

# Echols County High School



## Student Handbook

2022-2023

# Echols County Schools

## 2022-2023 School Calendar

July '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August '22						
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September '22						
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October '22						
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30	31					

November '22						
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27	28	29	30			

December '22						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January '23						
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29	30	31				

February '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28				

March '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

April '23						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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May '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- School Closed/ Holidays
- Teacher in-Service Day (no school for students)
- Early Release
- First Day of School

88 Fall / 92 Spring

# Echols County High School

**High School**  
190 Hwy 94 East  
Statenville, Ga. 31648

**Elementary and Middle School**  
229 Hwy 129 South  
Statenville, Ga. 31648

Phone: 559-5413 or 559-5437  
Fax: 559-0423  
Web Page: [www.echols.k12.ga.us](http://www.echols.k12.ga.us)

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Echols County Schools operates on two campuses: PK-8 and 9-12.

- The High School office is located off Wildcat Circle. All high school business except student enrollment/withdrawal will be conducted in this office. The school phone number will not change.
- Student registration and withdrawal for ALL Elementary, Middle, and High School students will be done through the PK-8 campus office on Hwy 129.
- Parents should use the front drop off area for all “pick-ups” and “drop offs” of their children. Please do not enter the rear parking lot except for special events and ball games. The rear parking lot is for student drivers, teachers, and buses only during the school day.
- Athletics and other special events will be held throughout the year in our Gymnasium. People who attend these events are asked to park in the rear of the campus. Overflow parking is available by the old gym. Please do not park in the front of the PK-8 school, as there will be no access to the gym from that side for special events. In order to maintain the facility for use in multiple types of events, there will be **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** allowed in the gym at any time. We ask that our guests please enjoy concession stand purchases in the gym lobby.
- All students in grades Pre-K to 12 will be provided breakfast and lunch in the new cafeteria. Parents wishing to eat lunch with their child can obtain a visitors pass in the front office at the appropriate time.
- In School Suspension for high school students will be held in the Alternative School on the high school campus. ISS students should be picked up after school from the school office.
- **AVISO: Si necesita una versión de este formulario traducido en español, por favor llame a la escuela al 229-559-5437.**

## SCHOOL DAY ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: 7:40-2:30

School Day Arrival & Departure: Students are to report to their 1<sup>st</sup> block class or the cafeteria as soon as they arrive on campus. Students should go to their lockers before reporting to 1<sup>st</sup> block. The time from 7:40 until 8:00 may be used for eating breakfast, studying or handling other school business.

1<sup>st</sup> block will begin at 8:00. All students arriving to 1<sup>st</sup> period after 8:00 will be tardy and must report to the front office. All school business should be completed before 8:00 and no student should be out of 1<sup>st</sup> block after this time. Students who do not ride the bus are not to arrive on campus before 7:40 a.m., and should leave in the afternoons immediately after the dismissal bell at 2:30. No supervision is provided by teachers before 7:40 a.m. or after 2:30. It is extremely important that parents who pick up their children in the afternoon be on time. Teachers and office staff have required duties to perform and meetings to attend after the students leave and cannot keep children after 2:30. Students will not be allowed to stay on campus after the dismissal bell.

Unless teachers or the office are notified in writing or via telephone by the parents, students will be required to follow their regular means of transportation home. A permission note from parents is required for changes to be made. Please instruct your child to give notes to the office prior to arrival to class. The office must issue a bus pass if a student is riding home on a different bus. **No changes can be made to a child's transportation after 2:00 p.m.**

**BELL SCHEDULE:**

Students are to report to the cafeteria or 1<sup>st</sup> block as soon as they come on campus. Between 7:40-8:00 high school students can attend to school related business or go to the media center with permission slips from their 1<sup>st</sup> block teacher or students can use this period for study time.

<b>High School</b>	
Breakfast	7:40-8:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Block	8:00-9:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	9:30-10:55
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	11:00-12:30
LUNCH	12:30-1:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Block	1:05-2:30

**EARLY CHECK-OUTS OF STUDENTS AND TRANSPORTATION CHANGES:**

If parents wish to pick children up before the regular dismissal time, the request needs to be made through the office. The secretary will call the student to the office where parents may sign them out of class. If someone other than the parent or regular caretaker will be picking up children, please notify the office in advance. Please do not attempt to go to the classroom to pick up your child. If a student needs to be picked up early or change a bus route, please do so at least 30 minutes before the dismissal bell. **Please remember:** When students are checked out of school early, they miss vital instructional time. The class continues and many things are not repeated the next day. Please do not check students out of school early unless it is absolutely necessary.

