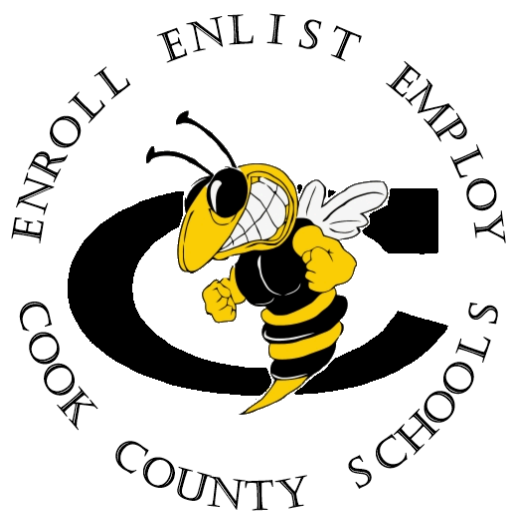


COOK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK



2026-2027

Vision

All students will succeed through *enrollment* in higher education, *enlistment* in the military, or *employment* in the workforce.

Mission

To empower and inspire all learners to achieve

Beliefs

Cultivate a safe and positive environment.

Optimize creativity and learning.

Offer support through family and community partnership

Kindle challenging opportunities

TABLE OF CONTENTS					
General Information		Advanced Placement Courses (AP)		Internet Policy	39
Welcome	1	Dual Enrollment Courses	17	Odor of Marijuana/Illegal Substances	39
Alma Mater	2	Transcripts	18	Off Campus Behavior	39
School Calendar	3	Late Policy	18	Pep Rally Expectations	40
CHS Directory	4	Make up Work	18	Restrooms	40
Bell Schedule	6	Online Options	18	Tardy Violations	40
Automated Phone System	7	Student Support Services		Unauthorized Area	40
Lockers	7	Guidance	18	Use of Automobiles	40
School Hours, Arrival, & Dismissal	7	Clinic	19	Alternative School	41
Weapons Detection	7	Medication	19	After School Departure	41
School Website	7	Media Center	19	Discipline Plan	42
Student ID Card Policy	8	Resource Officer	19	Definitions	55
Telephone Calls	8	Emergency Drills	20	Bus Transportation Handbook	56
Transportation	8	Security & Theft	20	Bully Policy	57
Visitors	8	College, Technical, & Military Representatives	20	Parent Notification Letter	59
Attendance		Homebound Services	20	FERPA Rights	60
Enrollment	8	College Visitations	20	504 Rights	62
Attendance Policy	9	Food & Nutrition	20	Vaping Policy	63
		Lost Articles	20	Nondiscrimination Statement	65
School-Related Absences	9	Tutoring	21	Title IX Information	66
		Student Activities		Cook County MTSS	67
Notification of Absence	9	Calendar of Events	21	Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine	74
Notice of Non-credit for Class	9	Volunteer Service Learning	21	Water Safety	75
Check in to School	10	Athletic Requirements	21	Handbook Notification	76
Check out of School	10	Eligibility	23	Signature Page	77
Tardies	10	Gender Equity	24		
Truancy	10	Fundraising	24		
Withdrawing from School	10	Homecoming	24		
Participation in Extracurricular Activities	11	Prom	24		
Perfect Attendance	11	Student Organizations	25		
Academics		Student Code of Conduct & Behavior Expectations			
Promotion & Retention	11	Student Code of Conduct	33		
Grading Scale	11	Authority of the Principal	34		
Weighted Grades	11	Parental Responsibility	34		
Grade Reporting	11	Teacher Authority	34		
Schedule Changes	12	Search and Seizure	35		
Parent Conferences	12	Assembly Expectations	35		
Textbooks	12	Book Bags	35		
Requirements for Graduation	12	Cell Phone / Electronic Devices	36		
Local Graduation Policies	13	Courtesy	37		
Examinations	14	Debt Obligations /Financial	37		
Exemptions	14	Dress Code	37		
Academic Awards and Honors	15	Hall Passes	39		

Cook County Board of Education

Superintendent of Schools, Joy Folsom

Chad Sumner, Chairman
Brenda Moore, Vice Chairman
Sharon Locklear
Corkey Taylor
Jeff Taylor

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. We are extremely excited about the upcoming school year. To help ensure student success, it is important that parents and students understand school policies and procedures, as well as academic and behavioral expectations.

Everyone associated with the Cook County School system is dedicated to providing a safe, orderly, productive learning environment for students. We ask that you carefully read and discuss the information contained in the Student Handbook with your child, particularly the *Attendance Policy, Academic Information, and Expectations of Students*. The student handbook is an effective communication tool and is located on the Cook High School website for your convenience.

Parents/Guardians and students are also asked to read and sign the “Cook County Signature Page” and return it to school. This form is kept on file and will ensure your child is provided access to district computer resources, as long as he/she complies with appropriate use.

In compliance with state requirements, parents/guardians are also asked to complete and sign the “School-Sponsored Club Participation Permission Form” and return it to school. All participants of extracurricular activities are subject to random drug testing.

Thank you in advance for reviewing this important document with your child and for returning the following: “Student Network/Internet User Agreement and Parent Permission Form,” and the “School-Sponsored Club Participation Permission Form”.

COOK HIGH SCHOOL

Main Office - (229) 896-2213
Fax - (229) 896-3423
9900 Hwy 37
Adel, GA 31620

Alma Mater

*To Cook High we'll ere be faithful; Thy ideals uphold. Ere be true and loyal
lovers Of the Black and Gold. Hail, oh hail, our Alma Mater; Dearest ever
known. We will hail thee; never fail thee, Our dear high school home.*



School Colors - Black & Gold

School Mascot – Hornet

2026-2027 School Calendar

SEMESTER 1

Pre-Planning	July 28 - August 4
First Day of School	August 5
Open House	August 3
September Holiday	September 7
In-Service for Teachers	September 8
Senior Cap and Gown Assembly	September 2 (9:15)
Senior Product Ordering	September 9 (Lunches)
Sophomore Ring Assembly	September 2 (10:00)
Sophomore Ring Ordering	September 9 (Lunches)
Fall Break	October 9-12
In-Service for Teachers	October 13
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 23 - 27
End of Semester for Students	December 17
In-Service for Teachers	December 18
Christmas Holidays for Students	December 21 - January 1

SEMESTER 2

Teachers Return/In-Service	January 4 & 5
Open House	January 5
Students Return	January 6
January Holiday	January 18
Winter Break	February 15
In-Service for Teachers	February 16
Cap & Gown/Senior Product Delivery/FINAL	March 1 (Lunches)
March Holiday	March 15
In-Service for Teachers	March 16
Spring Break	March 29 - April 2
Graduation	May 20
Last Day of School	May 20 (1/2 day) Full Day for Teachers
Post Planning	May 21 and 24 - 25
Summer School	TBD

2026-2027 Cook High School Directory

ADMINISTRATION	
Principal Assistant Principal Assistant Principal Athletic Director	Dr. Joi Williams Dr. Jake Mobley Mrs. Paula Simmons Mr. Paul Dobson

GUIDANCE/STUDENT SERVICES	
Guidance Counselor Guidance Counselor Graduation Coach Instructional Coach District Social Worker School Nurse Media Specialist ISS Specialist Special Ed Coordinator Technology Specialist	Mrs. Brittney Allen Mr. Blake Suggs Mrs. Lisa Heard Mrs. Jessi Beale Mrs. Shari Breeden Mrs. Allison Edwards Ms. Allison Tolman Mr. Jarell Jones Mrs. Jodi Robbins Mr. Zack Weeks

OFFICE STAFF	
Bookkeeper Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant Athletic Admin. Assistant Registrar/Dual Enrollment Coordinator	Mrs. Tanya Cone Mrs. Samona Durr Mrs. Chris Harris Ms. Gwen Pierce Mrs. Sonja Inman Ms. Lauren Spires

FACULTY			
<u>English Dept.</u> * Jill Swanson Tetyana Ard Melissa Calkins Tonya Gregory Shelli Phillips Phillip Walker	<u>Social Studies Dept.</u> *Chris May Zach Folsom Kyle Hanson Laura Howard Marie Joiner Jason Owen	<u>Math Dept.</u> *Thalia Elliott Courtney Beaver Destiney Birdine Tya Brown Kevin Norman Tori O'Dowd Rhonda Reynolds	<u>Science Dept</u> *Tabitha Jenkins Buck Carter Bill Durrance Heather Dykes Debbie Kelley Michael Novack
<u>Physical Education</u> *Clemmie Foster Rusty Beale (Credit Recov./PE) Cornelius Brown Gunner George (Driver's Ed) Dustin Larkin Alex Martin Clifford Pettiford	<u>CTAE Dept.</u> * Constance Thomas Josh Bryan Lori Carter Jennifer Copeland Ren Hester Ty McDowell Jenny Pitts Justin Watson Hope Weaver Brandon White Richard Herrin-CTAE Director	<u>Fine Arts</u> *Jacob Fortner Elizabeth Powell Harlee Bell Ruthanna Wickham <u>Foreign Language</u> Cesar Garcia Heather Morris <u>ESOL</u> Anabeliz Melendez	<u>Special Education</u> Becky Futch Karen Loreda-Matta Mychal Riley Marlette Adrienne Swearingen Kelly Taylor Tammy Walker Joanne Warren Ronard White Abigail White Will Wilson

*Department Chair

PARAPROFESSIONALS				
	Emily Holton	Kay Leverette	Ellar Simmons	

SCHOOL STAFF			
<u>Cafeteria</u> *Lisa Merine Ellie Cain Mitty Jones Gloria Knighton Cassandra McDonald Cheryl Miley Alice Turner *Cafeteria Manager	<u>Custodial</u> Melissa Atkins Maxine Cross Toni Cross Cheryll Dozier Jessica Espinoza Vivian Logan Sabrina Newsome Ben Freeman (Maintenance) Ricky Sumner (Maintenance) George Turner (Maintenance)	<u>Student Resource Officers</u> Leah Morris Telly Williams	

Daily Schedule

2025-2026 BELL SCHEDULE	
1st Block	8:05 - 9:38
2nd Block	9:44 - 11:17
3rd Block	11:23 - 1:26
1st Lunch	11:17 - 11:42
2nd Lunch	11:50 - 12:15
3rd Lunch	12:23 - 12:48
4th Lunch	12:58 - 1:26
4th Block	1:32 - 3:05

Advisement Schedule - Wednesdays

2025-2026 BELL SCHEDULE	
1st Block	8:05 - 9:29
Advisement	9:35- 10:05
2nd Block	10:11 - 11:35
3rd Block	11:41 - 1:35
1st Lunch	11:35 - 12:00
2nd Lunch	12:05 - 12:30
3rd Lunch	12:35 - 1:00
4th Lunch	1:10 - 1:35
4th Block	1:41 - 3:05

Amendments

During the school year it may become necessary to change or add to the policies, rules, and regulations found in this handbook. The principal, the superintendent, and the board of education, or their designee reserve the right to amend or modify the policies, rules, and regulations at any time.

If situations occur which are not covered in this handbook, the principal will make decisions based on the merits of the individual situation. The primary purpose of these policies, rules, and regulations is to foster a safe atmosphere conducive to learning and to increase student responsibility at Cook High School.

Automated Phone System

Cook High School is equipped with an automated phone system that can call all contacts in the database simultaneously. This system is an extremely effective way to communicate with the community after hours for reminders of events, school cancellations for weather, etc. The system will be used in the event of an actual emergency which involves the school or its students. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS KEEP ALL PHONE NUMBERS CURRENT IN ORDER FOR THIS SYSTEM TO WORK EFFECTIVELY.**

Lockers

Lockers may be rented for a fee of \$10.00 per year. Our lockers are much larger and are an excellent place to secure books and valuables. Please see Mrs. Durr in the Front Office. Lockers will be issued on a "first come" basis. **Lockers are not to be shared.**

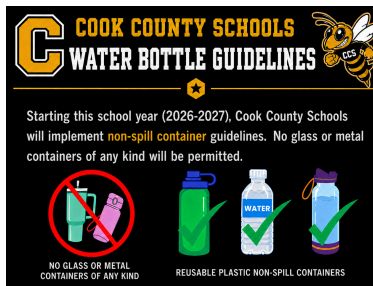
School Hours, Arrival, and Dismissal

The school day begins at 8:05 a.m. Students not in class at the 8:05 a.m. bell will be marked tardy. Students may begin entering the building at 7:35 a.m. Grab & Go breakfast will be provided in the cafeteria. Upon arrival, students are to report directly to their first period classroom. School is dismissed at 3:05 p.m. All students must leave campus by 3:15 p.m. unless they are involved in a school-sponsored activity under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or administrator. The CHS office is open from 7:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our phone number is (229) 896-2213. The building will be locked at 3:30 p.m. each day.

Weapons Detection Systems

CHS students are required to pass through the weapons detection system upon entering the building. These items will not be permitted: eyelash curlers, any type of spray cans (including spray deodorant), trapper keepers, binders with metal spines and rings, metal tins, metal bottles and glass bottles.

Students may bring plastic non-spill containers.



School Website

The official school website is <http://chs.cook.k12.ga.us>. A variety of parent resources can be accessed via the school website. Parents can follow links to view student grades using PowerSchool Parent. Username and

password information will be sent home.

Student ID Card Policy

To provide safety and security in the school, all students and staff are issued picture ID cards. These cards are required for participation in multiple school activities, therefore must be in student's possession at all times and must be produced upon request. It is a violation of school policy to be in possession of someone else's ID, to lend an ID to another student, to alter an ID, or to duplicate an ID.

Procedural details for students

- All lost and found IDs should be turned in to the main office.
- The ID computer and printer will be located in the Media Center and IDs will be made there during the school day.
- All students will receive a financial obligation of \$5.00 for each replacement ID.

Telephone Calls

Students and teachers will not be called to the phone unless there is a dire emergency. **Office personnel will make the determination as to what constitutes an emergency.** Messages will not be delivered from businesses or employers to students. Students and parents should make arrangements for transportation prior to leaving home in the morning. Students should not call home when they are sent to the office. Administrators will investigate and call if necessary.

- **In the case of illness, emergency, etc., see an administrative assistant in the Front Office, and they will place the call for the student.**

Transportation

The school district provides free transportation to and from school for students living in Cook County. Once a student boards the bus, he/she becomes the responsibility of the school district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day. All students using bus transportation must abide by the rules which are established to ensure the safety of all passengers.

Visitors

All visitors are required to report directly to the Front Office and pass through a weapons detection system when entering the main building. Visitors are not to accompany a student to class. Parents/Guardians may visit a classroom with advanced permission from an administrator only. Visitors must have a physical ID. Digital IDs will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE

Cook High School believes that regular and punctual school attendance is crucial for a student's academic success. All students are required to attend school every day of the school year. Parents are responsible for their child's daily school attendance.

Enrollment

The school must have current phone numbers on hand at all times where parents and guardians may be reached during school hours. If your child should become ill or injured while at school, office personnel must have a way to contact you. Parents must notify the school immediately of a change in address, telephone number, place of employment, or daycare. It is vital that the school always has an emergency contact number

on file. If there are any special circumstances that affect your child, such as legal documentation, custody arrangements, etc. be sure to notify the school office.

Students attending Cook High School must meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Live with parents or guardians who are residents of Cook County.
- Be placed by an authorized agency into a foster home within Cook County.
- Be enrolled as a student under either of the first two categories at the beginning of the school term during which the parents or guardian move to another school system. Under this category, the student may request a waiver to complete the present school year, only as long as the student maintains exemplary attendance and behavior.
- Any out-of-system student must be eligible to attend school in his or her home system at the time of application to Cook High School.
- Students transferring to CHS who meet the above enrollment requirements will begin classes when necessary records have been received to appropriately schedule the student.

Attendance Policy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/134jseqoLcf_NefuD_oqrgE4Br6pqbhPO/view?usp=drive_link

School-Related Absence

Students will be allowed no more than five (5) days of absence per term for school-sponsored non-instructional activities, with the exception of absences required due to state and/or national competitions approved by the Cook County Board of Education. It is the student's responsibility to request, through the principal, that the Board of Education approve school related absences in excess of five.

Students must make prior arrangements to make up all work that will be missed. Students must have prior approval from all of their teachers to be absent from classes for these activities. Non-approval may only be given if the student has had in excess of 5 days absence for school-sponsored non-instructional activities. Students should have all teachers complete a gold slip prior to having their parent/guardian sign the slip. Gold slips will be used to document a school-related absence. All gold slips are to be returned to the teacher/sponsor, not to the front office.

