determine points if the initial suspension exceeds two days.

4. Accumulated points shall be reduced by one-half if the student has not received additional accumulated points for one school year. If no additional points are received for two years, all records of the accumulated points shall be removed from the student's records at the school. (Act 2009-713, p. 2095, §1.)

DETENTION

Each school may have a detention program. The principal of the school shall determine the time, day of the week, and length of detention on his/her campus. Students who miss an assigned detention may, at the school's discretion, be rescheduled for detention, with or without added days, or be given an alternative consequence.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Each classroom teacher will deal with general classroom disruption, listed as Class I Violations, by taking in-class disciplinary action, by telephoning the parent(s) or guardian(s) when feasible, and/or by scheduling conferences with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and other school staff. The Classroom Behavior Management Form (CBMF) will be used to record these disciplinary actions. On the third step, the administrator or his/her designee may assign the student to one day of Detention/In-school suspension or to counselor intervention, whichever he or she deems appropriate. Only when the action taken by the teacher is ineffective or the disruption is severe, should the student be referred to the administrator or his/her designee. The teacher will bring the Classroom Behavior Management Form to the office along with the Office Referral Form when Step 4 is reached. Disciplinary referral forms must be completed by the teacher or appropriate school official and brought to the office with the student before disciplinary action will take place.

Failure to bring notebook, pencil, homework, or failure to do work in class is not cause for disciplinary referral; however, defiance of a teacher regarding these areas is cause for discipline referral. The teacher of students who consistently exhibit poor work habits should notify parents or guardians, and/or these students should be referred to a guidance counselor.

HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC/BAND ENROLLMENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Students enrolled on athletic enrollment (including band students) and guardians of these students are expected to read the Elmore County Handbook annually, sign the signature page in the back and return this page to the school no later than five days after enrolling in the Elmore County Public Schools. The contents in the Elmore County Public Schools Handbook/Code of Conduct apply to all students enrolled whether it is through virtual enrollment, traditional enrollment, or athletic/band enrollment. The consequences for code of conduct violations for virtual and athletic/band enrollment will differ from the consequences of the students enrolled on a traditional schedule. The consequences are outlined below:

- If a student is enrolled on athletic/band enrollment and is found to be in violation of an offense in the Elmore County Code of Conduct the student and student's guardian will be required to meet with the school administration and the Athletic Director/Band Director regarding the violation. This conference will be held to explain consequences for the athletic/band enrollment student if subsequent referrals are received by the school administration.

- If the first referral is a violation of an offense that a traditional student would be suspended from school or sent to an alternative program, the athletic/band enrollment student will be suspended from athletic/band play/practice along with the mandatory meeting with school administration.
- Every referral following the first referral will require suspension from athletic/band play/practice.
- If necessary, due to excessive disciplinary issues, the student may be dismissed from the activity.

In-School Suspension/Detention

If a student is enrolled on athletic/band enrollment and is found to be in violation of an offense in the Elmore County Code of Conduct that includes the punishment of in school suspension/detention, the student will be required to meet with the school Principal, school Athletic Director/Band Director, and

their guardian before they can return to athletic/band play/practice. All subsequent referrals will result in suspension from athletic/band play/practice for one day for each referral received.

Out-of-School Suspension

If a student is enrolled on athletic/band enrollment and is found to be in violation of an offense in the Elmore County Code of Conduct that includes the punishment of suspension, the student will be unable to attend any practice/game for the day/days they would have been assigned to out of school suspension. The student will not be able to attend any classes/electives they may be enrolled in that are associated with the Elmore County Public Schools during their suspension time.

ECAP

If a student is enrolled on athletic/band enrollment and is found to be in violation of an offense in the Elmore County Code of Conduct that includes the punishment of ECAP, the student will be unable to attend any school event and will be suspended from all play/practice for the days determined by the school administration.

If a student is enrolled on athletic/band enrollment and is found to be in violation of a Class III or Class IV offense in the Elmore County Code of Conduct, the student will be withdrawn from the school and will no longer be able to participate in the athletic/band program.

BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The procedure for handling disciplinary issues related to Class I bus violations is outlined below. NOTE: Bus referrals are cumulative for the school year.

1. Driver-documented contact with parent/guardian of student is required before bringing a student to the office for habitual, minor offenses
2. First office referral – Warning and/or other appropriate consequence at the discretion of the school administrator
3. Second office referral – Bus suspension (1 day) and/or other appropriate consequence at the discretion of the school administrator
4. Third office referral – Bus suspension (3 days)
5. Fourth office referral – Bus suspension (5 days) and mandatory conference with the school administrator, bus driver, parent, and student prior to readmitting the student to the bus
6. Fifth office referral – Bus suspension (minimum 15 days)

7. For all subsequent Class I bus referrals, the number of days of bus suspension will be increased in increments of 20 days. (This only applies to Grades 4-12. Students in K-3 will receive bus suspension of 15 days for each subsequent referral.)

*Administrators have the right to assign an alternate punishment after considering the nature and extent of the violation.