**CHECKING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL:**

All students who arrive after 8:00 AM and leave prior to 2:30 PM must check in and out through the office. Students who are enrolled in Dual Enrollment should also sign in and out if their schedule causes them to come and go during the school day. Parents/Guardians may request that their child checks out during the school day. All student check outs will count as an absence for the period their child is currently sitting in at the time of the checkout (If missing more than forty minutes), and the remaining class periods they miss during the day. Echols County High School is not an open campus. Students **may not** check out for lunch, unless their parent or guardian is physically present. Parents/Guardians may check out their child for most other matters via telephone, parent note, or in person. Students, 18 years and older must be their own guardian to check themselves out.

**MEDICINES AT SCHOOL:**

**At no time should students transport medicines to and from school on the bus.** A parent or guardian must deliver medication to the school nurse. The parents or guardian must complete a form giving the school permission to administer the medication in accordance with the doctor's instruction. Parents are asked to supply cough drops, Tylenol, Tums, Advil, and any other over the counter medication that their child takes on a regular basis. The student must go to the office to take the medicine as prescribed.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine (epipens) for allergic reactions and medical needs for diabetes. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student code of conduct.

All medicine not claimed by the end of May will be properly disposed of by the school. An authorization to administer medication must be renewed each school year.

**ILLNESS/INJURY AT SCHOOL:**

The school does not have insurance to cover injuries at school. School staff will respond depending on the seriousness of the injury or illness. For non-critical illness or injury, the school staff or nurse will administer first aid. For critical illness or injury, the school will notify emergency medical services and administer first aid to the extent possible. Every attempt will be made to notify parents if their child becomes sick or injured at school. Please have someone designated to come in the event you are not available. Please keep the school informed of a telephone number (home and/or work) and address changes. If parents cannot be contacted, the nurse will isolate potentially contagious students. If efforts are not made to pick up an ill student in a reasonable amount of time, the nurse and administrators will evaluate the situation to determine if a referral to the Department of Family and Children Services is appropriate.

**SCHOOL INSURANCE:**

The school does not provide students with insurance; however, optional student accident insurance is offered. A brochure will be sent home explaining the options available and prices for coverage. The school is not in the insurance business; we merely pass out the information. The insurance company offering the coverage handles receipts and claims. PLEASE NOTE: If a student is injured and the parents do not have personal or school insurance, the school is NOT liable.

**HEAD LICE:**

Lice are a common problem in a school. Please check your child's hair frequently. If your child is found to have head lice or nits, you will be required to pick up your child and provide treatment. Remember our school has a "nit free" policy, meaning all nits must be removed from the hair. The school nurse, health department nurse or medical doctor must certify the student "nit free" before being readmitted to school. Students will not be allowed to ride the school bus if they have head lice or nits. The school checks for head lice on a regular schedule to prevent the spread of head lice. Students' must provide verification from the school nurse, Health Department or doctor in order to return to school following detection. Absences after two (2) days will be unexcused unless verification is received from the Health Department or Doctor that the student is not clear of nits and lice. Verification must be sent to the office to prevent the absences from being unexcused.

Parents of children who are identified with head lice more than three times may be referred to the Department of Family and Children Services for counseling to see if neglect is present. The administrators will evaluate the situation to determine if the referral to DFACS is appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

**TELEPHONE:**

The telephone should be used in emergency situations only. Students should make arrangements before coming to school for any after school plans which require the use of the telephone. Students must gain permission from their teacher to go to the office to ask an administrator for permission to use the telephone. Unauthorized use of a school phone will result in disciplinary action against the student. Such items as calling for permission to go home with a friend should be taken care of before coming to school. Students are not to use cell phones to make calls or send text messages during class time.

**VOLUNTEERS:**

Parents and community members who wish to volunteer in a classroom, on a regular basis, should inquire first with the classroom teacher to determine if there is a need. The classroom teacher will then seek final approval from the administration. Volunteers may be required to complete a criminal background check.

**VISITORS:**

All persons visiting the campus must sign in at the office and receive a visitor's pass. An administrator or administrator's designee must clear all visitors to the classrooms. We ask that all visitors follow the school dress code as reasonably as possible. The administrator or designee has the option of accompanying the person during their visit to the classroom. Volunteers may be issued temporary passes through the office by administrators and MUST be worn while on campus.