Notification of Absence

- An automated notification will be sent out daily at the end of the first block if your child is not in class.
- If a student has a serious medical or legal problem, the student's parent/guardian should notify an administrator and the student's counselor. In the event of prolonged illness, the services of the homebound teacher should be requested.
 - ***Students who miss more than 20 minutes of a class period will be counted absent for that class.***

Notice of Non-Credit for a Class:

Students in grades 9-12 who have accumulated more than five (5) unexcused absences, may not receive credit for that class. After the fifth (5th) unexcused absence in a class during a term, the student shall have a letter of non-credit mailed to his/her parents/legal guardians from the school. Failure to receive these written notices in no manner absolves the parents/legal guardians of the responsibility in complying with all system/school attendance policies. Documentation for all absences should be submitted. This does not include absences due to school-related non-instructional activities.

Checking in To School

Any student who arrives on campus after **8:05** a.m. must sign in with the front office. Failure to follow the proper procedure will be considered disregard of directions. Any student who is on school property but is not in his or her assigned classroom or other authorized area following the bell will be considered tardy to school. Students with chronic tardiness to school will be referred to the school social worker and/or an administrator for appropriate action and/or discipline.

Checking Out of School

Once a student arrives on campus he/she is not permitted to leave campus at any time during the school day without permission from the school office. Checkouts will be made in the office. **Failure to follow the proper procedure will be considered truancy/AWOL.**

- **Excused:** Early checkouts for emergency, illness, or other reasons that the Principal deems necessary or reasonable. Documentation is required to excuse an early dismissal. Any checkout prior to 2:45 is considered an early checkout. Records will be kept at each school to document the number of days a student misses due to early checkouts.
- **Unexcused:** Early checkouts for reasons other than those approved by the Principal. Excessive incidents of unexcused early checkout may result in disciplinary action or referral to the SST as the Principal deems necessary. Any checkout prior to 2:45 is considered an early checkout.

Checkout will be by:

- Parent, guardian, or person designated in the student information system (PowerSchool). A physical ID is required to check-out a Cook High School student. Digital IDs will not be accepted.
 - **Students are not allowed to be checked out via phone calls.**
- School-related functions will be handled by the faculty advisor.

Tardies

- Definition of Terms
- **Tardy to School:** Any student arriving at school following the ringing bell, chime, or other audible signal established by the Principal and intended to indicate the start of the school day. Any student who is on school property but is not in his or her assigned classroom or other authorized area following the bell, chime, or other audible signal will be considered tardy to school.
- **Tardy to Class:** A student is “tardy to class” when he/she arrives to class following the ringing bell, chime or other audible signal indicating the beginning of instructional time.
- **Behavior Support Team (BAT):** An interdisciplinary group that uses a systematic process to address learning, behavior, and/or attendance problems of K-12 students in a school.

Truant Students

Definition of Terms

- **Truant:** Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences.
- **Exception for Suspension:** School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.

Withdrawing from School

Keeping students in high school through graduation is an important national educational goal. Young adults

who fail to complete high school place themselves in a precarious economic position, facing a bleak economic and social future. Specific procedures must be followed by students between the ages of 16-18 who wish to drop out of Cook High School. The student and a parent/guardian must meet with the school principal or his designee to participate in a student withdrawal exit conference and each must sign a “Notice of Intent to Terminate School Enrollment” form. Only by following these procedures will a student be permitted to drop-out of school. It is our goal to encourage students to reconsider such a decision, and instead to continue working to earn their high school diploma. Students transferring to another school should report to the Counseling Center with their parent/guardian to obtain a withdrawal form and instructions. All textbooks must be returned to teachers and all obligations must be paid before a withdrawal from Cook High School is issued.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

To participate in any extracurricular activities, a student must be present a minimum of half the school day (two periods), with an excuse note for the other half of the day. Students with an unexcused absence from school are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities that same day. Friday absences will preclude activity participation all weekend.

Perfect Attendance

Any student who misses more than 20 minutes of a class period is considered absent for calculation of perfect attendance.

ACADEMICS

Promotion & Retention

Promotion is based on the number of units for which a student has earned credit toward graduation. Students must earn a B or higher in an honors class to progress to the next honors course in that content area.

Grading Scale

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 F=69 and below

Weighted Grades

The efforts of students taking our most rigorous courses are acknowledged by more weight being given to honors level, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement courses. Only Courses listed in the Georgia Futures Rigor Course List and taken at the Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, or honors level, qualify for weighted credit. Any dual enrollment course not listed in the Georgia Futures Rigor Course List that has a final grade below 70 will not receive high school credit. The following point system will be applied for these grades:

- Grades for honors level classes will be increased by 3 points each nine weeks.
- Grades for Dual Enrollment courses will be increased by 4 points each nine weeks.
- Grades for Advanced Placement courses will be increased by 5 points each nine weeks.
- Grade caps are as follows:
 - Non-Advanced classes - 100
 - Honors - 103
 - Dual Enrollment - 104
 - Advanced Placement - 105

Grade Reporting

Report cards and progress reports will be sent out via student to parents. This information is also accessible on PowerSchool. Using PowerSchool, parents may view their student’s progress with their personal login and

password. Contact the guidance office for assistance. Parents should consult the school calendar and to see the report card/progress report dates. Please call the school for a conference as needed.

Schedule Changes

All schedule changes will be made by a counselor with the principal's permission. **Schedule changes will not be made after the first three days of the semester.** If there is a problem with a student's schedule, concerns should be directed to the counselor responsible for the grade level. No changes will be made without a valid reason.

Parent Conferences

A student's progress at Cook High School is very important to faculty and staff. Teachers, counselors and administrators are available for parent conferences. Conferences during a planning block or after school may be arranged by contacting teachers, via phone or email. Teachers may also telephone parents to arrange a conference, when they feel it is necessary.

Textbooks

Textbooks are provided by the State of Georgia and the Cook County Board of Education. Textbooks are very expensive and are expected to be used from five (5) to seven (7) years. Teachers are required to keep a textbook inventory. **Students who damage or lose textbooks are required to pay for a replacement. The student assumes responsibility for textbooks at the time of issuance. Cook County Schools are not responsible for lost or stolen textbooks.**

Requirements for Graduation

To receive a General Diploma, students must meet diploma requirements in two areas: ***Courses, and Credits.***

- **Courses:** students must complete specific course requirements as outlined by the graduation rule and local requirements.
- **Credits:** students must earn 24 units as a minimum requirement.
 - The Essentials of Healthcare course has embedded standards for Human Anatomy. Students who earn credit in Essentials of Healthcare will also earn a credit for Human Anatomy. Prerequisite courses for all CTAE Science courses still apply.

AREAS OF STUDY	Units Required
English/Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Social Studies	4
CTAE and/or Foreign Language and/or Fine Arts	3
Health and Personal Fitness	1
Electives	4
TOTAL UNITS	24

General Local Graduation Policies

- A student will be placed in regular, advanced, and support courses beginning in the ninth grade based upon standardized, criterion-referenced, and formative assessment data; grades; achievement; other evidence of mastery of the Georgia Performance Standards; **and teacher/guidance recommendations.**
- **Students must be enrolled a minimum of seven (7) semesters during the regular school terms** to be considered a candidate for graduation.
- **To be eligible for participation in graduation ceremonies, students must have completed all requirements for a General or Special Education diploma.**
- Beginning with the class of 2022 all students must complete a Pathway. A pathway is three focused courses in either CTAE, Fine Arts, Foreign language, or Advanced Academics.
- Senior students that are expelled from Cook High School and enrolled at the Cook Performance Learning Center, due to disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.
Also, any student graduating early from an alternative setting is not allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.
- Special Education students and their parents will need to meet with the specific case manager to discuss diploma options during the first semester of the student's senior year.
- Starting with 2023 graduates, High school courses taken in the 8th grade will count towards students' HS GPA but will not count towards their Hope GPA.

Early Graduation

- Students may apply for early graduation if they have completed all graduation requirements after seven (7) semesters (December of their senior year). This is done through the counseling center and must be approved by the principal.
- Once a student has been approved, they must meet all graduation requirements. Upon meeting these requirements, the student will be marked as graduated in PowerSchool after the semester.
- After graduation, students may not participate in extracurricular activities or clubs (unless invited as a guest). December graduates may participate in prom, grad bash, senior walk and graduation. Competition events are for currently enrolled CHS students. Additionally, the student will not be eligible for consideration for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Third Honor Graduate, or Top Ten for their senior year.

Graduation:

Graduation will be Thursday, May 20, 2027 at 7:30 p.m.

- **To participate in the graduation exercise, a student must qualify for a General or Special Education Diploma and meet all graduation, attendance and all state assessment requirements.**
 - Seniors are required to wear caps and gowns to participate in the graduation exercise. If you have a financial problem, please see the principal.
 - Graduation invitations and other graduation items may be purchased through Herff Jones. The Herff Jones representative will be present on campus several times during the school year. The school is not responsible for the selling, buying, delivery, quality, etc. of these items. The school will assist a student in resolving any problems which may occur, but the school is not responsible for any aspect of the transaction.

Graduation practice - Wednesday, May 19, 2027

Examinations

End of Course Exams, and classroom final exams are scheduled on the school calendar. These are set to prevent students from having too many exams in one day. Students are to remain in the testing period the entire time. **Testing periods will not be interrupted for check-outs.**

- **Term Exam Dates**

- o First Term Finals Dec. 15-16, 2026
 - Makeup on Dec. 17 Grades 9-12
- o Second Term Finals May 17-18, 2027
 - Makeups on May 19 Grades 9-11

Exemptions

All students are expected to take all EOC's.

- **“Testing Out” to Receive Course Credit Using the End of Course Tests (EOC)** Under the provisions of the amended rule and guidelines published by the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE), local boards of education shall award course credit to students who reach the performance level of Exceeds on an EOC taken prior to taking the course. For example, a student may attempt the Biology EOC prior to taking the course. If the student reaches the performance level of Exceeds, the local board of education shall award the student the Biology course credit. A student may test-out of any course that has an associated EOC. Students may earn no more than three units of credit by demonstrating subject area competency in this fashion. For any questions please consult with the guidance office. Rule 160-5-1-.15
 - *Cook High School will be charged for students who **fail** to achieve the Exceeds performance level. This charge will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the student testing. The established fee is currently \$50.00 per test.*
 - *CLEP/Testing Out – Students must be recommended by a teacher in the specific academic area. Testing out of an academic course must be done within the first 5 days of the current semester. A student must earn a 90 or better on the comprehensive final exam.*

Final Exam Exemption Criteria

As a reward for excellent attendance and academic performance, students may be exempt from non-Georgia Milestone tests. Any student exempted from the final exam may elect to take the final exam to improve his/her grade. With this choice, a student's semester average may only be increased by the examination grade and may not be reduced by the examination grade. Non-exempt students must attend every class for which an exemption is not earned. Students are eligible for exemption from exams in any non-Milestone tested course based on the criteria below.

1. Attendance and Discipline Requirements Per Class:
 - a. Course average of ninety (90) or above, no more than Three (3) absences, or
 - b. Course average of eighty (80) or above, no more than One (1) absences,
2. All absences, with the exception of official school business, approved college visit days, death in the family, and religious days, will count (medical, excused, unexcused, ISS and OSS).
3. Students may have three college visits in their junior year and three in their senior year with two-week prior approval of their principal and a letter from the college or university verifying the visit. These absences for approved college visits do not affect exemption for semester exams.

4. Three (3) tardies in a class during the semester counts as one (1) absence for exemption purposes.
5. To be eligible for exemption, a student may not have a discipline referral in that semester from the class of exemption. A discipline referral is any offense other than a tardy to class.
6. The student must be clear of all fees and fines.
7. Any student found to have cheated, based on clear and compelling evidence, will not be eligible for an exemption in that class.
8. Courses taught through computer-assisted or online instruction are not eligible for semester exams exemption.

Appeals regarding the loss of exemption eligibility must be submitted in writing to the school principal for consideration for a waiver to these criteria. Decisions regarding waivers and exam exemptions may not be appealed beyond the campus principal.

Academic Awards and Honors

Valedictorian and Salutatorian: To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors a student must enroll no later than the first day of school of the senior year (12th grade) and must meet all graduation requirements for a General Diploma.

- The **valedictorian** shall be the senior student who has taken courses that qualify for superior honor graduate status and has earned the highest core academic grade average in the class.
- The **salutatorian** shall be the senior student who has taken courses that qualify for honor graduate or higher status and has earned the second highest core academic grade average in the class.
- The **third honor** graduate shall be the senior student who has taken courses that qualify for honor graduate or higher status and has earned the third highest core academic grade average in the class.
 - o **The valedictorian, salutatorian and third honor graduate will be determined on the last day of the third nine week grading period. The cutoff for computing final averages will be at 10:00 A.M. on that morning. NO GRADES may be entered after 10:00 A.M. on this day for computing final averages.**
 - o If two or more students earn identical core academic grade averages, valedictorian or salutatorian honors will be determined based on the following criteria:
 - Rigor of classes accumulated during the student's high school career.
 - The efforts of students taking our most rigorous courses are acknowledged by more weight being given to honors level and Advanced Placement courses. The point system below is used for weighting purposes:
 - Grades for honors level classes will be increased by **3 points**
 - Grades for Dual Enrollment (will be Georgia Futures classes only) classes will be increased by **4 points**.
 - Grades for Advanced Placement courses will be increased by **5 points**.
- Students with alternative curriculum, (remedial, or Access level) are not eligible.

Honor Roll

The student has no grade less than 80 for the semester grading period and has an overall average of 90 or above.

Honor Graduates

Honor graduate - Any senior who has met local and state graduation requirements and has maintained a cumulative average of 90 or above for the four years of high school, has satisfied the GPA requirement for Honor Graduate recognition.

- In computing the numerical average for academic standing, grades received in those courses which are remedial or taken at the Access level will not be included.
- Honor Graduate averages must be maintained for the remainder of the year to retain Honor Graduate Status.

Superior Honor Graduates - Any senior who has met local and state graduation requirements, has maintained a cumulative average of 95 or above for the four years of high school, and completes at least one Advanced Academic Pathway (see requirements below) as outlined in the High School College and Career Ready Performance Index, will be recognized as a Superior Honor Graduate.

- Superior Honor Graduate averages must be maintained for the remainder of the year to retain Superior Honor Graduate Status.
- o **Honor graduate and Superior Honor Graduate status will be determined on the last day of the third nine week grading period in March. The cutoff for computing final averages will be at 10:00 A.M. on that morning. NO GRADES may be entered after 10:00 A.M. on this day for computing final averages.**
 - Students will be selected, according to this set of criteria. The principal reserves the right to make final judgments as needed.
 - Students with alternative curriculum, (remedial or Access level) are not eligible.

Advanced Academic Pathway

Advanced Academic Pathway Requirements: Earn four credits in one academic subject area; One of those credits must be an AP course or a DE course; Plus two credits of Foreign Language.

Top Ten Criteria

- Top Ten Criteria is based upon the grading period of the current scholastic school year. It is not cumulative.
- A minimum of ten (10) students per grade will be recognized, regardless of averages.
 - o Where there is a tie (dead even) for tenth place in a grade, the number of students tied will be named.
- Students in grade 12 must be enrolled in eight (8) courses. Of these eight (8) courses, a minimum of four (4) must be academic courses.
 - o **Exceptions:** A Work Based Learning (WBL) student must have three (3) academic courses per year.
- Students in grades 9-11 must be enrolled in eight (8) courses per year. Of these eight (8) courses, a minimum of four (4) must be academic courses.
- A student must be enrolled at CHS at least three (3) consecutive grading periods prior to selection of award winners.
- Selection of participants will be determined by the first three (3) nine weeks' grading periods and the semester exams.
- More than one (1) P.E. per semester will result in the highest average only being used in overall average, provided all other standards are met.
- Cook High School defines an academic course as a required **core** course as defined in the SBOE Rule 160-4-2-20. List of State Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses for Students entering 9th grade in 2008

and Subsequent Years.

- Students with alternative curriculum, (remedial, or Access level) are not eligible.

National Merit Program

Students are identified for this scholarship program by high scores on the PSAT test during October of their junior year only. No other test administration can qualify students for this program.