COVID-19 NOTICE

Students should follow the Elmore County Health guidelines to help ensure a safe environment. Students that fail to adhere and comply to the current guidelines may be pursued for a disciplinary offense.

CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS

Students involved in school-sponsored on or off-campus programs or events shall be governed by school system rules and regulations, in addition to state and federal laws.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into the four classifications: Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV. A listing of offenses and the possible disciplinary actions to be implemented by the principals and/or the designees are presented for each classification.

PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

In each class of violations, the principal/designee shall hear the student's explanation and, if necessary, consult further with school personnel before determining the classification of the violation. Appropriate due process shall be provided. No student shall be punished for any suspected violation until the person responsible for implementing the disciplinary action has considered evidence, including hearsay, and has given the student an opportunity to be heard and to present witnesses. Administrators/school personnel may talk to students, as part of an investigation or concern, regarding school matters without parent permission and/or presence.

All Class II, III, or IV offenses will be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate consequence(s) as outlined in the ECBOE Student Discipline Handbook. NOTE: All fights will result in a minimum 5-day bus suspension and mandatory conference with the school administrator, bus driver, parent, and student prior to readmitting the student to the bus. School and bus suspensions will run concurrently if administered for the same offense.

Students recommended for Class III and/or IV expulsions will be entitled to a hearing by the Elmore County Administrative Disciplinary Committee. This committee consists of Superintendent's representatives to include the Compliance Director, Director of Elementary Education, Director of Middle School Education, and/or Director of Secondary Education, scribe, student, parent, and school administrator.

The following procedures regarding the due process of students in Legislative Act HB188 will be in effect if the discipline results in the students being placed in long-term alternative school for more than 15 days, long-term suspension for more than 10 days, or expulsion.

- If a student is proposed for covered discipline, the student is given reasonable written notice of the hearing delivered personally or by mail;
- At least five days before the hearing, the student is provided any evidence that may be used against him at the hearing, e.g. documents, video, written statements, etc.;
- If requested, the hearing is held within 10 school days of the student's initial suspension;
- The hearing is held before the board or the board's designee to decide if the student violated the Code of Student Conduct;
- A written decision is issued within five school days of the hearing; and
- An electronic or written record of the hearing is provided to the student, upon request.

CLASS I OFFENSES

- AA Excessive distraction of other students**
- AB Minor intimidation of a student**
- AC Participation in gambling or games of chance for money and/or other things of a value less than \$10.00** – unauthorized playing cards, dice, or other gambling devices, as well as the money involved will be confiscated.
- AD Direct or non-directed use of inappropriate language**
- AE Unauthorized selling** - selling of goods or services not connected directly with educational projects.
- AF Failure to follow instructions** – Examples: Failure to carry correspondence home; failure to obey directions in hallways, assemblies, etc.
- AG Unauthorized use on school property** – (to include having cell phones out) of electronic devices such as iPhones, iPads, smartwatches, etc. Administration will not be expected to spend time searching for personal items that are lost and or stolen. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. *This offense will move to BQ if the student refuses to put the device away when instructed to do so.
- AH Bodily contact**– minor incidents of intentionally touching, e.g. intentionally touching, pinching, pushing, tripping, slapping, or “horseplay.”
- AI Littering of school property**
- AJ Petty theft** - the intentional, unlawful taking or carrying away of public, real, or personal property, with a value less than \$10.00. Second offense moves to BF
- AK Cheating** – the act of providing or receiving information to fraud or swindle or to gain an advantage by dishonest means (to include plagiarism).
- AL Inappropriate public display of affection** - Including, but not limited to, embracing and kissing.
- AM** Any other violation, which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category after consideration of extenuating circumstances.

Procedures for Class I Offenses

Step 1. A teacher-student conference initiated by the teacher

Step 2. Teacher-initiated notification of discipline problems to parent/guardian along with teacher designated consequence.

Step 3. The administrator or his/her designee may assign the student to one day of detention or to counselor intervention, whichever he or she deems appropriate.

Step 4. Referral to administration as a Class II Offense (BA – Habitual Class I Offenses) NOTE: Under no circumstance should academic grades be used as a means of maintaining order in a classroom nor should student behavior be included in calculating academic grades. All academic grades should reflect the teacher’s most objective assessment of the student’s academic achievement.

CLASS II OFFENSES

Reasonable efforts will be made to notify parents of offending students and/or victims of Class II incidents subject to the limitations of FERPA. Failure to attend assigned detention may result in, at the school’s discretion, re-scheduling of detention, with or without additional days, or an alternate consequence.

BA Habitual Class I Offenses

K-3	1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
	2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
	3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
	4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6:	1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
	2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

7-12:	1st offense – In-school suspension (3 day) or detention (3 days)
	2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

BB Defiance of Authority – any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with reasonable directions or orders of school personnel.

K-3	1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
	2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
	3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
	4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6:	1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
	2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

7-12:	1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP (5-10 days)

BBX Restroom Procedures – no more than one student can occupy a restroom stall at a time for any reason.