**PERSONAL ARTICLES BROUGHT TO SCHOOL:**

The school is not responsible for items that are brought to school, even when confiscated by school personnel. Items such as cell phones, mp3 players, playing cards, etc. are disruptive to the learning environment. Items brought to school are subject to collection by a teacher or school administrator if they become a problem in the classroom or on campus. Students who refuse to temporarily turn over distracting personal items to any school personnel are subject to additional disciplinary actions. Any item confiscated from a student will be donated to charity or thrown away at the end of the year if the parent does not claim it.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to come to class on time, prepared with materials, and expected to remain engaged from bell to bell. This is a non-negotiable expectation. Personal items, such as cell phones and music players, are considered a distraction from the learning environment. Personal items that become a distraction will be confiscated by the classroom teacher, and a parent will be required to claim it from the front office. Habitual violators will possibly face further disciplinary actions.

**LOST AND FOUND:**

All found articles and clothing are turned into the office and stored until claimed. PLEASE, clearly write your child's name on coats, sweaters, gloves, etc. with permanent marker to aid the school in returning lost and found articles. Any articles of clothing which have not been claimed at the end of each semester will be given to an organization for redistribution. If your child is missing an article of clothing, please come by the school office and check the lost and found box.

**LOCKERS:**

Lockers are rented to students in grades 9 through 12 for an annual fee of \$5.00. Locker rental is optional. Locks are sold for \$5.00. All students must purchase and use a school issued combination lock. Students can use previously purchased locks as long as they purchased it from the school. Any locker found with a non-school issued Master Lock™ will be clipped, and the student may face disciplinary action. Contents of the locker are the responsibility of the student the locker is assigned to. Lockers are not to be shared by students except with the permission of the principal. Any problems with the lockers should be reported to the office. Lockers are school property and are subject to be searched at any time when the administrator determines sufficient cause. Unclaimed articles left in lockers at the end of the year, will be donated to charity at the end-of-the-year.

**TEXTBOOKS, LIBRARY BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS:**

These materials are loaned to students by the state of Georgia and Echols County. If these materials are lost or damaged, students are required to pay for them. This excludes normal wear and tear. Refer to student debt policy.

**MEDIA CENTER:**

- Students may check out materials from the media center any time during the school day.
- The last day to check out books will be Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The last day to return books will be Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Students may check out two books at a time. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis to meet classroom needs.
- Books are loaned to students for two weeks.
- Students with an overdue book will not be allowed to check out a third book until the missing book is returned or paid for. The Media Center will reimburse money for books that have been lost, paid for, and then later found at the end of each semester.
- Students are expected to take care of books they borrow from the Media Center. They will be charged for damaged books. The cost of damages will be assessed by the Media Specialist.
- The following steps will be followed for students with overdue books:
  1. Overdue notices will be send home at the end of the first semester and in May.
  2. If the book is not returned or paid for by the end of the school year, the students' first report card the next school year will be held.

**SCHOOL DEBT POLICY**

Student's debts must be cleared in a timely fashion. Students who carry debts over a period of one semester will be ineligible to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities, clubs, field trips, after-school program; and report cards will be held.

**RETURNED CHECK/INSUFFICIENT FUNDS**

In the event that a check is returned for insufficient funds (NSF), closed account, or any other reason the Echols County School District may impose a fee of \$25. Upon receipt of an NSF or other unpaid check the school district will immediately contact the writer, by mail, that a dishonored check has been returned to the school. The letter will ask the bad check writer to bring cash, certified check, or money order for the face value of the bad check within five business days of the letter date. If the bad check writer does not clear the bad check within five business days, then a fee of \$25 will be imposed. Additional checks from this individual will not be accepted until this matter is cleaned up.

**EMERGENCY DRILLS:**

Fire, Severe Weather, and Evacuation drills will be held at unannounced times. There will be one or more drills per month. Upon hearing the signal, students will proceed as instructed to their assigned areas and roll will be called from the roll book. If the drill requires the students leave the room, they should march in single file close to the wall to allow the lines on each side to move faster and to avoid any crowding at entrances and exits. All students should be at least 100 feet from any building in a fire drill.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE:**

If it becomes necessary to close the school, information will be made available as quickly as possible. Please check with the following local media outlets:

WCTV 6  
92.9 FM  
101.1 FM

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:**

Physical education is a required subject just as math, english, etc. are required. When it becomes necessary for a student to be excused from PE because of a physical disability, she/he should bring a written note from his/her physician stating the reason for the request and the length of time to be excused. An alternative assignment will be assigned during the excused time.

**PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATION: E.C.P.C.**

The E.C.P.C. (Echols County Parent Connect) offers parents the opportunity to be involved and informed about their child’s education. E.C.P.C. works in conjunction with the parent organization at the K-8, and cooperates with the administrators, faculty, and the community at large for the benefit of the school and students. Through projects, E.C.P.C. also raises funds to purchase instructional equipment and provide enrichment materials. Remember you do not have to spend a lot of money or time to join the E.C.P.C; you just have to care and share. Each year you will be invited to attend scheduled E.C.P.C. meetings and provide input. You are encouraged to join E.C.P.C this year and help us have a very successful year!

<p><b>E.C.P.C. Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023</b></p> <p>August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 5:30PM</p> <p>November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 8:00AM</p> <p>March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00PM</p> <p>April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Fall Festival is Friday, November 4, 2022 @5:00</b></p>
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**FOOD SERVICES**

**Breakfast:**

Breakfast is served each day in the cafeteria from 7:40 to 8:00. Echols County Schools has a no-cost breakfast for all students. 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students must report to the cafeteria when they arrive at school if they want to eat breakfast. Students must be in their classrooms by 8:00 or they will be considered tardy for school.

**Lunch:**

The type of lunch that is served in our cafeteria will provide at least 1/3 of the daily nutrition requirements for students. The lunch includes milk. Echols County Schools has a no-cost lunch for all students. Teacher’s lunches are \$4.00. Extra milk may be purchased for 35 cents.

**LUNCHES BROUGHT FROM HOME OR OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS:**

Do not send beverages or food items in glass containers. School policy prohibits students from leaving campus during or prior to the lunch period and returning with fast food items for lunch. Students are prohibited from calling outside establishments to deliver food to the school. Parents and friends should not be delivering food for multiple students at one time, such as pizza orders or other fast food. Students are prohibited from entering the parking lot during lunch without permission.

**LUNCH SCHEDULE**

10:50-11:20	Pre-K
11:00-11:30	Middle School
11:20-11:50	Kindergarten
11:25-11:55	1 <sup>st</sup> grade
11:35-12:05	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
11:50-12:20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
11:55-12:25	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
11:57-12:27	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
12:30-1:00	High School



**Extracurricular Activities Protocol in the Event School is Canceled And You Feel It is Imperative that your Activity Continue to be Held as Planned**

**\*\*Normal protocol will be that all events are canceled.**

**\*\*This should only be used under extreme circumstances.**

1. Contact your Director (Athletic Director, CTAE Director, Etc.)
2. The Director, along with the principal, will decide if conditions are safe for all participants to participate in the event. Consider the travel to the destination as well as any opponents traveling to our campus. Consider conditions of the facilities and if there is electricity.
3. Principal will call superintendent and make recommendation to continue or cancel event. **TOGETHER THEY WILL MAKE A FINAL DECISION ABOUT THE EVENT.**
4. The Principal should then contact the director of the activity (Athletic Director, CTAE director, etc.) to notify them of the decision on continuing with event/activity.
5. The Director of the activity (Athletic Director, CTAE director, etc.) should contact the bus transportation supervisor (Tori Register) to notify her of the need for bus and driver.
6. The bus transportation supervisor should contact the scheduled bus driver to confirm the need of driver.
7. Devise a system of communication with all participants ahead of time so that you can communicate the cancelation/postponement with them.
  - a. Student participants
  - b. Opponents if applicable
  - c. Referees/umpires if applicable
8. In the event school is canceled for multiple days, continue this process each day that you have activities planned.
9. In the event, the activity must take place prior to a certain date (i.e. playoffs), then the head coach/activity sponsor must be in constant communication with the opposing coach/sponsor and the school principal to determine a date and time that is safe for all involved.
10. No practices will be held when school is closed without approval from the superintendent.



## REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

All requests for parent-teacher conferences are made on an appointment basis. Parents should not attempt unscheduled conferences since teachers have classroom responsibilities. Parents can arrange to meet with all of their child's teachers at one time by contacting Tara Williams or Zane Craven. Parents should obtain a visitors pass from the office before entering any classroom during school hours. Conferences for high school students are scheduled as requested.