STAR Student

This award goes each year to one senior student based on the highest SAT score and a GPA average that is in the top 10% of the class. The school winner goes on to compete in district and possible state STAR student programs. The school winner selects a teacher who is awarded the STAR teacher title. Students interested in being considered for STAR student should have their SAT results sent to Cook High School.

Scholastic Jackets

- Scholastic jackets are awarded to seniors who have a cumulative average of 90 or above through the 1st semester of their senior year.
- Students with alternative curriculum, (remedial or Access level) are not eligible.

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

Created by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and **course** credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. Due to the rising costs of tests, students that are taking AP courses may be required to help pay for these tests (up to 50%).

Dual Enrollment Courses

Dual Enrollment is a program for students in grades 10-12 who qualify based on the guidelines set by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the college of their choice. Students may enroll on a part-time or full-time basis (up to 15 total semester hours/12 quarter hours per institution) as a Dual Enrollment student and take college courses. Students will receive high school and college credits simultaneously when attempting and passing **approved** college courses.

College courses must be selected from the approved Dual Enrollment Course Directory list that can be found on the GSFC website. It is the student's and guardian's responsibility to be aware of Dual Enrollment deadlines (high school and postsecondary institution). In order to participate students must meet all dual requirements of the Dual Enrollment program, local system, GADOE, and the postsecondary institution.

The Dual Enrollment program is available for all three college terms for semester schedules, or four out of the five quarters for quarter schedules. The program provides assistance to cover all postsecondary tuition fees, mandatory fees, and book costs. In some cases, students may be charged or be expected to purchase course-related fees, supplies or equipment. Dual Enrollment courses do not count against any maximum hourly caps for the HOPE scholarships.

Students and guardians should schedule a HELP session with their high school Dual Enrollment coordinator prior to the high school's participation deadline.

Four additional points will be added to the final high school grade for all core courses taken through the off campus Dual Enrollment program. Four additional points will be added to each nine weeks average if the

Dual Enrollment core course is taken at Cook High. This includes all courses beginning with a course number of 23, 27, 26, 45, or 60.

If a student chooses to withdraw from their college course they must immediately let the Dual Enrollment coordinator and the college's Dual Enrollment liaison know. The student will be awarded a "Z" grade at the high school for the withdrawn course. The student may be required to enroll in an online course or elective course at the high school to fulfill the credit requirement of the withdrawn course. If the student drops the class before the colleges drop/add date their College GPA will not be affected. If they drop a course after the drop/add date their College GPA can be negatively affected. It is the student's responsibility to know their colleges drop/add date.

Dual enrollment courses that are self-paid (not funded through the Dual Enrollment program), will be included in the student's high school GPA calculation and will appear on the student's schedule and official transcript.

Transcripts

Transcripts are mailed to schools and with scholarship applications upon request to the guidance secretary. Final transcripts are mailed when the final transcript request form is completed. Once a student graduates, a fee of \$5.00 is charged for subsequent copies to defray copying and mailing expenses.

Late Work Policy

The policy that will be followed by all classes at Cook High School for turning in late assignments will be as follows:

- A. Assignments turned in **one** day late will be reduced by **ten (10)** points.
- B. Assignments turned in **two** days late will be reduced by **twenty (20)** points.
- C. Assignments turned in **three** days late will be reduced by **thirty (30)** points.
 - a. After a three (3) day period, the teacher is allowed to give the student a Zero (0). If the teacher chooses to allow the student to turn in assignments beyond the three-day period, this is done so at the sole discretion of the individual teacher.
- D. Students in Advanced, Honors, and/or Accelerated classes have the opportunity to turn in work one day late with a twenty (20) point deduction. After this, the teacher may give a zero for the assignment.

Make up Work

- Daily access to teacher instruction and assignments are housed in the Google Classroom. It is the student's responsibility to access the classroom and make-up work. STUDENTS PRESENTING MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ABSENCE HAVE THE AMOUNT OF DAYS OF ABSENCE TO TURN IN MAKE UP WORK BEFORE IT IS CONSIDERED LATE (**See late work policy**).
- If a student is suspended, it is his/her responsibility to stay current with any assignments, homework, class work, labs or tests given during the student's suspension.

Online Options

Senate Bill 289 allows students the opportunity to take online courses. House Bill 175 establishes a clearinghouse for stakeholders to find online courses and online course providers in the state of Georgia. For more information contact your counselor.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Guidance and Counseling

The purpose of the Guidance Program at Cook High School is to help all students make the most of their

abilities, interests and opportunities. Many problems concerning both school and personal life can be helped by talking to a trained person. CHS guidance counselors will be available to counsel with all students. Counselors are happy to consult with students or parents. Conferences with students receive first priority and are scheduled when necessary. Counselors are available from 7:40 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Counseling Center, across from the Main Office.

The primary areas with which counselors may assist students at school

- are: 1. "Four Year Plan"
2. Graduation criteria
 3. Basic occupational information
 4. Information concerning colleges, technical institutes and military
 5. Testing - high school and entrance exams
 6. Community resources
 7. Extra-curricular activities
 8. Personal problems
 9. Dual Enrollment Program
 10. Course selection

Clinic

The clinic is available to students who need to receive immediate minor medical treatment. ***All students must have an emergency information card on file in the clinic.*** Students who become ill during the day must report to the clinic with a pass from his/her teacher or administrator. The school nurse will contact a parent if the student needs to go home; otherwise, the student will be returned to class within 10 minutes. All calls regarding student illness must be initiated from the Clinic. Any medicine taken at school must be taken in the clinic. **All medication, including aspirin or other over-the-counter medicines, that must be taken at school must be left in the clinic with the appropriate authorization forms.** The clinic will only dispense medicine, prescribed or over-the-counter, with the appropriate forms on file. Passes for the elevator are issued through the clinic.

Medication

Any medication to be taken at school must be turned in prior to the school day to the school nurse in the clinic. All medication should be labeled and should be taken while in the clinic. **Having possession of medication on campus is against school policy.** Students who need to see the nurse must have a signed hall pass from their teacher.

Media Center

The media specialist can assist in selecting and using all types of media, searching for and locating materials, and photocopying materials within the limits of copyright laws. The media center is open from 7:40 to 3:00 for student use. All students visiting the media center must sign-in and are expected to conduct themselves in a quiet, studious manner.

Resource Officer

With cooperation between the Cook County Sheriff's Department and the Cook County Board of Education, Cook High School has the services of two full-time resource officers. The school resource officers are available to students to handle any legal matter. In addition, the officers work closely with teachers and staff in monitoring student behavior during the school day and at school-related events.

Emergency Drills

Teachers will instruct classes concerning proper procedures and routes. An evacuation map is posted by each classroom door. **Please treat each drill as a true emergency; your safety may depend on it.**

Security and Thefts

Unfortunately, thefts of money, clothes, books and other personal belongings will happen in school. What is most unfortunate is that most of these thefts could be prevented if students safeguarded their personal property.

- Remember, lockers do not guarantee security. However, locks help prevent theft, if students do not give their locker combinations to others. Lockers are not to be shared.
- Students should bring only the amount of money that is absolutely needed for the day.
 - Wallets, purses, jewelry, watches (or any other valuables) should not be left in lockers, dressing rooms, classrooms, or in any other unguarded location.

College, Technical College, and Military Representatives

College, technical college, and military representatives will be permitted to meet with students in the Counseling Center. These visits will be scheduled during Advisement, electives, and at lunch. Students should not stay past these periods and miss class time.

Homebound Services

Homebound services are available to students who have a non-communicable illness and are expected to be absent for an extended period of time. Please contact the guidance secretary (896-2213) for information concerning these services.

College Visitation

All college campus visits (3 per year) and testing should be arranged through the senior counselor. Verification will be required upon returning to school. This will count as a school-related absence.

Food & Nutrition

- Grab & Go Breakfast is served from **7:35 a.m. to 8:05 a.m.** daily.
- There will be no skipping, breaking, or changing of lines. Respect should be shown to workers. Tables should be cleared, and garbage disposed of properly. No food is to be taken from the lunchroom.
- Cook County School District (CCSD) will no longer allow parents or students to bring, drop-off or deliver food and beverage that originates from outside eating establishments due to a USDA non-competition regulation. This regulation protects school cafeterias from the competition of outside food establishments, and since food services in our CCSD system is completely self-supported through sales within our schools, allowing outside items serve as direct competition for their business. Students may continue to bring lunches prepared from home.
 - Student Meals - No Charge
 - Adult/Visitor - \$3.00 - Breakfast, \$5.00 Lunch
- Outside food deliveries are not allowed during the school day (DoorDash, Grubhub, Uber Eats. etc.)

Lost Articles

Lost articles should be turned in to the main office. Your property is your responsibility. Please do not leave purses, jackets, books, etc., unattended.

- **Cook High School is not responsible for securing personal valuables. It is the responsibility of the student to secure his/her possessions.** *Students do not need and should not carry large amounts of money, cell phones, technology items, expensive jewelry, or other*

valuables at school.

- **The faculty, staff, and administration of Cook High School assume no responsibility for the above items if stolen.** Thefts that do not fall into this category may be investigated by the administration if deemed appropriate.

Tutoring

Teachers are available before and after school to tutor students. Peer tutoring may also be available after school. Call our counselors to discuss peer tutoring and additional assistance.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events is maintained on the school website and in the main office by CHS administration. (Please consult this calendar before planning activities.)

Volunteer Service Learning

Students seeking involvement in our school and community are encouraged to participate in the many clubs and sports available to them at Cook High School. These organizations provide services to the community and school. A student may earn volunteer service hours which count toward a Volunteer Service Cord. Current seniors must accumulate 120 hours to earn the cord. If you are not involved in an organization, and desire to serve others, please see your counselor.

Athletic Requirements

All Cook County athletes and coaches are expected to demonstrate behavior that reflects pride and excellence in the athletic program at Cook High School. We are proud of the winning tradition, which demands the best of everyone connected with athletics. Appearance, coupled with attitude and actions, reflect the student as an individual and as a representative of the school. Students should strive to be the best in their own eyes, thereby strengthening the championship tradition that exists at Cook High School.

- All athletes will follow the school conduct rules and will strive to be model students and good examples. It will be the responsibility of the entire coaching staff to make all athletes aware of their expectations and to see that rules are enforced and adhered to consistently.
- In order to participate in any athletic activity, each student must meet all current Georgia High School Association eligibility requirements.
- The coach of each respective sport will have the right and responsibility of selecting and supervising his/her athletes. All athletes will adhere to general rules set by the athletic department.
- If an athlete violates a school rule or breaks the law, the team coach, athletic director, and principal will decide the proper action to be taken in regard to the athlete's participation in our athletic program. All athletes who are referred to the office for disciplinary action will be treated on the same basis as a non-athlete.
- An athlete who elects to "quit" a team or is dismissed from a team during that particular season will be required to "sit-out" the remainder of that regular season before he/she can begin participation in any other sport. All cases will be reviewed by the administration and the coach. Athletes must see that all equipment issued by the school is returned immediately upon his/her quitting.
- An athlete who consistently does not attend practice or is dismissed from the team by the coach is considered quitting.

- Athletes will be transported to out-of-town events by transportation provided by the school. If an athlete travels to an athletic event on a school bus, he/she will return on the bus unless the coach releases the athlete to a parent or legal guardian in writing. **Athletes will be released only to parents/guardians and no one else without prior written permission and only to an adult over the age of 21, with the exception of an immediate family member.**
- Good sportsmanship conduct will be expected at all times from all athletes. Athletes are expected to exhibit good manners and good behavior at all times.
- All athletic uniforms must be worn as they were designed to be worn. The coach will decide all uniform policies for his/her sport.
- Missing practice is a serious violation of athletic conduct. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. If there is a need to be absent from school athletic practice, it is the responsibility of the athlete to clear this with his/her coach. Each coach will outline the rules for practice requirements.
- All students participating in athletics, including practice sessions must be properly insured against accidents. Proof of insurance is required to participate. School insurance is available for purchase if needed. The Cook County Board of Education **DOES NOT** provide insurance coverage for athletic competition.

An athlete who is in violation at any time of the rules below will be subject to proper disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Conduct Rules of the student handbook. All cases will be reviewed by the coach and administration.

- **Tobacco/Alcohol/Drugs**
 - o If any athlete is caught on, or off campus at any time with illicit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco on his/her person, in his/her possession, or under the influence of any drug, alcohol, will result in immediate suspension from the athletic program pending an investigation from the athletic program on the issue. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken as warranted. Failure to complete the assessed punishment in any of the athletic rules within the given time limit will result in 180 consecutive days suspension from athletic participation. Re-entry into the athletic program will be determined by a hearing involving the athlete, his/her parents/guardians, athletic director, respective coach, and principal.
- **Illegal Drugs (Positive drug test)**
 - o **1st Offense:**
 - The athlete will be suspended immediately from all athletic participation for a period of 4 weeks or 4 games, whichever is greater. If the student athlete successfully enrolls in a drug-counseling program, the suspension will be reduced by 50%. Should the athlete fail to successfully complete the drug-counseling program, he/she will be subject to additional disciplinary action. Prior to readmission to participate, the athlete, parents/guardians, athletic director, respective coach, and principal will meet to evaluate readmission into the athletic program.
 - o **2nd Offense:**
 - The athlete will be barred from all athletic participation for 20 weeks or 20 games, whichever is greater. If the student athlete successfully enrolls in a drug-counseling program, the suspension will be reduced by 50%. Prior to readmission to participate, the athlete, parents/guardians, athletic director, respective coach, and principal will meet to evaluate readmission into the athletic program.
 - o **3rd Offense:**
 - The athlete will be barred permanently from all athletic participation at Cook High School. If a

student elects not to seek full reinstatement into an athletic team after a violation, or the season concludes prior to the expiration of the suspension, the student is still required to serve the unexpired portion of the suspension before the student is eligible for participation with another athletic team. A student serving a suspension for one sport may try out for a second sport, but must serve the unexpired suspension before being permitted to compete.

All students are encouraged to participate in as many extracurricular activities as desired. Students wishing to participate in activities, whose seasons coincide, must have written permission from the head coach of each respective sport as well as the athletic director in order to participate.

- Before a player can be removed from the athletic program, the principal and the athletic director must approve the action.
- Physical examinations are required by state law. Cook High School sets up one appointment during the spring of the school year for physicals. These are free of charge to the athletes and cheerleaders. Any other examination or referrals to specialists are the responsibility of the parents/guardians of the athlete or cheerleader and will not be paid for by Cook High School. All physicals taken after April 1st are valid until the end of the next school year.

Cook High School Athletics follows Georgia High School's mandated heat policy as well as our school athletic emergency action plan. These policies are in place to ensure the safety of all student-athletes. These policies can be found on the school website.

Athletics – Team Sports Available at Cook High School					
FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
Cheerleading	Morgan Turner	Boys Basketball	Jeremy Brown	Baseball	Rusty Beale
Boys Cross Country	Gabriel Ponce	Girls Basketball	Clemmie Foster	Golf (Boys & Girls)	Dustin Larkin
Girls Cross Country	Jim Carter	Cheerleading	Samona Durr	Boys Soccer	
Competition Cheer	Courtney Beaver	Fishing	Corey Green	Girls Soccer	Ely Brady
Girls Flag Football	Hayley Pickle	Swim/Dive	Jill Bullard	Tennis (Boys & Girls)	
Football	Cornelius Brown	Wrestling (Boys & Girls)	Matt Holley	Track (Boys & Girls)	Ronard White
Girls - Softball	Rusty Beale			ESports	Mandy Ward
Girls Volleyball	John Smith				

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for students in any GHSA activity are:

- 5 credits beginning of 2nd year
- 11 credits beginning of 3rd year
- 17 credits beginning of 4th year

To be eligible, a student must pass three (3) courses during the previous semester to participate in an activity.

Athletics - Gender Equity in Sports

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Cook High School does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator. The sports equity coordinator for Cook High School is **Paul Dobson, 9900 Hwy 37, Adel, Georgia 31620**. He may be contacted by phone at 229-896-2213.

Fundraising

All fundraising activities and projects must be approved by the Cook County Board of Education. Club advisors, coaches and sponsors should turn in all activities and projects for fundraising to an assistant principal by July. Students are not permitted to bring fundraisers for outside groups on campus to sell. **Nothing is to be sold on campus without approval from the principal.**

Homecoming

Cook High School administrators encourage all students to be cognizant that all school rules apply as normal during homecoming week. Any student that is found in violation of school rules will be punished according to the school Code of Conduct and may lose the privilege of attending any homecoming activities. Athletes should pay close attention to these warnings as their athletic status may be affected as well.