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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)
- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5-10 days)

BBY Defiance of Wireless Communication/Focus Act Policy (to include the yondr pouch and other pouch options)– Refusal to comply with the Focus Act policy which may include being in possession of cell phones, refusing to put them in pouches, and/or any wireless communication device violations.

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- K-12 1st offense – In-school suspension (2 days)
2nd offense – In school suspension (4 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BC Possession and/or use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapor devices – having or using tobacco products on the school premises or at any school-sponsored activity.

- Unauthorized possession of tobacco paraphernalia, tobacco, or nicotine products or non-controlled substances that are represented to be tobacco.

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- K-3 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

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- 4-6 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

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- 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

BD Battery upon students – intentionally hitting, striking, or any forceful blow to cause bodily harm and includes any other action that may create a health issue.

- Police report will be filed with local law enforcement.
- After two or more incidents, the school board may take legal action against the student.

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- K-3: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (10 days)

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- 4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)
- 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)

BE **Property damage** – an intentional action resulting in injury or damages up to \$200.00 to public property, or the real or personal property of another. If a student destroys school property, the parent/guardian shall be required to pay for or replace it. School bus damage: student will forfeit bus privileges until full restitution is made. Law enforcement may be notified. If the student destroys a chromebook, they will be provided textbooks to complete written assignments unless the parent/guardian would like to make a monetary donation to pay for it to be replaced.

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- K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

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- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

BF **Stealing – Larceny – Petty Theft – Possession of Stolen Property** – the intentional, unlawful taking, carrying away, or possession of public, real, or personal property valued at less than \$100.00.

- Law enforcement may be notified.
- Restitution is required.

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- K-3 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)
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- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5-10 days)

BG Threats – Verbally or by written or printed communication, maliciously threatening an injury to the person, property, or reputation of another. Note: Completion of the threat, either by the complying with the demands or the carrying out of the threat against the victim, constitutes a Class III offense. A Threat Assessment will be performed by administration and a Welfare Check will be requested by local law enforcement.

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- K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)

-
- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5-10 days)

BH Extortion – verbally or by written or printed communication, maliciously threatening an injury to the person, property, or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or any pecuniary advantage whatsoever, or with intent to compel the person so threatened, or any other person, to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will.
Note: Completion of the threat, either by the victim’s complying with the demands or the carrying out of the threat against the victim, constitutes a Class III Offense.

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- K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)
7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)

BI Possession of an explosive or incendiary charge (including matches and lighters) – having an explosive or incendiary charge of less than one-quarter ounce, including fireworks and stink bombs. (More than this constitutes a Class IV Weapons Offense.)

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days), detention (5 days), or school-designated action
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

BJ Directed or undirected (to include undirected racial slurs) use of obscene or profane Language or gesture to a student.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day), detention (3 days), or school-designated action
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BK Offensive behavior towards another person, written or verbal propositions to promote sexual acts, and/or use of obscene manifestations (verbal, written, gesture, to also include offensive touching).

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action

3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)
- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5-10 days)

BL Leaving premises without permission and/or unauthorized transportation of students off premises.

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- K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
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- 4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)
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- 7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) AND driving privileges revoked for 15 days for drivers
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days) or detention (10 days) AND driving privileges revoked for 30 days for driver(s)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days) AND driving privileges revoked for 45 days for driver(s)

BM Unauthorized absences (cutting or skipping) from classes or school (but not leaving campus), including leaving class without permission.

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- K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
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- 4-6 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)
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- 7-12 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BN Participation in gambling or games of chance for money and/or other things of value from \$1.00 to \$50.00. Gambling devices and money will be confiscated.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
2nd offense - In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)

7-12 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day), detention (3 days), or school-designated action
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BO Directed disrespectful language or gestures, either stated or implied, to or about a school board employee and/or visitor.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

BP Intentionally providing false information to school personnel; forgery of parent's name; intentionally providing false information to parents. Situations that involve the forging of an official document (i.e. doctor note) will move to the second offense for punishment.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)

2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)

7-12 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day), detention (3 days), or school-designated action
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (3 days), detention (5 days), or school-designated

BQ Misuse of Administrative Approved Wireless Communication/Electronic Devices –
Minor misuse of cellular phone and/or electronic devices – students are not allowed to text without permission or take pictures, audio recordings, or videos using any electronic device (camera, smart phone, etc.) which violates the privacy rights of another individual – student, teacher, staff member or visitor to the school campus.

K-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (2 days)
2nd offense – In school suspension (4 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BR Inciting student disorder and/or refusing to disperse. Includes videoing, audio recording, or taking pictures of disorder or physical altercations.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (3 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (5 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

BS Possession of Medication – A student may not possess/consume over-the-counter medication on campus. All medications require parent and physician signature authorization and must be brought to the school by a parent, guardian, or designated adult. Designated school staff will assist students with medication as ordered by the physician. Exceptions to this are medications that may be carried by a student once he/she has been approved through appropriate school personnel.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action

4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)

7-12 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day), or school-designated action
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days), detention (3 days), or school-designated action
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BT Dispensing of Medication (over-the-counter medications)

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (45 days)

BU Excessive tardiness to school or class.