### REPORT CARDS:

Final Report cards will be issued at the end of each semester. Student grades are reported cumulatively during the semester. Students will receive a grade report every six weeks, and a final report card at the end of each semester. All report cards should be signed by a parent, and returned to school the next school day.

<b>SEMESTER DATES</b>	<b><u>End of 6 week grading period</u></b>	<b><u>Report Cards go home</u></b>
First Semester	Sept. 16, 2022 Oct 31, 2022 December 16, 2022	Sept. 22, 2022 Nov. 4, 2022 January 6, 2023
Second Semester	Feb. 17, 2023 March 31st, 2023 May. 24, 2023	Feb. 24 <sup>rd</sup> , 2023 April 14, 2023 June 2023 (HS mailed)

### GRADING FOR GRADES 9-12:

The following is the grading policy adopted by Echols County Schools for Grades 9-12: All subjects will have a value of 60% for summative grades and 40% value for formative grades.

High school should be given a minimum of nine (9) summative grades and (15) formative grades per semester.

### HIGH SCHOOL SEMESTER GRADES:

Semester test are given at the end of each semester in grades 9 -12. A student's semester grade is determined by:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Eighteen Week Average} \quad 80\% \\ \text{EOC/Final Exam} \quad \underline{\quad 20\%} \\ \hline = \text{Semester Grade} \end{array}$$

\* End of Course Tests in classes where one is given, cannot be exempted.

#### SCHEDULE FOR 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER FINALS (GRADES 9 – 12)

December 15-16, 2022	
Dec. 15	Dec. 16
Thursday	Friday
3rd block Final Exam 11:00-12:30	1st block Final Exam 8:00-9:45
4th block Final Exam 1:05-2:30	2nd block Final Exam 9:50-11:30

#### SCHEDULE FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER FINALS (GRADES 9-11)

May 23-24, 2023	
May 23	May 24
Tuesday	Wednesday
3rd block Final Exam 11:00-12:30	1st block Final Exam 8:00-9:45
4th block Final Exam 1:05-2:30	2nd block Final Exam 9:50-11:30

**\*\*Early dismissal times for exams will be 12:00.**

**Senior Exams:**

The spring semester senior final exam schedule will be announced at a later date.

**Final Exam Exemption**

Students in grades 9-12 can elect to exempt their final exams if the following criteria are met:

An 18-week average of 90 or higher **in all classes**. Students who have missed **less** than 4 days in each class for the semester, regardless if the absences are excused or unexcused. Students who have 7 or less unexcused tardies in all classes during the semester, will earn exemption for their final exams. These students will be excused from all classes’ final exam week. (12/12 - 12/16) and (5/18 - 5/24). Students will be notified by the front office to confirm their qualification for exemptions. Their final exam grade will be replaced by their 18-week average, except in classes where an End of Course Test grade exists. **This applies only to high school courses, and does not apply to Dual Enrollment courses, unless the course is taught by an ECHS faculty member.**

\*\*Students who are in dual enrollment courses **not taught** by ECHS faculty in the spring semester, forfeit the opportunity for grades in those courses to impact honor roll GPA for honor’s night recognition.

**Students may not exempt an End-of-Course Test (EOC’s).**

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

Kindergarten through Twelfth Grades:

A+	98-100 (Excellent)	C+	77-79
A	94-97	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	F	69 & below (Failure)
B	84-86		
B-	80-83		

**HONOR ROLL:**

The honor roll recognizes high school students each semester who have maintained high academic achievements in all subjects.

- The “A” academic achievement honor roll recognizes students maintaining a 90 or above in all classes while performing grade level work.
- The “A/B” academic achievement honor roll recognizes students maintaining A’s or B’s in all classes while performing grade level work. Students must have at least one “A” in any class to be on the “A/B” honor roll.
- The performance honor roll recognizes students maintaining a 90 or above based on their ability level.
- Grades 9-12 will be calculated each semester.

**PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS:**

A student's achievement of the appropriate criteria for grade level to which he/she is assigned and his/her readiness for work at the next grade level shall be required before he/she is assigned to the higher grade. Those students who have mastered the appropriate criteria will be promoted and those who have not will be retained.