Prom Attendance - Amended 8/11/26

To be eligible to attend Prom, students may not accumulate more than five (5) unexcused absences during the current semester prior to the event. Only students who attend Cook High School are allowed to purchase a prom ticket. If a student invites a guest who is not enrolled at CHS, the student must complete a guest approval form that requires administration approval for the guest to attend the dance. Guest forms are available in the front office. No students or guests over the age of 20 may attend the prom (dance). Guests participating in the Senior Walk may be over the age of 20. Each senior can be escorted by one person of their choice. This must be the senior's prom date or an adult (no children).

- Special exceptions may be made by the principal in regard to SPED students that are over the age of 20 but attend Cook High School currently. Parents/guardians of handicapped students may also be allowed to assist their children in prom activities due to safety concerns.
 - A. Students may be asked to take a breathalyzer test at any time during prom activities.
 - B. Students that are asked to leave the prom for inappropriate behavior of any kind must leave the campus immediately and no refund will be given.

CHS SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS

Cook High School offers a wide variety of extracurricular clubs for students to participate in. Below are the club names, the sponsor(s), the mission statement and/or purpose and a brief listing of some of the activities of the club:

Anchor Club

Supervisor: Heather Morris

Mission statement: The Anchor Club mission is to improve ourselves, our homes, our school and our community by promoting awareness of health and safety and providing community service throughout Cook County.

Purpose: Anchor club is a service organization for sophomores, juniors, and seniors who maintain a 90-grade point average or higher.

Activities: Members are involved in a variety of service projects including an annual Christmas party for underprivileged Primary School students, voter registration, and assistance with Mr. Larkin's class, along with other service projects.

Affiliation: Pilot International

Dues: Yes

Art Club

Supervisor: Harlee Bell

Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide our art club members an opportunity to express individuality through the creation of artwork. These artworks are created in unique ways for our community, school and self. The art club is open to any Cook High student. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month for Open Studio, in which students create artwork with their choice of materials, methods and themes.

Activities: Pumpkin Carving, Face Painting, Window decorating, Cards for soldiers, volunteering at Community events, The Annual Cook High Art Exhibition.

Affiliation: Independent

Dues: Yes

Chess Club

Supervisor: Jason Owen

Mission Statement: To promote increased knowledge and understanding of the game of chess for its own sake as an art and intellectual sport. The Cook High Chess Club seeks to foster the development of its members as chess players and enhance the appreciation of "The Royal Game".

Purposes: To bring together chess players in the Cook County School Statement and the community who would like to share their hobby and interest in chess with each other. To provide an organized chess tournament venue for competitive-minded club members and persons in the Cook County community. Membership of the Cook High Chess Club is open to any person with an interest in chess, regardless of his/her experience or playing ability.
Activities: To put on two tournaments during the school year. One during the Fall/Winter semester and the other during the Winter/Spring semester.
Affiliation: Independent
Dues: Yes
FBLA - Future Business Leaders of America
Supervisor: Lori Carter
Mission: Our mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.
Purpose: To develop character and strengthen the confidence of students; to encourage interest in American business enterprise and leadership; to encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty; prepare for useful citizenship.
Activities: Community and school service; region, state, and national competition; Fall Rally; Fall Leadership Conference; Region, State, and National Leadership Conferences.
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)
Supervisor: Paul Dobson, Jenny Pitts, Jessi Beale, Rusty Beale
Mission/Purpose: To present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.
Activities: Weekly Meetings, Tuesday mornings at 7:30 in the PAC - Game Days - See You at the Pole - Fields of Faith
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
FCCLA (Family, Career, Community Leaders of America)
Supervisor: Constance Thomas
Mission/purpose: To promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through: character development, creative and critical thinking; interpersonal communication; practical knowledge; and career preparation.

Activities: Cook High FCCLA is planning to serve the community through assisting with Cook Toys for Tots, holding a Book drive for the Cook county preschool, offering service hours to teachers at all school tutors and helping with bulletin boards, etc. as well as attending the state FCCLA spring conference.
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
FFA (Future Farmers of America)
Supervisor: Brandon White, Justin Watson
Mission/Purpose: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA membership today consists of 610,240 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,665 local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
Activities: Peanut Boil, Sunbelt Expo Field Trip, Catfish and Karaoke, Ag Olympics
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
HOSA
Supervisor: Hope Weaver
Mission: The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.
Purpose: HOSA operates as an integral component of the health science education curriculum. HOSA is a very active CTSO that provides opportunities at the local, state and national level for participation in community service and state competitions. HOSA provides powerful instructional tools, recognition, leadership, networking, and connections to the healthcare industry for its members.
Activities: HOSA has community service projects every month. HOSA sponsors all of the school blood drives, the Halloween Parade/ Fall Frolic and Easter Egg Hunt for special needs students and The Sting school dance (with TSA). HOSA members participate in Toys for Cook Kids and the Food Drive. Members also participate in fundraisers and HOSA socials. Cook High HOSA is involved!
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
Junior Civitan Club
Supervisor: Vanessa Mitchell
Mission: Junior Civitan is a service club for young people tailored specifically for training young people to become "Builders of Good Citizenship" in the home, school, community and nation. We focus on the intellectually disabled.

Purpose: To encourage young people to value and advance good citizenship through service to community and school.
Activities: We will provide social interactions for the self-contained special needs students throughout the school year (Halloween, Valentines, Thanksgiving, Christmas, ect.) We will also volunteer at Special Olympics events. In addition, the club will celebrate Autism Awareness month. The club will raise funds to support Camp Big Heart and encourage members to volunteer during Camp Big Heart summer camps.
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
Key Club
Supervisor:
Mission: Key Club is an international student-led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership.
Purpose: We are caring and competent servant leaders transforming communities worldwide. The core values of Key Club International are leadership, character building, caring and inclusiveness.
Description: In key club, our goals are: 1) to develop initiative and leadership, 2) to provide experience in living and working together, 3) to serve the school and community, 4) to cooperate with the school principal, 5) to prepare for useful citizenship, 5) to give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life, 6) to encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships, 7) to promote the adoption and application of higher standards in scholarship, sportsmanship and social contacts, 8) to develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship, 9) to provide a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render unselfish service and to build better communities, and 10) to cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which makes possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.
Activities: Last year our Key Club participated in the following major activities: monthly BINGO at Sparks Retirement Home, CPS Fall Festival, Socktober (donations of socks and other clothing for the needy in our community), UNICEF Trick or Treat, Toys for Cook Kids, Kiwanis 5K Fun Run, and Relay for Life. We have even more special service projects planned to add to the calendar this year.
Affiliation: Kiwanis International
Dues: Yes
Quiz Bowl
Supervisor: Kevin Norman
Mission: Knowledge opens doors; we accept that without an ever-expanding intellect we are doomed to be forever boring, bored, and trapped in whatever our current intellect allows. Quiz Bowl will expand horizons by giving students access to a broad swath of information to which they might not otherwise have had exposure. Futures are built upon decisions made by our past and current selves: We cannot change the past, but we can always work to improve the current.

Purpose: Quiz Bowl is a place for students that love to learn and show it off. Students will build teams that will compete in academic trivia competitions, both locally and in surrounding counties. These students will compete against each other during advisement in tests of mathematical, scientific, literary, and historical prowess, and those local competitions will help build teams that will be taken to surrounding counties for regional Quiz Bowl competitions. If you are fast on the buzzer, quick of mind, love to brag, or just want an academic extracurricular to pad a resume, then this is the place for you.
Activities: Competitions during advisement and after-school regional competitions.
Affiliation:
Dues: Yes
SkillsUSA
Supervisor: Ty McDowell
Mission: SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. We improve the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.
Purpose: Our purpose is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.
Activities: Digital Media Production for CHS Athletics; Region, State, and National competition; Fall Rally; Fall Leadership Conference
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
Student Council
Supervisor: Jill Swanson
Mission: To coordinate and encourage all student activities; To work with the administration in all matters affecting the welfare of the student body; To stimulate and develop good citizenship and democracy among students; To encourage social development through participation in campus life; and to encourage leadership through service.
Purpose: Student Council is composed of 16 outstanding Juniors and Seniors who represent the student body of CHS. SC provides the main forum for discussing student concerns and ideas. Students are given the opportunity to interact with faculty, staff and administrators. The Cook High Student Council is responsible for representing and serving the needs of the student body through coordinating student activities/fundraisers and holding monthly meetings.
Activities: Student Council sponsors Red Ribbon Week in October, as well as College and Career Week in March.
Affiliation: State
Dues: Yes
Theatre Wing & Thespian Troupe 7229

Supervisor: Elizabeth Powell
Mission: The Cook High School Theatre Wing's mission is to develop confident, well-rounded young people who are knowledgeable about all aspects of the theatre through the production of entertaining and thought-provoking plays that appeal to teenage audiences.
Activities: The Theatre Wing performs up to three plays every year, and travels around the state for competitions. All shows are open to any eligible CHS student, and rehearsals take place after school.
The International Thespian Society is a theatre honor society. Students may be invited to ITS after completing 100 hours of quality work in the theatre. CHS's troupe attends the Georgia Thespian Conference each February and hosts CHS Theatre's year-end awards show.
Affiliation: Independent
Dues: Yes
TSA (Technology Student Association)
Supervisor: Josh Bryan
Mission: The Technology Student Association fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); members apply and integrate these concepts through co-curricular activities, competitions, and related programs.
Purpose: The CHS TSA chapter will take the study of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) beyond the classroom and give students the chance to pursue academic challenges among friends with similar goals and interests. Together, chapter members work on competitive events, attend conferences on the state and national levels and have a good time raising funds to get there. Chapter organization develops club leadership, as members may become officers within their state and then run nationally. Our chapter is committed to a national service project and is among the most service-oriented groups in the community.
Activities: Sept: CORE. TSA Chapter Officer Retreat for Excellence, TSA Raffle Oct: TSA Tech Day at the Perry National Fair, CPS Trunk or Treat sponsored by CHS TSA Nov: TSA Fall Leadership Conference on Jekyll Island, March: TSA State Conference in Athens GA, June/July: TSA National Conference in Nashville TN
General Activities: Football Season: Host tailgate events to support CHS athletics, TSA Sting Dance, TSA/HOSA sponsored PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) such as movie days and prizes for grade levels, VEX Robotics Tournaments.
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes
Engage Club
Supervisor: Kyle Hanson
Mission: "Our mission is to provide programs and opportunities for teens which will promote self-esteem, leadership skills and moral and civic responsibility, YClub is the vehicle through which this mission is accomplished."

Purpose: “The YClub program provides thousands of middle and high school students with a school based structured environment to develop leadership skills, understand the importance of civic responsibility, and enhance community through monthly school and community service projects.”
Activities: Youth Assembly (Model State Gov’t), Model United Nations, several leadership conference opportunities
Affiliation: State YMCA
Dues: Yes
4-H Club
Supervisor: Emma Butler
Mission: To extend lifelong learning to Georgia citizens through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.
Purpose: "To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing citizens."
Affiliation: National
Dues: Yes

FFA Room 407 Hester, White 	Chess Club Room 201 Owen 	BETA Club Cafeteria Calkins 		August 12 September 9 October 7 November 4 December 9 January 27 February 24	March 24 April 28
HOSA Room 411 Weaver 	Student Council Room 113 Swanson 	Engage Club Room 105 Hanson 	Jr. Civitan Cafeteria V. Mitchell 	August 19 September 16 October 14 November 11 December 16 February 3 March 3	April 7 May 5
Anchor Club Cafeteria Morris 	Quiz Bowl Room 208 Norman 	Skills USA Room 111 McDowell 		August 26 September 23 October 21 November 18 January 13 February 10 March 10	April 14 May 12
TSA Room 302 Bryan 	FBLA Cafeteria L. Carter 	Key Club Room ? 		September 2 September 30 October 28 December 2 January 20 February 17 March 17	April 21

FCA meets every Tuesday morning in the Theatre @ 7:30 (Sarah Bostic)

Cook High School
Student Code of Conduct
&
Behavior Expectations



Authority of the Principal

The principal is the designated leader of the school, and in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disorderly, disruptive, or dangerous conduct not covered in the Student Code of Conduct, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and school, provided that any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures. The administration reserves the right to meet and agree on dispositions when punishment is based on the school discipline plan.

Parental Responsibilities

The school anticipates the support of parents in dealing with behavioral problems which may arise. Parents' cooperation needs to be apparent to the student/school. Students are expected to show respect for authority and follow school rules, regulations, and procedures at all times. Cook High School strongly encourages parents and guardians to inform children of the consequences of misbehavior at school, including criminal penalties, for violent behavior, underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Teacher Authority

The school superintendent and principal shall fully support the authority of every teacher to remove a student from the classroom. Any teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior which violates the student code of conduct and repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his/her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn shall file a report of such behavior with the principal or the principal's designee. The principal and teacher shall thereafter follow the procedures set forth in Georgia law, specifically O.C.G.A. 20-2- 737-738.

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737 which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such a report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior.

The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee.

The principal or designee shall notify in writing the teacher and the student's parents or guardian of the discipline or student support services which have occurred as a result of the teacher's report within one school day from the imposition of discipline or the utilization of the support services. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm that the student's parents or guardian has received the written notification, including information as to how the parents or guardian may contact the principal or designee.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. **If the student is suspended, the student's parents will be notified if**

possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported. The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion; however, only a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the COOK County Board of Education policies will determine those punishments.

In the event that a student is referred to a disciplinary tribunal, parents or the student may elect not to contest whether the student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or student waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Also, the tribunal facilitator from the superintendent's office must approve such an agreement or waiver.

Search And Seizure

Students and parents are hereby notified that school officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents.

Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Weapon detection systems, metal detectors, breathalyzers and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at the school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators. A student's failure to permit search and seizure will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Assembly Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately during assemblies. They should remain seated until the program is completed even if the bell rings. Provisions will be made for them to return to class without a tardy. Cat calls and unnecessary noises are not appropriate. Sleeping and talking are not appropriate.

Students not behaving appropriately will be disciplined, and he/she will not be allowed to attend future assemblies.

Book Bags

Students are encouraged to buy a locker to store valuables and book bags. In classrooms, teachers may develop specific policies regarding book bags. On school buses, book bags should always be held securely or placed under the student's seat. All book bags, backpacks, gym bags, etc. should be clearly marked with the student's name so the owner of the item can be identified immediately. Students should never carry large amounts of money to school, and they should not place anything of value in the exterior pockets of book bags or backpacks or in bags that open at the top. Student property, including but not limited to backpacks, book bags, athletic bags, and purses, may be searched by school administrators when reasonable suspicion exists. Any search of a student shall be conducted in a manner designed to preserve the privacy and dignity of the student to the extent possible according to the circumstances of the situation.

Cook County Schools Cell Phone Policy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OoezbeNdHBlKiXuV1ULMU-mxjpM9NAdz/view?usp=drive_link

FAQ:

- **What is considered a personal electronic device?**

Personal electronic devices include but are not limited to: cell phones, smart watches, tablets, e-readers, ear buds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours.

- **What are considered to be school hours?**

For students in grades K-12, instructional time shall include all scheduled instructional time, breaks, transitions, assemblies, and other school-related activities occurring from the time the student is on the school premises until the student leaves the school premises by car or bus.

- **What is considered “accessing” a personal electronic device?**

Viewing, holding, wearing, and otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, listening to music, and any other function commonly associated with personal electronic devices.

- In order to maintain a focused and respectful learning environment, students are expected to follow all school policies regarding cell phone use. The following progressive discipline policy will be enforced for any violations.
- The district or individual schools within the district shall not assume any responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage to a personal electronic device.
- Emergency contact with students can always be made through the front office. Exceptions may be made for documented medical or learning needs, with prior administrative approval.

Progressive Discipline Steps:

Step 1: Office Referral

An office referral is issued and documented in the student’s behavior record.

The **cell phone is collected** and secured by school administration.

Parent/guardian must pick up the phone in person from the School Administration or School Resource Officer.

Student will receive 1 day of ISS.

Step 2: Office Referral

An office referral is issued and documented in the student’s behavior record.

The **cell phone is collected** and secured by school administration.

Parent/guardian must pick up the phone in person from the School Administration or School Resource Officer.

Student will receive 3 days of ISS.