- Grades K-12: All tardies – to school and to class – start over at the beginning of each grading period (nine weeks).
 - Documentation must be provided that all steps have been completed.
 - Driving privileges will only be revoked for tardies to school.
-

K-4: 7th unexcused tardy – parent/guardian is notified by letter and admin-parent conference
10th unexcused tardy – parent conference with Attendance Supervisor
15th unexcused tardy – Early Warning Truancy Conference

5-6: 1st-3rd unexcused tardies – teacher documentation
4th unexcused tardy – parent contact
5th unexcused tardy – in-school suspension (1 day)
6th unexcused tardy – in-school suspension (3 days)
7th unexcused tardy – in-school suspension (5 days)
8th unexcused tardy – ECAP (3 days)

7-12: 1st-3rd unexcused tardies – teacher documentation

4th unexcused tardy – parent contact
 5th unexcused tardy – in-school suspension (3 days) or detention (5 days)
 6th unexcused tardy – in-school suspension (5 days) AND driving privileges will be revoked for 15 school days
 7th unexcused tardy – ECAP (3 days) AND driving privileges will be revoked for 30 school days
 8th unexcused tardy – ECAP (5 days) AND driving privileges will be revoked for 45 school days

BV Non-conformity to the dress code – See Dress Code Policy (page 44). Headgear taken up will be returned on the last day of the school year.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
 2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – Parent contacted; change of clothes brought to school or student wears provided garment. Student may be temporarily placed in in-school suspension until a change of clothes is brought to school.
 2nd offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
 3rd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated action
 2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or school-designated action
 3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days), detention (3 days), or school-designated action

BW Bullying – Committing or instigating aggressive acts toward another student with the intent to irritate, intimidate, hurt, or produce a negative reaction from the other student. Student will be referred to the school counselor beginning with the first offense. Refer to State Bullying Law on page 13 of the Student Handbook section.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
 2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
 2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
 3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)
 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
 2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
 3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

BX Fighting – Mutual participation in a fight.

- If aggressor/instigator is clearly defined, his/her punishment will be moved directly to 2nd consequence.
- Police report will be filed with local law enforcement and the student may be subject to arrest.

K-3 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
 2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
 3rd offense – In-school suspension (10 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
 2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
 3rd offense – ECAP (45 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
 2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
 3rd offense – ECAP (45 days)

BY Computer Misuse –Minor Incidents of computer fraud and tampering. (This includes but is not limited to playing games, downloading games or music, attempting to access inappropriate material, plagiarism, accessing social networking sites, use of another student’s password with permission, and emailing or surfing the internet without permission.

“Generative AI is a new and emerging technology. As such, its uses and implication of its use are still being discovered. However, for the purposes of the Code of Conduct, its use will be treated like any established technology. Any work produced must be properly cited and/or attributed to the generative engine, and any malicious use will be subject to the disciplinary actions of the Code of Conduct.”

- Computer access may be denied.
- The student may be required to complete assignments using paper/pencil.
- A police report may be filed.
- Additional disciplinary action may be taken depending upon the severity of misuse.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact
 2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
 4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – Parent contact
 2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
 3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)

7-12: 4th offense – ECAP (3 days)
 1st offense – Parent contact
 2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days)
 3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
 4th offense – ECAP (3 days)

BZ Unlawful Verbal Harassment (Racial and/or Sexual) – Verbal and/or written (to include social media) conduct based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion conducted to intimidate or create a hostile environment, interfering with an individual’s academic performance otherwise adversely affecting academic opportunities.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)

BZA Sexually Explicit Material

- Pornographic material – includes but not limited to any magazines, drawings, etc., which express sexual content.
- Policy report will be filed with local law enforcement.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

BZB Possession of Knife – possession and/or use of a knife without intent to be armed.

- If the knife is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, as a weapon, it will be treated as a Class III weapons offense
- A knife blade on a folding knife greater than 2 ½ inches or a knife with a fixed or lock blade, regardless of length, constitutes intent to be armed with a weapon and will be treated as a Class III (CJ) offense. (See definition of knives in Class III Weapons list.)

K-3 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – Treated as Class III Weapons (CJ)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – Treated as Class III Weapons (CJ)

BZC Non-Intentional Contact of a Board Employee by a Student

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

BZD Disruptive Behavior – actions by a student or students that cause the learning process to be interrupted for a considerable amount of time.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (5 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (5 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BZE Bodily Contact – Incidents of intentionally touching, including but not limited to, necking, juicing, hitting, or excessive horseplay.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or detention (1 day)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
3rd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)

7-12: 1st offense – In-school suspension (3 days) or detention (3 days)
2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) or detention (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (3 days)

BZF Unlawful Physical Harassment (Racial and/or Sexual) – Physical conduct based on actual perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion conducted to intimidate or create a hostile environment, interfering with an individual’s academic performance otherwise adversely affecting academic opportunities.