**Promotion Requirements**

- Promotion to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade – Min. 2 Semesters in High School and 5 units
  - Promotion to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade – Min. 4 Semesters in High School and 11 units
  - Promotion to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade – Min. 6 Semesters in High School and 17 units
- Min 24 to graduate

**\*\* No mid-year adjustment to grade classification (i.e. sophomore, Junior, Senior) without the approval of the Principal or his designee. Any requests for a review of student’s transcripts and grade classification changes must be submitted in writing by the student before Jan. 31st.**

*Students must be enrolled in high school a minimum of seven (7) semesters during the regular school terms to be considered a candidate for **graduation**, unless they have been retained 1 or more years prior to entering high school. This will only occur with the approval of the administration*

### **CREDIT RECOVERY/ SUMMER SCHOOL/ ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION:**

1. High school students who fall behind may qualify for opportunities to make up class credits or enroll in additional courses through the alternative school.
2. Eligible students must be recommended by the school counselor for alternative school options.
3. Counselor recommendations are on an individualized basis and are based on the best interest of the student, course availability, course format, and the course schedule.
4. Summer School grades will replace semester average. Summer School is derived from 80% classwork, 60% daily grade, 40% test and 20% EOCT/Semester Final Exam.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION GUIDE**

In order to participate in the graduation commencement ceremony, students must have completed all credit requirements for graduation prior to the ceremony. Students who receive a certificate of performance will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors who are enrolled in a spring semester class with an EOCT, will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony if they have a passing semester average, and all other credits are accounted for. When scores are returned from the state, their diplomas will be made available to them. (See graduation guide for specific class requirements.)

End-of-Course Tests are required by the State of Georgia when students are eligible to receive final credit in the following courses:

- English 11 – American Literature and Composition
- Algebra I
- United States History
- Biology

All End-of-Course Tests count as 20% of the total final average.

Grade promotions are based on the number of credits earned by a student. When a student is retained in a grade, only their grade level classification is affected. They are still able to take classes in the next grade. The following are promotion criteria:

### **Course Exemption/Opt Out**

Students may request to opt out of certain required courses that contain an End-of-Course Test. The student must demonstrate a “Distinguished” score in order to be granted credit for the course. A request to be tested must be made through the guidance office directly. **Note:** Students will be charged for the cost of the exam if they do not score in the “Distinguished” category.

### **Graduation Guide:**

- Students entering after July 1, 2008 will require 24 Carnegie units to graduate.
- Seniors graduating in 2022 will be required to meet all of the state required courses and requirements as well as meeting 24 credits to graduate.

English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12 Or college level equivalent
Math	4- Core Math Courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Senior Level Math
Science	Biology Physical Science / Physics Chemistry/Earth Systems/Environmental Science/ AP Course (1 credit) One additional Science
Social Studies	World History Government American History Economics
Health/PE	Personal Fitness/Health (1 credit)
Fine Art, Foreign Lang, or Vocational Elect.	Any 3 courses in one or more of the following areas : Ag, Business, or FCS class
Electives	Any 4 courses not credited above
Total Carnegie Units	24

\*\* Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution **must** take two units of the same foreign language

### **ECHOLS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE CORD**

Echols County High School students have the opportunity to earn a Community Service Cord for graduation. Community Service is defined as volunteer service for which the students receive no monetary or in kind contributions for services rendered.

Community service hours can be earned through a group or agency that has completed the Echols County Community Service Agreement and filed with the designated person in the high school. Examples of these groups or agencies include church groups, civic groups, school clubs/organization that involve services of students beyond the regular school day, or other community groups. Community Service credit is not given for any community service assigned as punishment by a judge or other law official. Credit for community service will only be given for work completed beyond the regular school day unless it has been preapproved by the counselor.

A documentation sheet will be kept by students with their time and signatures of adults supervising the community service work. This documentation sheet will be added to the student's permanent record at the end of their senior year. Students are responsible for keeping their documentation sheet and filing with the designated person in order to receive their cord.

In order to earn a Community Service Cord, a graduating senior must have earned a minimum of 300 hours of community service throughout his/her high school career.

### **HONOR GRADUATES, SALUTATORIAN, AND VALEDICTORIAN:**

#### **Definitions and Requirements:**

- The Valedictorian will be the student who has earned the highest-class rank in the graduating class and who has met the eligibility requirements specified below.
- The Salutatorian will be the student who has earned the second-highest class rank in the graduating class and who has met the eligibility requirements specified below.
- All grades will be calculated based on the Echols County School System's grading scale.
- Cutoff for determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be the end of the twelve weeks in the spring semester of their senior year.