Step 3: Office Referral

An office referral is issued and documented in the student's behavior record.

The **cell phone is collected** and secured by school administration.

Parent/guardian must pick up the phone in person from the School Administration or School Resource Officer.

Student will receive 1 day of OSS.

Step 4: Office Referral

An office referral is issued and documented in the student's behavior record.

The **cell phone is collected** and secured by school administration.

Parent/guardian must pick up the phone in person from the School Administration or School Resource Officer.

Student will receive 5 days of OSS.

Step 5: Office Referral (Repeat/Serious Offense)

Student is suspended 10 days pending Tribunal.

If a student refuses to give a phone to a school official at his/her request then the following consequences will apply: OSS 2 days

Courtesy

When students enter Cook High School, they are a part of the school and reflect upon the school's reputation. As Cook High School wishes to maintain its good reputation, it is important for all students to be polite to fellow students and to treat each other with respect. Faculty, staff members, and adults are to be treated with respect.

Debt Obligations/Financial Responsibility

Students are responsible for any debts incurred while attending CHS. These debts may include but are not limited to monies owed to the office, library, athletic department, teachers, or school board. Additional monies owed may include damage assessments, fundraisers, or settlements. Students must clear debts before receiving a locker, parking permit, report card, or diploma. Students having outstanding debt will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, including graduation, until all debts have been cleared.

Dress Code

Conventional dress worn in a traditional manner is the norm for approved dress at Cook High School. In order to maintain an appropriate climate for learning, the following dress code has been established for Cook High School. Administrators or designee may ban items that disrupt the learning environment on a case-by-case basis. Teachers may refer any student whose appearance causes distractions to the learning environment to an administrator for corrective or disciplinary action. The following items of clothing are **NOT PERMITTED**:

Pants, Skirts, Dresses, Jumpers, Leggings and Shorts

- Spandex pants/shorts, one piece bodysuits, or other apparel that is extremely tight fitting.
- Leggings, flare leggings, or any skin-tight pants, must be worn with tops that cover the entire front and buttocks.

- Sagging pants (worn below the waistline) are not permitted. All pants must be worn at the natural waistline.
- If belts are worn, they must be buckled.
- Zippers must be zipped, and fasteners must be fastened.
- Outer clothing which resembles sleepwear or underwear, pajama-type pants.
- Miniskirts and short shorts – Shorts and skirts must be mid-thigh/below fingertips.
- No tight or sagging sweatpants or wind suits. They are to be worn appropriately.
- Cut-out jeans/pants with holes above mid-thigh. Holes must be covered by clothing underneath pants. (No tape, paper towels, or removable fabric.) No skin can show above fingertips.

Shirts, Sweaters, Tops and Vest

- Tank tops or shirts with shoulder straps narrower than two (2) inches, (Females).
- Midriff tops, low-cut tops and one-shoulder tops, see-through blouses covering bras/tube tops.
- Sleeveless shirts for males.
- Clothing/jewelry with profanity, vulgarities, or other offensive language, references to alcohol or drug use, gangs, social clubs, weapons, or sexually suggestive items.

Hats, Headcoverings, Glasses, Other

- No head coverings (male or female) unless documented religious apparel.
- Females may only wear hair “bands” 1/2 inch in width or less. Large bows and scarves are not permitted.
- No bandanas.
- No towels, hand cloths, curlers, combs, sunglasses, metal chains, studded or chained accessories.
- No blankets.
- Clothing/jewelry that could be used as a weapon. No piercings with sharp points.
- Any clothing with group, club, or organization names on them, unless the group(s) are approved as school related or school sponsored.
- Hats and sunglasses are not permitted inside the building during school.
- Non-prescription glasses or glasses with no lens.

Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- No bedroom shoes or slippers.
- Cleats, taps, spurs or other unnecessary objects will not be affixed to shoes.

It is the student’s responsibility to come to school fully clothed and to wear clothes that are not dangerous to health or safety, do not disrupt the learning process, and stay within the school dress code. Extremes in dress and grooming are not permitted.

Note: Administrator discretion applies to all the above.

Dress code discipline will be enforced by both teachers and administrators. Discipline will be assigned and, if necessary, students will be loaned clothing to wear or a parent/guardian will be called to bring a change of clothes. Students will not be allowed to remain in the classroom with inappropriate clothing.

Dress Code Violations Consequences

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| • 1st Violation | - | Warning |
| • 2nd Violation | - | Block ISS |
| • 3rd Violation | - | Block ISS |

- 4th Violation - 1/2 Day Day ISS
- 5th Violation - 1/2 Day Day ISS
- 6th Violation and above - 1-day ISS

Hall Passes

Students are expected to stay in class. They should not be in the halls unless they are changing class or have an authorized hall pass **with a legitimate excuse**. Any student, who is in a hall, restroom, etc., should have a **visible authorized pass**. Hall passes are provided for each student and must be used whenever a student requests permission to leave a classroom. Medical excuses for restroom breaks will be required of students with temporary or chronic conditions necessitating more frequent restroom visits.

Internet Policy – Student Use

Cook County Board of Education policy requires students and parents to sign a Student Network/Internet User Agreement and Parent Permission Form. Any person who is accessing the Internet with school equipment and services accepts responsibility to abide by the Network/Internet User Agreement. Not accepting these responsibilities, or any infraction which shows non-compliance, will lead to restrictions or severance of access to services, as well as other possible disciplinary actions.

Odor of Marijuana or Illegal Substances

Students are prohibited from being under the influence of marijuana while on school property or at any school-sponsored event. This includes instances where a student smells strongly of marijuana or other illegal substances, which may be considered reasonable suspicion of use. Any student found to have a strong odor of an illegal substance may be subject to further investigation, including questioning by school staff and notification of parents or guardians. If it is determined that the student may be under the influence or presents a disruption to the school environment due to odor, the student will be sent home for the remainder of the school day. Disciplinary action will follow.

Off-Campus Behavior

Notification from law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the court system, or any other social media that a Cook High School student has been taken into custody or charged with a felony or a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, will prompt school officials to collect pertinent information and to make a determination whether the student's continued presence at school presents a potential danger to persons or property at the school or may substantially disrupt the educational process. If such a determination is made, the principal may recommend a suspension, expulsion of longer than ten (10) days, or assignment to an offsite program. A tribunal of school officials will hold a disciplinary hearing to consider and make final decisions on such recommendations.

Any student transferring to Cook High School from a juvenile YDC or other disciplinary state facility will be placed in alternative school for a length of time to be determined by the principal. Some misdemeanors (especially of a sexual nature) may result in a student not being allowed to attend school also.

Pep Rally Behavior

Any student who is not scheduled to be a part of a pep rally and is on the floor without permission will be disciplined and prohibited from attending future pep rallies.

Restrooms

Students and employees of Cook High School expect and deserve to have clean and sanitary restrooms. Please help keep restrooms clean by flushing toilets and urinals after use. Be courteous by keeping trash off floors. Please report any writing on walls, broken equipment or other problems to a teacher or the front office, so repairs may be requested before further damage or vandalism occurs.

Students must use the gender, on their birth certificate, specific restrooms and only one student per stall.

- **The only restrooms available for student use during lunch are in the cafeteria.**

Tardies

- **Tardy to School:** Any student arriving at school following the ringing bell, chime, or other audible signal established by the Principal and intended to indicate the start of the school day.
- **Tardy to Class:** A student is “tardy to class” when he/she arrives to class following the ringing bell, chime or other audible signal indicating the beginning of instructional time.

Tardy Violation Consequences

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ● 1st Tardy | - | Warning |
| ● 2nd Tardy | - | Warning |
| ● 3rd Tardy | - | Parent Contact |
| ● 4th Tardy | - | Block ISS |
| ● 5th Tardy | - | Block ISS |
| ● 6th Tardy | - | 1/2 Day ISS |
| ● 7th Tardy | - | 1/2 Day ISS |
| ● 8th Tardy and UP | - | 1 Day ISS |
| ● 10th Tardy | - | 1 Day ISS & SST/Parent Meeting |

Unauthorized Areas

- All parking areas during the school day.
- All hallways before school, at lunch, and after school (unless authorized by a teacher or admin).
- Students must remain inside the building at all times unless accompanied by a faculty or staff member.

Use of Automobiles

Students who park on campus must follow parking regulations. Failure to follow rules and regulations will result in parking privileges being revoked.

1. A parent/legal guardian **MUST** come to the school to sign the permit form.
2. The cost of the parking permit is \$25.00 per school year. Replacement cost is \$25.00.
3. Students must be at least 16, have a valid license (not learner permit), registration, and insurance throughout the school year. If the student's license and/or insurance is suspended or cancelled, the parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the school.
4. If the student changes vehicles during the school year, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to inform the administration of the change so that all information is up to date.

5. Cook High School is NOT responsible for student vehicles or contents while parked on campus.
6. VEHICLES MAY BE SEARCHED AT ANY TIME.
7. Permits should be in vehicle and visible at ALL times while on campus.
8. Students parking on CHS campus without a permit are subject to fines.
9. A parking permit may not be loaned or given to another student to use.
10. Upon arriving at school, students must leave the vehicle promptly.
11. Parking lots and vehicles are off-limits during the school day.
12. The speed limit is 5 mph on campus.
13. No parking or driving on grass areas around campus.
14. If a student uses their vehicle to leave or transport another student off campus without permission, the parking permit will be revoked for the remainder of the term. A new permit may be purchased at the beginning of the next term for \$25. A parent/legal guardian must come to the school and sign for a new permit. Parking spaces will NOT be held once a permit is revoked.

Consequences for violating parking rules:

1. Block ISS
2. 1 day ISS
3. No parking on campus for 2 weeks (\$10 fine if student parks on campus before 2 weeks are up).
4. Parking permit revoked

Alternative School: Cook Performance Learning Center

The Alternative Education Program at Cook County Schools is designed to help students improve their behavior to meet acceptable standards while receiving appropriate instruction. Students enrolled in this program will be based at the Cook Performance Learning Center. Upon assignment to the Alternative Program, the students and parent/guardian will meet with the Alternative Program administrator. Rules, dress code, and other alternative program procedures will be covered at this time. Successful completion of the Alternative Program, good behavior, regular attendance, and passing grades are prerequisites for students to transition back to the regular school program.

Cook High students that are assigned to the Alternative Program are not allowed to attend any school function, athletic event, or come on school property unless written permission is given to them by the principal. Transfer students enrolling in Cook High School from an alternative school placement will be assigned to the CPLC upon enrollment.

Senior students that are expelled from Cook High School and enrolled at the Cook Performance Learning Center, due to disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. Also, any student graduating early from an alternative setting is not allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

After School Departure

- Only students riding a bus may be at the bus pickup area.
- Students must stay behind the 1st black line at all times, until their bus has arrived and stopped for pickup.
- All students being picked up after school should use the front pickup area and exit from the front lobby doors or auditorium hall doors.
- Students should not exit out of doors at the end of hallways.

- Drivers should exit designated doors (cafeteria, auditorium hall, bus pickup area).
- All students should leave as soon as school is released and not hang out in parking lots.
- No students should go past the end of the sidewalk where the drama loading dock starts.
- Students must stay away from all air conditioners at pickup areas.

DISCIPLINE LEVELS OF CONSEQUENCES

LEVEL 1 CONSEQUENCES:

The following consequences for Level 1 Violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Block ISS - Student Conference, Parent Contact
- Block ISS – 2 Periods, Parent Contact
- ISS – 1/2 Day, Parent Contact
- ISS – 1 Day, Parent Contact
- ISS – 2 Days, Parent Contact - BAT Referral
- OSS – 2 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 3 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 5 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 10 Days, Parent Contact; Referral to Disciplinary Hearing (Tribunal)

LEVEL 2 CONSEQUENCES:

The following consequences for Level 2 Violations may include, but are not limited to:

- ISS - 1 Day, Parent Contact
- ISS – 2 Days, Parent Contact
- ISS – 2 Days, Parent Contact; BAT Referral
- OSS – 2 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 3 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 5 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 10 Days, Parent Contact; Referral to Disciplinary Hearing (Tribunal)

Level 3 CONSEQUENCES:

The following consequences for Level 3 violations may include, but are not limited to:

- OSS – 5 Days, Parent Contact
- OSS – 10 Days, Parent Contact; BAT Referral
- OSS – 10 Days, Parent Contact; Referral to Disciplinary Hearing (Tribunal)

Level 4 CONSEQUENCES:

The following consequences for Level 4 violations may include, but are not limited to:

1. OSS – 10 Days, Parent Contact, Possible Referral to Law Enforcement, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing (Tribunal)

Students who commit a Level III or IV offense may be recommended for placement at the Alternative School, recommended for expulsion and/or referred to Law Enforcement.

SPECIFIC STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE VIOLATIONS

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments, or exams. Consequences for Academic Dishonesty can include administrative detention up to in-school suspension. Teachers will notify parents. Students will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.

Level 1: Intentional receiving or providing of unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assessments and assignments. May include but is not limited to failure to cite

sources.

Level 2: Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a minor classroom assignment or project. Includes but is not limited to Intentional dishonesty on minor classroom projects, assignments, homework, etc.

Level 3: Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a major exam, statewide assessment or project or the falsification of school records. Includes but is not limited to cheating on major exams, statewide assessments or other state mandated academic work; Includes the falsification of school records; forgery; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on academic dishonesty three or more times during the same year.

ACCESSORY

Causes someone else to commit a violation, helps in commission of violation; or advises, encourages, hires or procures acts in concert with another to commit violation.

Violators are subject to the same interventions and consequences as the students who are actively involved in committing the offense.

ALCOHOL

Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption or intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol. Students under the influence of alcohol may be included if it results in disciplinary action. Consequences for Alcohol can include in-school suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion. All infractions will be reported to law enforcement and to the Superintendent of Schools.

Level 3: Unintentional possession of alcohol.

Level 4: Under the influence of alcohol without possession. Or Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol.

ARSON

Intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Consequences for Arson can include in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion. All infractions will be reported to law enforcement.

Level 3: Attempt to commit arson or use of matches, lighters or incendiary devices at school;
Includes but not limited to the use of fireworks and trashcan fires without damage to school property.

Level 4: Intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device;

Includes but not limited to setting fires to school property.

(OTHER) ATTENDANCE RELATED

Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardiness; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.

AWOL Violation Consequences

AWOL on campus - 2 days ISS

AWOL off campus

- 1st Offense - 2 Days OSS

- 2nd Offense - 3 Days OSS
- 3rd Offense - 5 Days OSS & BAT Meeting/Behavior Contract
- 4th Offense - Suspension Pending Tribunal

Attendance: See Attendance Policy

Tardy Violation Consequences

- 1st Tardy - Warning
- 2nd Tardy - Warning
- 3rd Tardy - Parent Contact
- 4th Tardy - Block ISS
- 5th Tardy - Block ISS
- 6th Tardy - 1/2 Day ISS
- 7th Tardy - 1/2 Day ISS
- 8th & 9th Tardy - 1 Day ISS
- 10th Tardy - 1 Day ISS & SST/Parent Meeting

BATTERY

Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm ***(NOTE: The key difference between battery and fighting is that fighting involves mutual participation.)***

Consequences for Battery can include administrative detention, Saturday school, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion. Infractions may be reported to law enforcement and to the Superintendent of Schools.

Level 2: Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries.

Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations.

Level 3: Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries.

Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations that result in mild or moderate injuries.

Level 4: Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school personnel; Level 4 may be used for students that violate the school policy on battery three or more times during the same school year.

Includes but not limited to choking, pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries; Includes any physical attack on school personnel; includes incidents serious enough to warrant calling the police or security.

BULLYING

A pattern of behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm. Consequences for Bullying can include in-school suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion. Infractions may be reported to law enforcement and to the Superintendent of Schools.

Level 1: First Offense of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4.

Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation,

harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to harass or intimidate.

Level 2: Second incident of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4.

Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to harass or intimidate.

Level 3: Repeated acts, as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student's education; so severe and pervasive intimidated or threatens educational environment.

Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to harass or intimidate.

BREAKING & ENTERING/BURGLARY

Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle with or without intent to commit theft.

(NOTE: The key difference between breaking and entering—burglary is that trespassing does not include forceful entry.)

Level 4: Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).

BUS MISCONDUCT

Misconduct on the bus is subject to the same disciplinary measures as misconduct at school.

*** Refer to the *Bus Rider's Safety Management Plan Handbook*

CELL PHONE – See Cell Phone Policy

Violations of the school cell phone policy.