K-3 1st offense – Parent contact and detention (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action
2nd offense – Detention (2 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
3rd offense – Detention (3 days) or school-designated disciplinary action
4th offense – In-school suspension (1 day) or school-designated disciplinary action

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (15 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (5 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (10 days)
3rd offense - ECAP (15 days)

BZG Any violation which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category
Disciplinary action is at the discretion of the administrator or his/her designee.

The administrator or designee may assign an alternative consequence to those listed after giving due consideration to the age and maturity of the child when exceptional or mitigating circumstances exist. Similarly, if a child commits two or more Class II offenses, then the administrator or designee may impose a more significant consequence than those listed for the individual offenses. Referrals may be combined to determine the number of offenses.

Habitual/multiple Class II offenses may result in assignment to ECAP. On the fifth Class II offense, the students may be assigned to ECAP for 15 days. The consequence for each subsequent Class II offense may result in a longer alternative placement. In addition, students who have more than 15 Class II offenses and multiple assignments to ECAP in a school year, may be recommended for expulsion or long-term ECAP (K-3).

Students may be assigned to their homes while awaiting placement in the Elmore County Alternative Program. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up academic assignments from the home school until placement date at ECAP or until assigned days are completed.

CLASS III OFFENSES

Police report may be filed (if applicable to the Alabama Criminal Code or local ordinances) and petition signed with Elmore County Judicial System for all Class III offenses depending on age and maturity of a student.

Students recommended for Class III and/or IV expulsions will be entitled to a hearing by the Elmore County Administrative Disciplinary Committee. This committee consists of Superintendent's representatives to include Director of Elementary Education, Director of Middle School Education, and/or Director of Secondary Education and two Central Office Administrators.

Please note that students found under the influence may lose privileges such as driving to school and enrollment in courses like driver's education.

CA Alcohol – Unauthorized possession, transfer, use of, and/or sale of alcohol (to include any drink mixture that includes over the counter medication and/or codeine). Before returning to base school from ECAP, a rehabilitation plan must be developed and implemented, proof of drug education/training must be a vital part of the plan. The parent/guardian is responsible for any costs incurred in the development and implementation of this plan.

K-3	1st offense – Parent conference and school-designated disciplinary action or in-school suspension (5 days) 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days) 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
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4-6:	1st offense – ECAP (60 days) 2nd offense – ECAP (90 days) 3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
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7-12:	1st offense – ECAP (60 days) 2nd offense – ECAP (90 days) 3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
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CB Arson – The willful and malicious burning and/or attempting to burn any part of Board property and/or any item on campus

K-3	1st offense – parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
	2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
	3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
4-6:	1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
7-12:	1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
CC	Robbery – The taking of money and/or other property from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault, or instilling the fear of it. Restitution will be required.
K-3	1st offense – parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
	2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
	3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
4-6:	1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
7-12:	1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
CD	Stealing – Larceny – Grand Theft –The intentional, unlawful taking and/or carrying away of property valued at \$100.00 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession of or custody of another, to include possession of stolen property valued in excess of \$100.00. Restitution will be required.
K-3	1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
	2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
	3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
4-6:	1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP (90 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
7-12:	1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
	2nd offense – ECAP (90 days)
	3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
CE	Gambling –The intentional, unlawful participation in gambling activities involving amounts of more than \$50.00. Money and gambling devices will be confiscated.
K-3:	1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
	2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)

3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days; must complete ABE program prior to release to base school.

2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)

3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)

2nd offense – ECAP (90 days)

3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CF Criminal Mischief – An intentional action resulting in injury or damages at or in excess of \$100.00 to public property, or the real or personal property of another. If a student destroys school property, the parent/guardian shall be required to pay for or replace it. This includes major incidents of computer fraud, tampering, or changing grades.

- For incidents involving computers/technology devices, computer access may be denied.
 - Student may be required to complete assignments using paper/pencil.
 - A police report may be filed.
 - Additional disciplinary action may be taken depending upon the severity of misuse.
 - Restitution must be made in full, including fines for tampering for all damages. (Contact CSFO and/or Federal Programs Director regarding damages to items purchased with Federal funds.)
-

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)

2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)

3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)

2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)

3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)

2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)

3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CG Threatening a school board employee or visitor, either directed or implied, or the property of an employee and includes intentionally bumping and/or intentionally touching a teacher or visitor.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)

2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)

3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)

2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)

- 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CH Life Threats – verbally or by written or printed communication, maliciously threatening the life or limb of another person. A Threat Assessment will be performed by administration and a Welfare Check will be requested by local law enforcement.

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- K-3 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
-

- 4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
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- 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (90 days)
3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
-

CI Directing profane, obscene language or gesture to a school board employee and/or visitor.