### **Eligibility**

1. The eligible student will have been enrolled in the school from which he/she graduates by the end of the first semester of the junior year.
2. The eligible student will have transferred five (5) or fewer units from a school or program that is not accredited in accordance with state board rule and local board rule for transferring credit.
3. The eligible student will have a weighted numeric grade-point average of 90 or above. Students selected as valedictorians and salutatorians must complete all requirements for graduation by the end of the second semester of the senior year.
4. Students who have been selected but fail to complete all requirements for graduation by the end of the second semester for any reason shall become ineligible.

### **Class Ranking**

Class ranking shall be determined by the highest numerical grade average completed at the end of the twelve weeks in the spring semester of the graduating class's senior year. The official class ranking list will be the student information system-generated ranking of the weighted numeric grade-point averages of all eligible students in the graduating class

### **Criteria for Breaking Ties for Scholarships**

If scholarships or financial grants are to be awarded based on class ranking as Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian and the scholarships or grants cannot be shared among the students tied for those honors, the following criteria will be used, in turn, to break ties in class ranking:

#### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian:**

1. Numerical average to the 4th decimal place. If a tie still exists, then:
2. Number of Honors, Advanced, and/or AP Classes taken. If a tie still exists, then:
3. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) / American College Test (ACT) scores. If there is a commonality between those students who are tied, the SAT scores will take precedence.
  - a. SAT scores-The highest verbal score and the highest math score will be combined even if the two were on earned on different test dates. But, the test scores must have been earned and reported to the school by the testing agency no later than the last day of the twelve weeks of the spring semester for the students.
  - b. If a student has not taken the SAT but has taken the ACT, ACT scores will be used in lieu of SAT scores. If a student has SAT scores and the other student has ACT scores only, the official College Board SAT/ACT conversion chart will be used to equate these scores. The highest ACT composite score will be compared to the highest SAT critical reading plus highest SAT math score. The test scores must have been earned and reported to the school by the testing agencies no later than the end of the twelve weeks of the spring semester.

### **Honor Graduates**

The distinction of Honor Graduate will be awarded to graduating seniors who have a cumulative average of 90 or above, in grade-level courses. Cumulative averages below a 90 will NOT be rounded. Cutoff for making this determination is the end of the twelve weeks in the spring semester of their senior year

### **WEIGHTED CREDIT**

The weighted credit system recognizes and rewards students who take more rigorous, challenging, and demanding courses by awarding additional credit weight for students taking designated courses. Weighted credit is awarded for Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Core Courses. Students must meet certain criteria to be enrolled in these

courses. For each designated course, quality points will be added in the computation of the student's numerical grade point average. A list of approved courses and quality point designations will be outlined in administrative procedures. All Dual Enrollment (DE) course grades will be directly posted to the transcript at the conclusion of each semester.

Each Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Core-course will be awarded 5 quality points. The weighted credit will be computed by the student information system. The computation process will be as follows:

- a. Add up all of the numeric grades the student has to be the base number
- b. Add 5 points to the base number for each AP and Dual Enrollment Core class the student has taken and passed.
- c. Divide this new base number by the total number of classes the student has taken. This will result in the weighted average.

### **GRADE COMPUTATION**

Grades on all courses attempted will be considered in the computation, including those courses taken for high school credit in middle school, courses taken during evening school, or summer school. The divisor shall be the total number of classes attempted. (A student cannot receive credit twice for the same class.)

Valedictorian is defined as the student with the highest ranked average by the criteria following. Salutatorian is defined as the student with the second highest average based on the same criteria. Honor graduates are defined as any student whose average is 90 or above using the same criteria.

The criteria used for deciding Salutatorian, Valedictorian, and Honor Graduates are all of the grades a student earns from the beginning of his/her 9<sup>th</sup> grade year (or applicable high school credits earned in middle school) through the cutoff of the his/her 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For dual enrollment students, grades completed from courses earned at college or vocational school will be included and posted to the transcript. Dual enrollment students who are enrolled at ECHS and a college or vocational school can earn credits at both schools. Physical education and apprenticeship classes will be figured in the averages. Seniors enrolled in DE courses, not taught by ECHS faculty, in the Spring of their senior year forfeit the opportunity for grades in those courses to impact their GPA for the purposes of Honor Graduate/Valedictorian/ Salutatorian.