Cell Phone Consequences

- 1st Offense: Cell Phone Collected & 1 day ISS
- 2nd Offense: Cell Phone Collected & 3 days ISS
- 3rd Offense: Cell Phone Collected & 1 day OSS
- 4th Offense: Cell Phone Collected & 5 days OSS
- 5th Offense: Student is suspended 10 days pending Tribunal.

COMPUTER/INTERNET MISUSE

Use of a school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s), or data. Consequences for Computer/Internet misuse is at the discretion of the school administrator and may range from Saturday school to a recommendation for expulsion.

Level 2: Unauthorized use of school computer for anything other than instructional purposes.

Includes but not limited to computer misuse, using computer to view inappropriate material, and violation of school computer use policy.

Level 3: Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, obtaining confidential information or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data; includes disclosure of a

number, code, password, or other means of access to school computers or the school system computer network without proper authorization.

Includes but not limited to hacking.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others. (Includes disruptive behaviors on school buses).

Level 1: Creating or contributing to a moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but doesn't pose a threat to the health or safety of others.

Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, spitting on property or persons, encouraging disruptive behavior.

Level 2: Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but doesn't pose a threat to the health or safety of others; may represent a repeat action.

Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, spitting on property or persons, encouraging disruptive behavior.

Level 3: Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the school environment or poses a threat to the health and safety of others. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on disorderly conduct three or more times during the same school year.

Includes but not limited to disruptive behavior on school bus, misbehavior during a fire drill or other safety exercise.

(OTHER) DRESS CODE – See Dress Code Policy

Violations of school dress code that includes standards for appropriate school attire.

Dress Code Consequences

1st Violation	-	Warning
2nd Violation	-	Block ISS
3rd Violation	-	Block ISS
4th Violation	-	½ Day Day ISS
5th Violation	-	½ Day Day ISS
6th Violation and above	-	1-day ISS

Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco

Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; or any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school.

Level 1: Unintentional possession of prescribed or over the counter medication.

Does not include the possession of narcotics or any illegal drugs. Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

Level 2: Any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought

to the office upon arrival to school.

Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

Level 3: Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics.

Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICE (See Vaping Policy)

Any device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device.

Please note that a vaping device with THC or any other type of illegal drug is a level 4 discipline offense, which will result in a 1st offense minimum consequence of 10 days out-of-school suspension, which could also include a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion.

Student Offenses and Consequences: High School

(All offenses will accumulate throughout one school year.)

1. First Offense:

- * Admin counseling with student, Parent Contact, 3 day in-school suspension
- * Cessation assistance will be offered by the school.

2. Second Offense:

- * Parent Contact, 3 day out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- * Students are prohibited from participating in activities/events on school grounds or at any school-sponsored events, whether on or off campus.
- * In coordination with the school and parents/guardians, the school will offer the student a cessation program.

3. Third Offense:

- * Parent Contact, 5 day out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- * Students are prohibited from participating in activities/events on school grounds or at any school-sponsored events, whether on or off campus.
- * Recommended that parent provide a smoking cessation class for the student.

4. Fourth Offense:

- * Parent Contact, 10 day out-of-school suspension (OSS): pending a tribunal.
- * The administrator shall submit a letter to the Student Services Director explaining the reasons for the suspension and any recommendations for further action.
The Student Services Director shall meet with the student and parents to discuss the consequences of the student's alleged offense, with the possibility of recommendation for expulsion to the Board of Education.
- * If expulsion is to be recommended, a student hearing shall be scheduled for the student to be heard before the Board of Education on the alleged violation. The student may request a closed hearing.
- * The student may be recommended for expulsion, not to exceed 365-days, pursuant to Georgia Department Board of Education Policy Georgia Code Title 20. Education § 20-2-751.2

With four violations, a report will be made to the Cook County Sheriff's Office for consideration of charges.

At any level of offense for consequences that are not followed, the administrator may discipline the student for insubordination, and further consequences may be given, in accordance.

FIGHTING

Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to harm. **(NOTE: The key difference between fighting and battery is that fighting involves mutual participation.)**

Level 3: Any physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in mild, moderate or severe bodily injuries.

Level 3 (Step 2): Any student participating in a physical confrontation and does not comply with instruction after school personnel intervenes.

Includes but not limited to failure to comply with commands or attempting to pursue the individual involved in the fight once they've been separated.

Level 4: Any student that joins a fight to aid or participate in an incident that was not initially involved.

Includes but not limited to joining a fight that's already in progress to assist another student. Does not include students who intervene to separate students.

GANG-RELATED

Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in criminal gang activity (O.C.G.A. § 16-15-3)

Level 2: Wearing or possessing gang-related apparel; communicating either verbally or non-verbally to convey membership or affiliation with a gang.

Includes but not limited to possession or wearing of gang-related clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, or using colors to convey gang membership or affiliation; gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc. to convey gang membership or affiliation; committing any other illegal act or other violation of school policies in connection with gang-related activity.

Level 3: The solicitation of others for gang-membership, the defacing of school or personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang. Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to gang activity.

Includes but not limited to soliciting students for gang membership; tagging or defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang; requiring payment for protection, insurance, otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity; inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity.

HOMICIDE

Killing of one human being by another.

Level 4: Killing of a human being.

Includes but is not limited to shooting, stabbing, choking, bludgeoning, etc.

KIDNAPPING

Unlawful abduction, transportation and/or detention of a person against his/her will.

Level 4: The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will.

LARCENY/THEFT

The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g., school) without threat, violence, or bodily harm. **(NOTE: The key difference between theft/larceny and robbery is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in robbery).**

Level 2: The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$1 and \$250.

Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

Level 3: The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value exceeding \$250. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on larceny/theft three or more times during the same school year.

Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle.

Level 4: Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle.

Includes but not limited to cars, trucks, ATVs, golf carts, etc.

(OTHER) POSSESSION OF UNAPPROVED ITEMS

The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment. **(NOTE: The use of fireworks or incendiary devices must be coded as arson.)**

Level 1: The possession of any unauthorized item. **Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous.**

Includes but is not limited to possession of toys, gadgets, personal items, etc.;

Level 2: The use of any unauthorized item (i.e. toys, mobile devices, or gadgets). **Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous.**

Includes but is not limited to use of toys, gadgets, personal items, etc. includes possession of pepper spray.

Level 3: The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; **Includes the possession of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks. The use of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks should be coded as Arson; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to unapproved items.**

Includes but are not limited to matches, lighters, or the possession of fireworks, bullets, stink bombs, CO2 cartridges; includes the use of pepper spray with or without injury.

ROBBERY

The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force, or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. **(NOTE: The key difference between robbery and larceny/theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery).**

Level 3: Robbery without the use of a weapon.

Includes but not limited to taking something by force or threat of force.

Level 4: Robbery with the use of a weapon.

Weapons may include but are not limited to guns, knives, clubs, razor blades, etc.

SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

The term "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

Level 4: Infliction of "bodily harm" that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death

Any behavior that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death

SEXUAL BATTERY

Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent.

Level 4: Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent.

Includes but is not limited to rape, fondling, child molestation, indecent liberties and sodomy

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Level 1: Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes or suggestive jokes that are not directed towards specific individuals.

Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes.

Level 2: Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or groups of individuals.

Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes; leering.

Level 3: Physical or non-physical sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment three or more times during the same school year

SEX OFFENSE

Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual.

Level 2: Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact including but not limited to public groping, inappropriate bodily contact, or any other sexual contact not covered in levels 3 or 4.

Includes but not limited to public groping or inappropriate bodily contact.

Level 3: Inappropriate sexually-based behavior including but not limited to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts.

Includes but not limited to sexting; lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts

Level 4: Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities.

Includes but not limited to oral, anal or vaginal penetration; pimping; prostitution; indecent exposure of private body parts

(OTHER) DISCIPLINARY EVENT

Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered corporal punishment, detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled, suspended for riding the bus, assigned to an alternative school, referred to court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request (pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738)

Level 1: Any other discipline incident in which a student receives a consequence listed above.

Level 2: Students who display a pattern of violating local school policies not listed among the state incident types.

Includes but is not limited to parking violations, etc.

(OTHER) NON-DISCIPLINARY EVENT

This code is used exclusively for the reporting of physical restraint. Event does not warrant consequences, but may warrant intervention to include restraint.

(OTHER) STUDENT INCIVILITY

Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth

Level 1: Failure to comply with instructions or the inadvertent use of inappropriate language.

May include but is not limited to general disrespect for school staff or students; profanity; failure to follow instructions

Level 2: Blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate language directed towards school staff or peers

Profanity or obscene language directed towards school staff; issuing false reports on other students; insubordination

Level 3: Blatant and repeated insubordination or intentional misrepresentation of the truth; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to student incivility.

Issuing false reports on school staff; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on student incivility three or more times during the same school year.

REPEATED OFFENSES

Collection of state reportable offenses occurring within a single academic year. Students provided Tier 1 through 3 interventions with no evidence of progress.

Level 1: Collection of Minor Events

Level 2: Collection of Moderate Events

Level 3: Collection of Severe Events

THREAT/INTIMIDATION

Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

Level 2: Physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack.

Includes but not limited to physical, verbal or electronic threats.

Level 3: School-wide physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack; *(Note: Students that display a pattern of behavior that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm, threat of harm or visibly bodily harm may be coded as bullying.)*

Includes but not limited to bomb threats or unauthorized pulling of the fire alarm.

TOBACCO POSSESSION

Possession, use, distribution or sell of tobacco products on school grounds at school-sponsored events and on transportation to and from school. Does not include electronic smoking devices; See Electronic Smoking Device

Level 1: Unintentional possession of tobacco products

Unintentional possession of tobacco products on school property

Level 2: Use of or knowledgeable possession of tobacco products

Intentional use or possession of tobacco products on school property

Level 3: Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on tobacco three or more times during the same school year.

Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products on school property

TRESPASSING

Entering or remaining on a public-school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose of entry. ***(NOTE: The key difference between trespassing and breaking/entering/burglary is that trespassing does not include forceful entry into the facility.)***

Level 2: Entering or remaining on school grounds or facilities without authorization and with no lawful purpose

Level 3: Entering or remaining on school grounds or facilities without authorization and with no lawful purpose. Refusing to leave school grounds after a request from school personnel; *Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on trespassing three or more times during the same school year.*

VANDALISM

The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property without the consent.

Level 2: Participating in the minor destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission.

Level 3: Participation in the willful/malicious destruction, damage or defacement of school

property or private property without permission; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on vandalism three or more times during the same school year.

VIOLENCE AGAINST A TEACHER

Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher.

Level 3: Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher.

WEAPONS/KNIFE

The possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife, dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor or razor blade. (OCGA 16-11-127.1).

Level 2: Unintentional possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate.

Level 4 : Intentional possession, use or intention to use of a knife or knife-like item with the intent to harm or intimidate

WEAPONS/HANDGUN

Possession of a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled. ***NOTE: This definition does not apply to items such as toy guns, cap guns, bb guns and pellet gun [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]***

Level 4: Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

WEAPONS/OTHER

The possession, use, or intention to use any instrument or object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm (does not include knives or firearms).

Level 2: Unintentional possession of a weapon, other than a knife or firearm, or simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.

Level 4: Intentional possession and/or use of any weapon, other than a knife or firearm, in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.

WEAPONS RIFLE/SHOTGUN

The term "rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term "shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger. [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]

Level 4: Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a rifle or shotgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

WEAPONS/OTHER FIREARMS

Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. **(NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]**

Level 4: Intentional or unintentional possession or use of any firearms other than rifle, shotgun, or handguns (including starter pistols) and any other destructive device which includes explosives.

Includes any weapon (including started gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]

Time-Out: Temporary removal from the situation/activity where the student is having a problem. The time-out period varies from a few minutes to the length of the school day, depending on the infraction and the student's response to this disciplinary action. Time-out areas are monitored. Parent notification recommended.

In-School Suspension: is an alternative school setting for students who have committed offenses which require isolation or separation from the regular student body. The In-School Suspension center assures a continued effort to provide learning for violators of the behavior code. Only an administrator can assign a student to the ISS center. Assignment may be the result of an accumulation of offenses; however, it may also be the result of a first offense which is serious **enough to warrant assignment**.

The ISS center is under the full control of the ISS Director. Any student that has been placed in ISS for ten(10) full days will attend a meeting to determine a plan of corrective action for the student. This plan may include ISS, OSS, or a tribunal. When in ISS; a student is expected to follow all school rules.

After the ISS director or his designee has given a student a warning for minor rule violations, the student will be sent to the office upon commission of a second violation. Should the violation be serious, a student will be sent immediately to the office, even though a warning has not been issued. In either case, the student will be suspended out of school for the remainder of the day.

Upon the student's return to school, he/she will return to ISS to begin the previous day's ISS assignment again (in its entirety). When a student returns to ISS, following an out of school suspension for ISS rule violations, if he/she is sent to the office again for rule violations, he/she will be suspended out of school for the remainder of the original ISS assignment plus one additional day out of school.

Before, After School Detention/ Restricted Lunch : are a vital part of the discipline process at Cook High School. Tardiness or failure to report will result in additional consequences. Any student who is assigned detention/ restricted lunch will be expected to adhere to the following schedule and rules:

- Report to the designated room by the assigned time.
- Any student arriving late will not be allowed in.
- The administrator will organize students in a proper seating arrangement.
- No sleeping or talking/communicating with other students at any time.
- Students who choose to sit improperly will stand for the remainder of the time.
- Students must bring academic assignments to work. This should be treated as a study hall. **ONLY ACADEMIC MATERIALS ARE ALLOWED!** No newspapers, magazines, games, etc.

Saturday School: Saturday School is an alternative to suspensions. Students assigned to Saturday school must be dropped off between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Late arrivals will not be allowed entry and will forgo alternatives for suspension. Students assigned to Saturday School must be picked up promptly between 12:00 and 12:15 p.m.

Suspension may be used where offenses have been repeated and for serious violations of any rule. **SUSPENSION PROHIBITS EXEMPTION FROM EXAMS and students suspended from school are not allowed to attend school functions occurring during that suspension.**

*******Any student who is directed to go to the office by a school staff member but does not report will be assigned out-of-school suspension (OSS). If the student is already on an OSS step, one additional day of OSS will be given.***

Cook County School District Bus Rider's Safety Management Plan Handbook

Dear Parent:

The CCSD provides transportation to and from school as a courtesy for eligible students residing in the district. The State of Georgia prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations and funds the service by allowing the District a given amount for eligible students transported.

Eligible students are defined by State statute as those residing in the District at least two miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical route. The nearest practical route is the nearest traveled public road which may or may not be the road used by the school bus. However, in Cook County, we transport all students regardless of the distance that they may live from the school. Address eligibility is continually audited year-round so that we may determine whether a student is riding the proper bus. CCSD does not run buses on private roads.

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe, prompt movement of students, the School district has adopted standard regulations and procedures and has provided restrictive measures for violations of the rules. For your information, these guidelines and regulations are outlined in this handbook. Click the link to view the handbook

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UONY1zrI7LoC-LoqhUJhlotzY2gUcfKX/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110412186390359254291&rtpof=true&sd=true>

The School District is pleased to provide transportation for its eligible students and solicits your assistance in helping create a safe and healthy operation. You may do so by reading this handbook and acknowledge receipt by completing a consent form provided by the bus driver and return this form within three days to the bus driver. We ask your cooperation with school personnel in developing proper behavior for those who ride buses.

If you should need information concerning bus routes, call the Transportation Department at (229) 549-6556.

Thank You

Bullying Policy

The Cook County School District believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. All schools within the district have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance among students, staff, and volunteers. Behavior that infringes on the safety of any student will not be tolerated. A student shall not bully, harass, or intimidate another student. Such behavior includes but is not limited to: direct physical contact such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults such as physical threats or intimidation, the use of electronic methods to harass, threaten or humiliate, and social isolation and/or manipulation. The school district policy prohibiting bullying is included in the student code of conduct and includes but is not limited to the following:

- Any student who engages in bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Students are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee.
- Students can rely on staff to promptly investigate each complaint of bullying in a thorough and confidential manner.
- If the complainant student or the parent of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached after consulting the school principal, the student or the parent of the student should contact the local superintendent or his or her designee.
- The school system prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process.