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- K-3 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
-

- 4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)
-

- 7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (90 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)
-

CJ Possession of Weapons – Students will not possess or conceal, or transport any weapon, realistic replica of a weapon, facsimile of a gun, firearm, air gun, pellet gun, or any instrument or device capable of firing a projectile, or other instrument that could cause or is intended to cause injury or other harm to another. Students will not misuse an otherwise non-dangerous or non-threatening object(s) in a threatening manner. (See Weapons List. Firearms as defined in the Class IV Offense section are excluded from this list.)

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- K-12 1st offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
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CK Disruptive Threats – Any such communications concerning school board property, which has the intentional effect of interrupting the educational environment, including but not limited to, bomb threats, biological threats, riot threats, or threats of group violence. Any student found to

have communicated a disruptive threat will be **prosecuted** and restitution will be sought for income lost due to the interruption of school activities.

K-3 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (one full school year)
 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (one full school year)
 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CL Sexual Misconduct – Acts of a serious sexual nature including, but not limited to, intercourse. *Treatment program may be required for re-entry to school. Any costs incurred for this program are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.*

K-3 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
 2nd offense – Recommend expulsion

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (one full school year)
 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CM Inciting and/or participating in a major student disorder and/or refusing to disperse. Leading, encouraging, or assisting in disruptions, which result in destruction or damage of private or public property; personal injury to participants or others during any school-sponsored activity. **Restitution will be required.**

K-3 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days); must complete SEL program prior to release to base school
 2nd offense – ECAP (one full calendar year)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
 2nd offense – ECAP (one full calendar year)

CN Igniting Fireworks – igniting an explosive and/or incendiary charge of less than one-quarter ounce (more than this constitutes a Class IV Weapons Offense).

	K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days) 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days) 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
	4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days); must complete SEL program prior to release to base school 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
	7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (45 days) 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing
CO	Unjustified activation of fire alarm and/or fire extinguishers, false electronic alert, making a false report to law enforcement/emergency responders, including, but not limited to calling 911, or tampering with an emergency exit on a school bus.
	K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days) 2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days) 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)
	4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (15 days) 2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
	7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days) 2nd offense – ECAP (no less than 60 days)
CP	Trespassing – Willfully entering or remaining in any structure, conveyance, or property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or having been authorized, licensed, or invited. If an individual is in a closed building the punishment will be moved to a Second Offense.
	K-3: 1st offense – Written or verbal warning 2nd offense – In-school suspension (5 days) 3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
	4-6: 1st offense – Written or verbal warning 2nd offense – ECAP (30 days) 3rd offense – ECAP (not less than 60 days)
	7-12: 1st offense – Written or verbal warning 2nd offense – ECAP (30 days) 3rd offense – ECAP (not less than 60 days)
CQ	Gang Activity – Significant evidence of gang involvement to include, but not limited to recognized attire, use of hand signals, artwork, tattoos, jewelry.
	K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days) 2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CR Aggravated Battery upon Students – intentionally hitting, striking, or any forceful blow with the intent to cause great or permanent bodily harm.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)
3rd offense – Recommend expulsion

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)
3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CS Pantsing, (de)pantsing – Also known as “dacking”, “detrousering”, “kegging”, and “flagging” that results in exposure, to include exposure of underwear. The act or practice of pulling someone’s pants down.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)

CT Indecent Exposure – The intentional act of exposing one’s body parts.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)

3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (10 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (30 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (60 days)

CU Misuse of Cellular Phone and Electronic Devices - Students are not allowed to take, show, share, and/or post pictures, audio recordings, or videos that include inappropriate pictures/video and/or could be determined as bullying another person using a cellular phone or any other electronic device (camera, smart phone, etc.) which violate the privacy rights of another individual – student, teacher, staff member, or visitor.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (3 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (5 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (10 days)

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)
3rd offense – ECAP (90 days)

CV Intentional Contact of a Board Employee by a student

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference and in-school suspension (5 days)
2nd offense – Out-of-school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense – Out-of-school suspension (5 days)

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)
3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (30 days)
2nd offense – ECAP (60 days)
3rd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CW Distribution of Explicit Images - Students are not allowed to distribute, display, solicit, possess, or produce a sexually or pornographic explicit image of any individual, including sexually explicit images of a child. This prohibition applies whether or not the image is of an identifiable person nor whether the age of the individual can be determined. This prohibition includes images of known and unknown individuals and those generated by artificial intelligence.

K-3: 1st offense – Parent conference, administrative hearing, pending ECAP placement

2nd offense – Parent conference, administrative hearing, pending ECAP placement

4-6: 1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

7-12: 1st offense – ECAP (90 days)
2nd offense – ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

CX Any violation, which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category.
Disciplinary action is at the discretion of the administrator or his/her designee.

The administrator or designee may assign an alternative consequence to those listed after giving due consideration to the age and maturity of the child when exceptional or mitigating circumstances exist.

Similarly, if a child commits two or more Class III offenses, then the administrator or designee may impose a more significant consequence than those listed for the individual offenses. Referrals may be combined to determine the number of offenses.

Habitual/multiple Class III offenses may result in a student being recommended for expulsion or long-term ECAP (K-3).

Students may be assigned to their homes while waiting placement in the Elmore County Alternative Program. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up academic assignments from the home school until placement date at ECAP or until assigned days are complete.

CLASS III WEAPONS LIST

1. Knives, including but not limited to:

Box Cutter	Keychain knife	Palm knife	Switchblade
Butterfly knife	Folding knife (>2 ½ “)	Razor blade	Swiss army knife
Carpet knife	Linoleum knife	Spring-loaded knife	Trench knife
Exacto knife	Locked-blade knife	Stiletto knife	Utility knife
Fixed-blade knife	Paint scraper	Straight razor	

2. Num-chuks, throwing stars, fighting claws, other weapons used in martial arts
3. Bicycle chain, heavy duty chain, bike sprocket, dog leashes worn as belts, wallet chains
4. Bows and arrows (unless approved as PE unit of instruction)
5. Other devices including, but not limited to

Arrow or air gun	Club	Leather strap	Spear
Baton	Crossbow	Tools	Spring billy
Blackjack	Hand ax	Mace/pepper spray (with intent)	Stun gun
Brass knuckles	Hatchet	Machete	Sword
Bullwhip	Ice pick	Nightstick	Sword cane
Bullets/ammunition	Impact baton	Skewer	Taser
Cattle prod	Kubotan	Slingshot	Tear gas
Splat gun			

6. Any other object not specifically listed which is primarily meant and adapted for attack and for the infliction of injury.

The Elmore County Board of Education adheres to the following policy:

The administrator shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when any person violates board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person. If a person is found to have violated a local board of education policy concerning sexual explicit images, drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person, the person may not be readmitted to the public schools of this state until (1) Criminal charges or offenses arise from the conduct, if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities and (2) the person has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education as a condition for readmission.

Ala. Code 13A-11-50 Carrying concealed Weapons

CLASS IV MAJOR OFFENSES

POLICE REPORT MAY BE FILED, AND PETITION MAY BE SIGNED WITH ELMORE COUNTY JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN ALL CLASS IV OFFENSES.

Students will be immediately assigned to Elmore County Alternative Program or assigned to their homes pending an expulsion hearing for all expulsion recommendations.

Students recommended for Class III and/or IV expulsions will be entitled to a hearing by the Elmore County Administrative Disciplinary Committee. This committee consists of Superintendent's representatives to include Compliance Director, Directory of Elementary Education, Director of Middle School Education, and/or Director of Secondary Education, scribe, student, parent and school administrator.

Return to school following an expulsion shall necessitate approval from the Superintendent or his designee and the school principal.

Where applicable, a person may not be readmitted to the public schools until:

Criminal charges or offenses arising from the conduct, if any, have been disposed of by the authorities, and

All other requirements imposed by the board as a condition for readmission have been met.

DA Possession of firearms - A weapon is any firearm (as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code) which will, is designed to, or may be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, the muffler or silencer of a firearm, or any other destructive device (including a starter gun, tear gas gun, or other chemical device).

K-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing and shall be referred to the justice system or the juvenile delinquency system

DB Discharge of firearm - Discharging of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, tear gas, etc.

K-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing and shall be referred to the justice system or the juvenile delinquency system

DC Explosives - Possessing, preparing, and/or igniting explosives containing a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces of an explosive or incendiary charge or more than one-quarter ounce on school board property.

K-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing and shall be referred to The justice system or the juvenile delinquency system

DD Illegal Organization - Any act by a group of students which threatens or intimidates others. This includes, but not limited to, enticing others to join a gang and physical contact.

K-3 1st offense - Parent conference and in school suspension (10 days)
2nd offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

4-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

DE Battery upon Board employees - The unlawful striking of a Board employee, and/or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a Board employee or visitor. All attacks or incidents shall be reported to the superintendent within 72 hours.

K-3 1st offense - Parent conference and in school suspension (10 days)
2nd offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

4-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

DF Burglary of school property - Entering or remaining on a campus when the premises are closed to the public with the intent to commit a crime. **Restitution must be made in full for all damages before returning to school.**

K-3 1st offense - Parent conference and in school suspension (10 days)
2nd offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

4-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

DG Malicious battery - Intentionally causing great bodily harm or disability, or permanent disfigurement to include rape or attempted rape.

K-3 1st offense - Parent conference and in school suspension (10 days)
2nd offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

4-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

DH Drugs/Chemicals - Unauthorized possession, transfer, use of, and/or sale of controlled substances to include illegal substances and prescribed substances (e.g., Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, Dexedrine, Oxycodone, any device containing any amount of THC, etc.) or to be under the influence of drugs or chemicals. Unauthorized possession of drug paraphernalia or non-controlled substances that are represented to be a controlled substance. Before returning to the base school, a rehabilitation plan must be developed and implemented, proof of drug education/training must be a vital part of the plan. The parent/guardian is responsible for any costs incurred in the development and implementation of this plan. Students may be required to have a clean test before returning to the base school. If the student distributes drugs/chemicals, consequence moves to the 2nd offense.