All students and/or staff shall immediately report incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation to the school principal or designee. School staff members are expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur. Each complaint of bullying shall be promptly investigated. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling on a school bus to and from school or a school-sponsored activity and during a school-sponsored activity. Bullying, harassment or intimidation will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken after each incident of bullying and upon a finding of guilt. Disciplinary action after the first incident of bullying may include but is not limited to the following:

- Loss of a privilege
- Reassignment of seats in the classroom, cafeteria or school bus
- Reassignment of classes
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Restricted Lunch
- Detention
- Expulsion (through appropriate due process hearing)
- Assignment to an alternative school (through appropriate due process hearing)

If necessary, counseling and other interventions should also be provided to address the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of students who are victims of bullying and students who commit an offense of bullying.

Students, parents/guardians and other stakeholders may report incidents of bullying to an administrator, teacher, counselor or other staff member by using the school district's complaint procedures or by calling the Georgia Department of Education's 1-877 SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867) School Safety Hotline. Please note: Any form of electronic bullying (cyberbullying) using school equipment, school networks, e-mail systems or committed at school is strictly prohibited.

The procedures for intervening in bullying behavior include, but are not limited, to the following:

- All staff, students and their parents will receive a summary of this policy prohibiting bullying at the beginning of the school year as part of the student code of conduct.
- The school shall keep a report of bullying and the results of an investigation confidential.
- Staff are expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur or upon receipt of any report of bullying.
- People witnessing or experiencing bullying are encouraged to report the incident to the school principal designee.

The following actions will be taken when bullying is reported:

A. Investigate

- a. Upon receipt of any report of bullying, schools will direct an immediate investigation involving appropriate personnel. The investigation should begin no later than the following school day. The investigation shall include interviewing the alleged perpetrator(s) and victim(s), identified witnesses, teacher(s) and staff members and reviewing video surveillance if available. School police, school counselors, school social workers and/or other support staff should be utilized for their expertise as determined by the circumstances of the matter.

B. Notify

- a. At an appropriate time during or after the investigation, parents/guardians of the accused and the victim must be notified. If the incident involves an injury or similar situation, appropriate medical attention should be provided and the parent/guardian should be notified immediately.

C. Discipline

- a. Upon confirming that bullying has occurred, the accused student should be charged with bullying and given an age-appropriate consequence which shall include, at minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under the circumstances.
- b. Students in grades six through twelve found to have committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year shall be assigned to an alternative school through appropriate due process by disciplinary hearing officers, panels, or tribunals
- c. Schools should clearly communicate to all parties that retaliation following a report of bullying is strictly prohibited and may result in strong disciplinary action.

D. Follow Up

- a. Follow up is important to the accused and the victim. Implement a planned method to provide after-care and follow up. Reiterate to all the previously stated prohibition on retaliation.

Cyberbullying

The new definition of bullying also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, “whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students’ or school personnel’s person or property or has a likelihood of succeeding in that purpose notification

Parent Notification Letter

Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act, the Cook County School System would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the Federal Programs Director at 229-896-2294.

Sincerely,

Leslie Folsom

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

FERPA affords parents and eligible students (over 18 years of age or attending a postsecondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the principal (or appropriate official) a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. To request amendment of a student record, parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request, specifying the part of the record they want changed and why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. If the school decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that disclosure without prior written consent is authorized by FERPA and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.31. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including school nurses and school resource officers); a member of the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or online educational services provider); a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school district has out-sourced services, such as electronic data storage; or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. The district allows school officials to access only student records in which they have a legitimate educational interest. School officials remain under the district's control with regard to the use and maintenance of PII, which may be used only for the purpose for which disclosure was made, and cannot be released to other parties without authorization.

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks/intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

(4) FERPA requires the school district, with certain exceptions, to obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, the district may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school or include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications,

such as the annual yearbook, graduation or sports activity programs, honor roll or other recognition lists, or on websites or social media sites affiliated with the school or school district.

The School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- (a) Student's name, address, & telephone number;
- (b) Student's date and place of birth;
- (c) Student's email address;
- (d) Student's participation in official school activities and sports;
- (e) Weight and height of members of an athletic team;
- (f) Dates of attendance at schools within the district;
- (g) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in district schools;
- (h) Photograph; and
- (i) Grade level.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters, upon request, with students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing within 10 business days after officially enrolling in school or within 10 business days of the date of the release of this notice.

(5) You are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, videoed, or interviewed by the news media at school or at some school activity or event. The principal will take reasonable steps to control access to students by the media or other individuals not affiliated with the school or district. However, your submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that your student will not be photographed, videoed, or interviewed, or that such information will not be posted on websites or social media sites not affiliated with the school or district, or in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

(6) You have the right to file with the U. S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

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

(7) The Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act affords parents and eligible students the right to file a complaint with the school district regarding a possible violation of rights under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-667 or under other federal or state student data privacy and security laws. Such complaints may be filed with:

Superintendent of Cook County
Schools 37 Josey Road
Adel, GA 31620

Notice of Rights of Students and Parents under Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. For more information regarding Section 504 or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact your local system's Section 504 Coordinator at the following address:

9900 HWY 37
Adel, GA 31620
229-896-2213

1. The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104 provide parents and/ or students with the following rights:
2. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.33.
3. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. 34 CFR 104.33.
4. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. 34 CFR 104.34.
5. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.34.
6. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child. 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
9. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records and parental recommendations. 34 CFR 104.35.
10. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. 34 CFR 104.35.
11. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. 34 CFR 104.35.
12. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 34 CFR 104.36.
13. You have the right to examine your child's educational records. 34 CFR 104.36.
14. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. 34 CFR 104.36.
15. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request. 34 CFR 104.36.
16. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure. 34 CFR 104.36.
17. You have the right to, at any time; file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.



Message to Parents: Vaping Policy

Dear Parents:

While CCSD's student discipline code already prohibits the possession or use of vaping devices and oils anywhere on campus, this new policy introduces revised consequences and cessation support to help students address nicotine addiction more effectively. It emphasizes education, early intervention, and access to support services aimed at reducing repeat offenses and encouraging healthier choices among students.

There has been a rising number of students not only using these devices at school to inhale nicotine, but also marijuana-based CBD and THC oil and other oils with dangerous contents that often are unknown to the student due to lack of regulation of these products. Students are becoming ill, overdosing, having seizures, passing out and requiring 911 response and hospitalization due to vaping. Students are encouraging classmates to try their devices at school and are using devices in shared spaces such as restrooms, further expanding the number of students negatively impacted by vaping.

Vaping is a serious threat to our students, and we need you to join us in helping protect the health of students by talking with your children about the dangers of vaping. If your child is already vaping and may be addicted to nicotine or THC, please seek assistance for them. For free help, visit smokefree.gov or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

ANTI-VAPING CODE

The Cook County School District is committed to the health, safety, and welfare of its students. To support this commitment, the District aims to provide a tobacco-free environment for students, staff, and visitors—one that is free from both smoke and smokeless products, including vapor and e-cigarette devices, which are the focus of this policy. The District has determined that the use of vapes, vaporizers, e-cigarettes, or other devices used to inhale vapor using an electronic device ("vaping") is harmful to the health of students and the good order of the School District. Vaping requires the use of a purpose-made or homemade device that vaporizes oil that may contain flavoring, nicotine, Cannabidiol ("CBD") oil of varying concentrations, tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC") oil of varying concentrations, or other substances that may or may not be legal to possess ("vape"). A vaping device is generally composed of a vaporizer, battery, reservoir for smoking oil, and a battery charger. By way of example, and not as a limitation, vaping devices may be called vapes, Juuls, e-cigarettes, e-cigs, dab pens or other brand names.

The Board does not condone, in the educational environment, the use of tobacco-derived products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products. It is illegal for students under the age of 21 to use vaping devices or to purchase vaping materials. The Board prohibits students' possession and/or use of all these products in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, at bus stops, and at any school-sponsored function. The Board prohibits employees, visitors, and spectators from using any of these products while on school grounds.

Please note that a vaping device with THC or any other type of illegal drug is a level 4 discipline offense, which will result in a 1st offense minimum consequence of 10 days out-of-school suspension, which could also include a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion.

Student Offenses and Consequences: High School

(All offenses will accumulate throughout one school year.)

1. First Offense:

- * **Admin counseling with student, Parent Contact, 3 day in-school suspension**
- * **Cessation assistance will be offered by the school.**

2. Second Offense:

- * **Parent Contact, 3 day out-of-school suspension (OSS)**
- * Students are prohibited from participating in activities/events on school grounds or at any school-sponsored events, whether on or off campus.
- * In coordination with the school and parents/guardians, the school will offer the student a cessation program.

3. Third Offense:

- * **Parent Contact, 5 day out-of-school suspension (OSS)**
- * Students are prohibited from participating in activities/events on school grounds or at any school-sponsored events, whether on or off campus.
- * Recommended that parent provide a smoking cessation class for the student.

4. Fourth Offense:

- * **Parent Contact, 10 day out-of-school suspension (OSS): pending a tribunal.**
- * The administrator shall submit a letter to the Student Services Director explaining the reasons for the suspension and any recommendations for further action.
The Student Services Director shall meet with the student and parents to discuss the consequences of the student's alleged offense, with the possibility of recommendation for expulsion to the Board of Education.
- * If expulsion is to be recommended, a student hearing shall be scheduled for the student to be heard before the Board of Education on the alleged violation. The student may request a closed hearing.
- * The student may be recommended for expulsion, not to exceed 365-days, pursuant to Georgia Department Board of Education Policy Georgia Code Title 20. Education § 20-2-751.2

With four violations, a report will be made to the Cook County Sheriff's Office for consideration of charges.

At any level of offense for consequences that are not followed, the administrator may discipline the student for insubordination, and further consequences may be given, in accordance.

Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of Cook County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, disability, religion or national origin in any program or activity, employment, admission, service, treatment, admissions to facilities or access to any program or activity operated by the Board or in the employment practices of the Board. It is the express policy of the Board to comply with all appropriate laws and regulations relating to discrimination now in effect or hereafter enacted including Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 and all accompanying regulations.

Title IX Information

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program and activities, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"). Such a requirement to not discriminate extends to admission and employment.

Effective August 14, 2020, pursuant to federal regulations implementing Title IX published in 2020 scheduled to become effective on August 14, 2020, any complaint involving "sexual harassment" as defined by those federal regulations that occurs in a District education program or activity against a person in the United States shall be addressed pursuant to the District Title IX Grievance Procedure. Should such federal regulations not be implemented for any reason, all such complaints involving a student complainant shall continue to be addressed in the appropriate District policy.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be directed to the Assistant Secretary of the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, or to the following:

**Henry Acree, Title IX Coordinator for Student
Matters Director of Student Services**
37 Josey Road
Adel, GA 31620
Phone: 229-896-2294
henryacree@cook.k12.ga.us

**Leslie Folsom, Title IX Coordinator for
Employee Matters Director of Human
Resources**
37 Josey Road
Adel, GA 31620
Phone: 229-896-2294
lfolsom@cook.k12.ga.us

Title IX Grievance Process

Equitable Complaint Processes: Under Title IX, both the accuser and accused have equal rights, such as the right to:

- Have an adviser of choice present during the process (this includes an attorney if allowed at all by schools) Present evidence or have witnesses speak on their behalf
- Have timely access to information that will be used at the hearing
- Be present at pre-hearing meetings that provide an opportunity to present their testimony
- Receive the final hearing decision in writing at the same time as the other party without being required to sign a non-disclosure agreement
- Have the right to appeal a final decision (The 2017 Interim Guidance states that a school may choose to allow appeals solely by the responding party or by both parties.

Title IX Forms:

Complaint Form: For employees or students to begin a Title IX sexual harassment complaint. Appeal Form: After a decision or dismissal of Title IX sexual complaint is issued, either party may appeal using this form. Informal Resolution Permission Form

Title IX Training

Materials Training for

Non-Administrators

Training for

Administrators Training

for Title IX Coordinators

Training for Investigators

Training for Decision

Makers

Cook County School System's Multi-Tiered System of Support

There is a substantial difference between a student with a Learning Disability and a student who Learns Differently.

Overview/Introduction:

This manual was compiled to guide teachers, administrators, and parents through the process of applying the federal mandate of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). MTSS is a “tiered system of support that integrates assessment and intervention within a school-wide, multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and reduce behavioral problems. MTSS promotes systems alignment to increase efficiency and effectiveness of resources. A Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a data-driven prevention framework that uses Assessment (Screening and Progress Monitoring) to identify and predict students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes or who experience social/emotional needs, and/or behavioral concerns that impact learning.

In Cook County, all students participate in standards-based learning. Students requiring interventions to meet individual learning expectations will receive support through a systematic and purposeful process. The number of students requiring interventions will decrease as the level of intensity of the intervention increases.

In this manual, you will find the Cook County Multi-Tiered System of Supports, steps to implement the process and forms that should be used at each tier for documentation and interventions.

- To keep appropriate faculty and staff abreast of the MTSS process and any updates, bi-annual training will be conducted. In addition, building level MTSS coordinators will report to the District MTSS Director the need for any technical assistance to support compliant practices. If the proper procedures are not followed, administration will be informed and a Professional Development Plan may be put into place. In order to determine what interventions are appropriate for each school the District MTSS Director, Interventionists, and Administrators at each school collaborate to identify all interventions.

MTSS Vocabulary

- **Benchmarks**-Data points that show where students are performing.
- **Progress Monitoring**-Monitoring a child's progress and recording data that reflects progress over a period of time.
- **Probes/CBM/Curriculum Based Monitoring**-Quick assessments administered to show where a student is performing and how he/she is progressing.
- **Intervention**-Instruction/Program that is in addition to and different from what the student would normally receive.
- **Differentiation**- Planning instruction to meet the needs of learners who are performing at various levels.
- **Fidelity**-Instruction, interventions, and strategies performed as they were intended (standards-based classroom, scripted interventions).

Review of the Tier System

- Tier I: Primary Level of Prevention-Instruction/Core Curriculum (80% of students)
- Tier II: Secondary Level of Prevention-Intervention (15 % of students)
- Tier III: Tertiary Level of Prevention-Intensive Intervention (3-5% of students)

Tier I

Tier I include ALL students. Tier I instruction is effective, explicitly taught standards-based instruction. Differentiated instruction is essential. All students participate in universal screenings at least 3 times per year. Interventions implemented through Tier I are appropriate for all students within the class.

Tier I Team:

- Standing: Administrator
- Required: Grade level teachers

Tier I Process

- Prior to the start of school, “at risk” students are identified using the following:
- Georgia Milestones Beginner or Developing Learner (EOC & EOG)
- Entrance Rubric
- Lexile Scores
- Exact Path Diagnostics
- Universal screening for Reading and Math will be used in all grades 3 times per year. Team meetings will be held and screening data will be used to determine which students, by class, have not achieved the benchmark skills required for the specific grade and time of year.
- For behavior, school wide discipline data will be reviewed at least 3 times during the year.
- Teachers implement universal research-based strategies/interventions for nine weeks
- The teacher monitors the targeted students’ progress and compares individual progress to the class average. If the student is not progressing, the teacher should document Tier I research based strategies and recommend during a regular team meeting that the student move to Tier II.
- If a teacher suspects a student has a vision or hearing concern, this issue should be ruled out through a vision and hearing screening before moving to the next tier.

Tier I Key points

- Interventions are provided solely by the classroom teacher/paraprofessional.
- Student performance is monitored for 1 full grading period.
- Only when the teacher has data to show that they have not been successful with an individual student through class-wide strategies and differentiation should he/she proceed with a recommendation for Tier II.
- Team meetings should be held at minimum one time per grading period in order to review data.
- Problem areas in which less than 80% of the students in the class met the standard should be considered a delivery of instruction problem and not a student problem.
- In most cases, a minimum of two follow-up meetings with required documentation are needed before considering moving to the next Tier.

It is important to remember that even though instruction and interventions are universal and

appropriate for all students at Tier I, it is still imperative that the teacher identify “at-risk” students based on universal screenings, document research-based strategies in the lesson plan, and monitor the “at-risk” students’ progress in Tier I, so that in the event that the student does need to progress to Tier II, there is documentation of Tier I instruction/interventions for those students.

Tier II

The purpose of Tier II is to support individual students in the general education classroom who have not met benchmarks through the whole class model of Tier I. Tier II targets students who exhibit significant deviation from their grade-level peers in academic or behavioral issues and who are learning at a slower rate and falling behind.

Tier II Team:

- Standing: Administration/Academic Instructional Supervisors, Referring Teacher
- Required: Grade Level Teacher, MTSS team chair
- Optional: Nurse, ESOL Teacher, Early Intervention Program Teacher, School Psychologist, School Level MTSS representative, Counselor, other appropriate personnel
- Strongly Encouraged: Parent/Guardian

Tier II Progression Requirements

- There must be a severe discrepancy between the child’s present performances relative to the class.
- The child’s rate of progress must be severely below that of classroom peers.
- The teacher must have implemented Tier I research-based strategies with fidelity.
- These must be documented and supported by data. (Appendices B, D, and F2)
- In most cases, a minimum of 4-6 data points demonstrating lack of progress in the area of deficit are required before moving to the next Tier.
- For EL-Y students, a WAPT and at least 1 ACCESS or ELLIS scores are required before moving to the next Tier.

Tier II Process

- The grade level/subject area team, during regular meetings, will identify students who would benefit from Tier II small group instruction. This decision will be based on classroom performance, lack of progress at Tier I and student performance. The team will complete a Tier 2 Referral form. (See Appendix D1)
- Students receive additional instruction through differentiated instruction, scaffolding, or flexible groups for a minimum of two times per week. (See Appendices A1-A-4 for examples of Tier II instruction and Appendices D2-D5 and F2 for progress monitoring forms).
- For students with behavior concerns, a functional behavior assessment could be completed. (See Appendices B1 & B2)
- In most cases, tier II students will be progress monitored for academics a minimum of every 2 weeks per grading period.
- For behavior concerns, weekly behavior trackers will be utilized for progress monitoring with formal observations conducted every 2 weeks. (See Appendices B1& B2)
- After a minimum of 4-6 data points of progress monitoring data; regression or no progress is indicated, the MTSS school level team should meet to determine if more intensity in delivery,

time, or instruction is required, or if a different strategy should be implemented. At least 2 different strategies should be used before a student is moved to Tier III. (See Appendices D2-D5 for minutes sheet and other documentation forms)

- If after 2 separate Tier II interventions the student continues to struggle, Tier III support may be required.
- The team will set up a meeting to determine if Tier III is necessary. **A parent/Guardian and the school psychologist must be invited to this meeting.** (See Appendix E1 appropriate forms)

Tier II Key Points

- Homogeneity and flexibility to move from one group to another is crucial.
- It is recommended that Tier II intervention initiatives be standard intervention protocols available across the school. (See Appendices A1-A4)
- Additional instruction is provided to same-ability small groups of students **IN ADDITION** to core instruction and Tier I strategies.
- Functional behavior assessments could be completed for each change in strategy for students with behavior concerns. (See Appendices B1 & B2)

Remember: Tier II is flexible and fluid. Students can and will move into and out of Tiers I and II.

A Note on EL-M Students

The student should be considered an EL-M for the two-calendar year requirement. Remember that during the monitoring period if the student is struggling, then other appropriate instructional supports, including MTSS, should be implemented. If those additional instructional supports do not resolve the issue, the MTSS committee should review the documentation and if appropriate, implement more intensive, Tier 2 and 3 interventions.

Following a documented period of Tier 3 MTSS support, if the issues continue and data support the belief that language proficiency is the root of the problem, the MTSS committee may determine that the student should be re-entered into the ESOL program. No re-screening is necessary to do so during the monitoring period.

Tier III

Tier III is designed for students with low-content area skills and/or a sustained lack of adequate progress when provided with primary and secondary interventions. Interventions are intensive and targeted to specific deficiency areas. If students are not making the expected levels of progress in Tier II, they are referred to the school's

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which comprises Tier III. Prevention through intervention is stressed in all tiers. MTSS is a problem-solving process in every Georgia school. Its purpose is to find ways around roadblocks to success for any student referred to it. Alternative strategies for increasing the student's academic, social, and behavioral performance are identified, reviewed, and implemented. Interventions should remain in place during the referral and evaluation process while data continues to be collected.

Tier III Team:

- Standing: Administration/Academic Instructional Supervisors, Referring Teacher
- Required: **Parent/Guardian**, Grade level teacher, School level MTSS representative, School Psychologist and/or Speech Pathologist, Early Intervention Program Teacher
- Optional: Nurse, ESOL Teacher, and Counselor
- ***Note: Parent/Guardian must be invited, however, the meeting can still be held if the parent does not attend.**

Tier III Progression Requirements

- There must be a severe discrepancy between the child's present performances relative to the class.
- The child's rate of progress must be severely below that of classroom peers.
- The teacher must have implemented Tier II research-based strategies with fidelity and integrity.
- These must be documented and supported by data. (Appendices B, E, and F2)
- For EL-Y students, a WAPT and at least 2 ACCESS scores are required before moving to the next Tier.

Tier III Process

- The grade level/subject area team, during regular meetings, will identify students who would benefit from Tier III interventions. This decision will be based on classroom performance, lack of progress at Tier II and student performance.
- Once it is determined that Tier III is appropriate, the school level Tier III representative or school counselor will set up a Tier III meeting inviting the Parent/Guardian and School Psychologist and/or Speech Pathologist. (Appendix E3)
- A Tier III referral form and Work Sample Analysis form must be completed prior to the meeting. (See appendices E1 and F1).
- During a Tier III meeting that includes parent and school psychologist or speech pathologist, baseline and progress monitoring data from Tier 2 are analyzed to create specific goals for student improvement. The team will identify no more than 2 specific interventions in each area of deficit to utilize with the student. (See Appendix E3 for minutes page and goals sheet)
- The team develops a plan for implementation that includes a timeline detailing how long the intervention will be implemented and dates for progress monitoring. Who, what, when, where, and how the intervention will be implemented with fidelity will be discussed and determined. (See Appendices E3 and F2)
- The school psychologist or speech pathologist will also help determine the need for additional information on the student.
- The main difference between Tier II and Tier III is not the interventions, but the frequency, duration, and progress monitoring requirements. At Tier III, Interventions should be daily or as outlined by the research-based intervention program used. (See Appendices B, E, and F2) for progress monitoring forms)
- In most cases, Tier III students will be progress monitored through specific programs for academics and behavior trackers for behavior every week for 6 weeks or as outlined by the research-based intervention program used.
- Once Tier III interventions have been implemented for an appropriate amount of time as determined by the MTSS team, the team shall reconvene to determine the effectiveness of the intervention. If the student continues to show marked difficulties and continues to show a lack of response to interventions, the team may determine that a referral for Section 504 or special education services is warranted. If after a minimum of 4 data points of progress monitoring data; regression or no progress is indicated, the MTSS school level team should meet to determine if more intensity in delivery, time, or instruction is required, or if a different strategy

should be implemented before student is referred for a Section 504 or special education evaluation (See Appendices E1-E5 for minute's sheet and referral forms).

Tier III Key Points

- Tier III interventions are sustained, intensive, scientifically based interventions.
- Groups should be no more than 1-3 students per teacher unless otherwise specified by the research-based intervention program used.
- If a student is successful at Tier III but only with the support provided, referral to special education should still be considered.

Referral for Student Evaluation:

Named case manager from the MTSS team shall complete a referral packet for either Section 504 or special education evaluation, which will be turned in to the school level MTSS representative. The school level MTSS representative shall review the packet to ensure its completion. Incomplete packets will be returned to the case manager. Completed packets will be forwarded to the school psychologist who will request additional data as needed. (See Appendix F4 for referral packet forms). Prior to a child being referred for Section 504 or Special Education, the student goes through various levels or tiers in the school's Multi-Tier Support System.

Prevention through intervention is stressed in all tiers. Documentation of Tier II and Tier III interventions will be included in the referral packet if a child is referred for a special education or Section 504 evaluation.

MTSS team should have attempted reasonable alternative strategies and interventions. If those strategies have not been successful and data supports the potential need for additional support, MTSS team may make a referral for evaluation to determine if physical/emotional/academic problems may be interfering with a student's school progress. For information on the behavioral steps of MTSS please review the behavior team information for each school at the end of the manual.

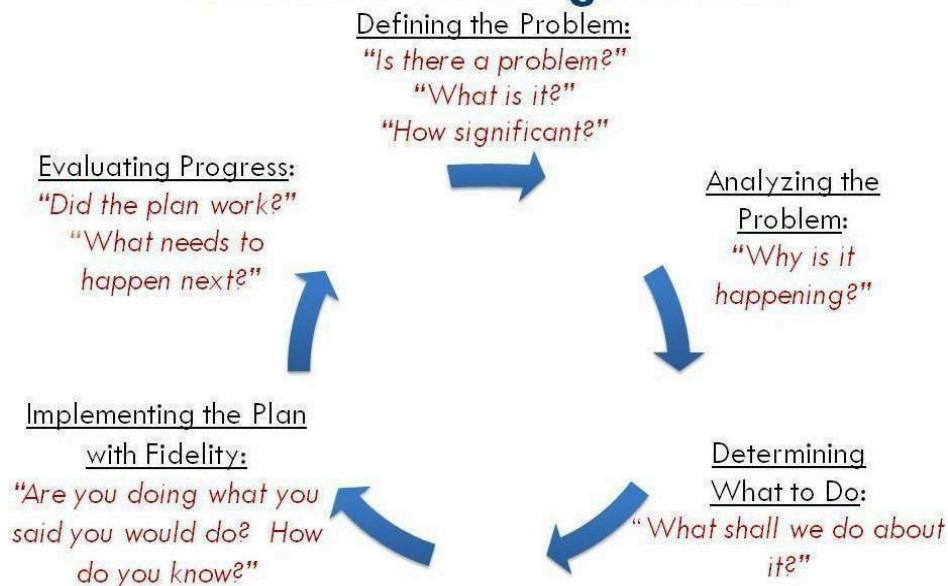
CRISIS REFERRAL:

Consultation with the Special Education Director is required to consider a by-pass and crisis placement.

This is a rare occurrence.

1. Attempts to notify the parents during the school day should be made and documented by the classroom teacher and/or principal.
2. The Crisis intervention will be documented on an MTSS Minutes form. The student will remain in the school in which the child attends; the child should be supervised full time, in and out of the classroom; and the student should not be in this placement for longer than 30 days. This is intended for crises only.
3. Students should be immediately referred to the school's MTSS. In MTSS, a Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan can be developed. The MTSS and Special Education Staff will assemble an abbreviated Initial Referral packet as well as notify the School Psychologist so that the evaluation can be expedited.

Problem Solving Method



Supervision/monitoring plan for MTSS:

Tier I:

Three times a year (September, January, and May) a data team (District MTSS Coordinator, School Administrators, Special Education Director, teachers, interventionists, and school level MTSS team members analyze the school data)

Tier II:

Every 6-8 weeks a school level data team (School Administrator, school level MTSS team members, interventionists, and referring teacher) invite each student's parent to meet to discuss each student being served in Tier 2 to go over the student's progress being monitored. Minutes and sign in sheets are completed at these meetings. Generally, at least 4 to 6 data points are collected before consideration to move to Tier III.

Tier III:

Every 4-6 weeks a school level data team (District MTSS Coordinator, School Administrator, school level MTSS team members, interventionists, and referring teacher) invite each student's parent to meet to discuss each student being served in Tier 3 to go over the student's progress being monitored. Minutes and sign in sheets are completed at these meetings. Generally, at least 4 to 6 data points are collected before a referral for Section 504 or special education evaluation is considered.

Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4)

Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

As a reminder, meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord in the form of meningitis, and the bloodstream in the form of septicemia. It can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms.

If students have not been vaccinated against meningococcal disease, we strongly recommend they visit their doctor or health care provider to get their MCV4 booster shot. Receiving the MCV4 booster now will not only help protect students against the ongoing threat of meningitis but will also meet the new school entry requirement.

We encourage you to talk with your healthcare provider or the local health department about meningococcal and other vaccines your child may need including:

- the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series
- tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis vaccine (Tdap or Td booster)
- an annual flu vaccine
- catch-up immunizations, including varicella, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), and hepatitis B

Parents of students without health insurance or those whose health plan does not cover these vaccines, may call their local health department and ask about getting no or low-cost vaccines. For more information, visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children> or call (800)-848-3868.

Water Safety

Swimming Lessons in our Area

Online Course - www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cart/checkout

1. <https://www.teamunify.com/team/gavac/page/lesson-registration>
2. <https://valdostaymca.org/aquatics/#1538491788665-c21e99cf-7c3b>

Why Is Water Safety So Important?

It only takes a moment. A child or weak swimmer can drown in the time it takes to reply to a text, check a fishing line or apply sunscreen. Death and injury from drownings happen every day in home pools and hot tubs, at the beach or in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, bathtubs, and even buckets.

Working together to improve water competency – which includes swimming skills, water smarts and helping others – water activities can be safer... and just as much fun.

Water Smarts

Take these sensible precautions when you're around water (even if you're not planning to swim):

- Know your limitations, including physical fitness, medical conditions.
- Never swim alone; swim with lifeguards and/or water watchers present.
- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket appropriate for your weight and size and the water activity. Always wear a life jacket while boating, regardless of swimming skill.
- Swim sober.
- Understand the dangers of hyperventilation and hypoxic blackout.
- Know how to call for help.
- Understand and adjust for the unique risks of the water environment you are in, such as: River currents, Ocean rip currents, Water temperature, Shallow or unclear water, Underwater hazards, such as vegetation and animals.

Swimming Skills

Learn how to perform these 5 skills in every type of water environment that you may encounter (such as in home pools, oceans, lakes, rivers and streams):

- Enter water that's over your head, then return to the surface.
- Float or tread water for at least 1 minute.
- Turn over and turn around in the water.
- Swim at least 25 yards.
- Exit the water.

Helping Others

These actions will help your family avoid emergencies – and help you respond if an emergency occurs:

- Paying close attention to children or weak swimmers you are supervising in or near water.
- Knowing the signs that someone is drowning.
- Knowing ways to safely assist a drowning person, such as “reach or throw, don't go”.
- Knowing CPR and first aid.

Joy Folsom, Superintendent

<u>Mrs. Jeanne Dixon</u>	<u>Mr. Scott Ray</u>	<u>Dr. Mary Sue Ward</u>	<u>Dr. Joi Williams</u>
CPS Principal	CES Principal	CMS Principal	CHS Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter has access to the Cook High School Student Handbook located on the Cook High School Website. If you are unable to access the handbook electronically, a hard copy can be provided in the front office. The handbook includes rules, procedures, attendance policies, promotion criteria, and other pertinent information about the school. It also has the school calendar listed with important dates for the school year. Specific information detailed in the handbook is noted below. We encourage you to review all the contents of this handbook with your child.

The Student Code of Conduct for the 2026-2027 school term is a major part of the handbook. Please review the Code of Conduct with your son or daughter, sign the acknowledgement below, and return this letter to the school. Failure to return this letter will not relieve a student or the parent/guardian from the responsibility to know the contents of the Cook County Code of Conduct and will not excuse the student's non-compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The Cook County School District (CCSD) believes in educating the 21st century students by allowing them to access technology through different means. The CCSD encourages and supports appropriate and responsible use of technology and will take reasonable measures to ensure that students are protected and that the technology aligns with educational objectives. A copy of the Cook Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy can be viewed and/or obtained at all schools and at www.cook.k12.ga.us

Student Handbook and Code of Conduct

- I am aware of the contents of the Cook County School Handbook that includes the Parent's Right to Know, Student Code of Conduct, Bus Conduct, and Attendance and Promotion/Retention Policies. I have reviewed the contents with my child. If I have further questions or concerns, I will make an appointment for a parent conference and/or call the school for more information.

Permission to Publish

- I **understand** my child's name, photograph, video image, and student work for publication to acknowledge achievements and accomplishments will be in the newspaper, the yearbook, on our school website/social media pages, and on appropriate educational sites. ** If you do not want your child's information published, you must notify the school principal in a written letter.

Permission to use the Computer Network

- I **understand** my child will use the CCSD network in all of the following ways: Internet services, student email, Google Apps for Education, and all other educational apps.

Permission to Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT)

- I **understand** my child can bring his/her own portable, wireless device to school. (The

school is not responsible for any damage, lost, or stolen items.)

Permission to Participate in School Clubs

- I am aware that all CHS clubs and activities are detailed in the Student Handbook. Within the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-705, if any parent/guardian does NOT wish for his or her student to participate in a club or organization, please signify those clubs or organizations in a written letter to the school principal.

****All permission given will remain in effect unless changed explicitly in writing by a parent/guardian. ****

Student's name (print clearly) _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (print clearly) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

Date _____