K-3 1st offense - Parent conference and in school suspension (10 days)
2nd offense - Out of school suspension (3 days)
3rd offense - Out of school suspension (5 days)

4-12 1st offense - ECAP (60 days)

2nd offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

DI Threatening with a weapon - Use of a weapon to threaten a student or a board employee, or a visitor on school board property or at a school sponsored event.

K-12 1st offense - ECAP placement pending administrative hearing

PROCEDURE FOR K-12 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

To maintain discipline or to enforce school rules, an administrator/designee may administer corporal punishment through reasonable use of physical force or physical contact. Corporal punishment may only replace in school suspension or a lesser consequence. It is not a substitution for placement at the Elmore County Alternative Program (ECAP).

Such punishment shall be administered under conditions which do not hold up the student to ridicule or shame and punishment should never be in the presence of other students. Before corporal punishment is administered, written permission from the parent must be on file each school year. The procedures listed below must be followed to guarantee proper and legally required due process on behalf of the students.

1. The student must have been informed previously that his/her behavior could bring about the use of corporal punishment.
2. Prior to corporal punishment, initial efforts and/or alternative methods should be taken in an attempt to modify the student's behavior.
3. The administration of corporal punishment must occur in the presence of an administrator or administrative designee in a designated place, but only after:
 - a. The other school official is informed about the reasons for punishment in the presence of the student.
 - b. The student is given the opportunity to defend his/her position and present witnesses in his/her defense.

OTHER DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Special Education Students

School personnel may remove a student for not more than 10 consecutive school days and provide no services unless services are provided to nondisabled students, following regular education guidelines. A change of placement occurs if the removal is for more than 10 consecutive school days or if the student is subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because they accumulate to more than 10 school days in a school year because factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removal to one another. A change of placement requires an IEP team to convene and follow due process.

In reviewing a pending suspension of more than 10 days of a child with a disability from the regular route school bus, the following guidelines will be used: A manifestation hearing will be conducted to determine whether the behavior on the bus is similar to behavior in a classroom that is addressed in an IEP and

whether bus behavior should be addressed in the IEP or behavioral intervention plan for the child. If the result of the manifestation review was that the behavior of the child with the disability was not a manifestation of the child's disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to children without disabilities may be applied to the child in the same way they would be applied to children without disabilities. IF the bus transportation is not part of the child's IEP, a bus suspension would not be a suspension. In those cases, the child and his/her parents would have the same obligations to get the child to and from school as a nondisabled child who has been suspended from the bus.

[Special Education Services Supp. No. 00-4, 290-8-9-.09(14)]

[Special Education Services Supp. No. 99-4, 290-8-9-.09(6)(c)]

Notification

The parents or guardians of students shall be notified of each disciplinary action by telephone or written or personal communication in a timely manner, preferably before the consequence begins. Upon request, all parents or guardians shall be furnished a written statement outlining the reasons for and circumstances surrounding any disciplinary action.

Inappropriate Disciplinary Action

The following are considered inappropriate disciplinary actions:

- Punishment of the group for the actions of a few
- Physical punishment (except as outlined previously in procedures for corporal punishment)
- Isolation of students in closets, cloakrooms, or hallways (isolation from the group will only be for the purpose of prompt and private attention to the problem).
- Verbal abuse, humiliation, and embarrassment of students by school personnel

LEGAL REFERENCE

State laws addressing violence in public schools, which passed, are as follows:

Ala. Code §16-28-40 – make provisions for the suspension of driver's license for persons under the age of 19 who are convicted of the possession of a pistol on school premises.

Ala. Code §16-28A-3 – requires local boards of education to develop and distribute school behavior policies to parents.

Ala. Code §16-28-40 – provides for a Class C felony charge against certain persons in possession of a weapon while on the premises of a public school

Ala. Code §16-1-24.1 – makes parents liable for damages to school property caused by children less than 18 years of age.

Ala. Code §6-5-72 – subjects a person who unlawfully sells or furnishes a controlled substance to minors to civil liability.

Ala. Code §6-5-72 – requires local boards of education to establish disciplinary school programs for disruptive students.

Ala. Code §16-1-24.1 – provides further discipline in the schools and the establishment of school discipline plans.

Ala. Code §16-1-14 – requires local boards of education to promulgate rules and regulations concerning behavior and discipline.

Ala. Code §13-A-6-21 – makes is a felony to assault teachers or employees of public education institutions or peace officers.

Ala. Code §16-28B-1 – Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act which requires boards to facilitate complaints and resolutions of bullying.

Ala. Code §16-1-51.1 – Annalyn's Law which requires schools to supervise students designated as low

risk juvenile sex offenders.

**Elmore County
Public School System**

**Mr. Richard Dennis
Superintendent of Education**

Mr. David Jones
Board of Education Chairman

Mr. Michael Morgan
Board of Education Vice-Chairman

Ms. Leisa Finley

Mr. Brian Ward

Mr. Jason Lett

Mr. Wendell Saxon

Mr. Bill Myers