### **HOPE SCHOLARSHIP**

Students are eligible to receive the Hope Scholarship if they maintain a 3.0 grade point average as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (Language Arts, Math, Science, Foreign Language, and Social Science) and meet the following rigor requirements.

- Student graduation on or after May 1, 2017 must pass four rigor courses.

Rigor Courses: Advanced Academic classes (see state rigor course list), or Dual Enrollment in core subjects taken at an eligible post-secondary institution.

See award amounts on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

### **Zell Miller Scholar Program**

A student is eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship if he/she is designated as the Valedictorian or Salutatorian. A student is also eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship if he/she has maintained a 3.7 grade point average as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, Math, Science, Foreign Language, Social Science) and meet the rigor requirements (listed under the Hope Scholarship) and score a 1200 combined score (Critical Reading and Math) on the SAT on the SAT or a 26 composite score on the ACT.

See award amounts on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

### **State Program Updates Summary**

A student meeting the requirements to be a Zell Miller Scholar must also meet all the requirements to be a HOPE Scholar.

If a student loses eligibility for the Zell Miller Scholar program for any reason, they may regain eligibility one time.

The Zell Miller Scholar Program will pay:

- At an eligible public postsecondary institution, 100% of the standard tuition charges;
- At an eligible private postsecondary institution, 100% of the HOPE award amount for private colleges.

### **HOPE GRANT PROGRAM**

Students are eligible for the Hope Grant if they are enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a Technical College Systems of Georgia (TSSC) School. High School GPA and/or test scores are not considered. See award amounts on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

Students receiving the Hope Grant may also be eligible for additional financial assistance from the Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant (SIDWG). SIDWG was created to help pay for the education of students enrolled in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at TCSC schools. For more information, visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

#### **DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM OPTIONS:**

The Echols County Board of Education has adopted state rule 160-4-2-.34, Code IED(2) as its Postsecondary options program, with the following additions:

1. By April 15, all eligible students who want to be considered for this program for the next school year.(Fall/Spring)
  - a) must notify the school counselor,
  - b) file the school application and postsecondary application,
  - c) and be accepted for the program by both the high school and postsecondary school.
2. To be eligible for this program, they must meet the requirements of the post-secondary institution. Which includes meeting GPA requirements.
3. The deadline for all DE applications are due to the counselor by November 1 for Spring enrollment, April 15 for the following Fall semester.
4. As of the school year 2021-2022, the rules and guidelines have been updated and limitations are being implemented. See [gafutures.org](http://gafutures.org) for continual updates.

#### **DUAL ENROLLMENT/JOINT ENROLLMENT:**

Any student wishing to take summer college classes must do so on their own and will not fall under Echols Dual Enrollment program. The summer classes would be considered Joint Enrollment and would only appear on a college transcript and go toward college credit. The credit would NOT count toward graduation requirements for high school. It would be up to the student to pay for the classes out of pocket and would not be covered by Dual Enrollment funding through Georgia Student Finance Commission. If student seeks to take a Joint Enrollment college level academic class out of sequence from the Ga. DOE graduation requirements framework, ECHS will not be held responsible. Students taking Joint Enrollment do not qualify for early graduation. Early graduation guidelines apply to all students, whether enrolled in Joint Enrollment or not. Counselor's recommendation is not required for Joint Enrollment, but it would be noted in the student's counseling office file for future reference. If college asks for counselor recommendation, it would be provided.

#### **STAR STUDENT GUIDELINES AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

STAR student nominees must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Be enrolled as a full time student at ECHS for each semester of their Junior and Senior year.
2. Take the College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) on or before November of their senior year.
3. Score highest on one test date (scores may not be combined from two test dates). Nominees' SAT scores must be equal to or higher than the latest available national high school average on both the critical reading and writing sections.
4. Be in the top 10 percent or be among the top 10 students numerically. If the student with the highest SAT score does not meet the top 10 criterion, the student with the next highest SAT score who does meet the criterion becomes the nominee.

#### **EDUCATIONAL RECORDS:**

The school maintains educational and disciplinary records to facilitate the instructional program and the progress of students. These records are kept in the student's cumulative record. Parents have the right, upon request, to be shown these records. The request should be made in writing to the school principal.

#### **PROOF OF RESIDENCE:**

All students must complete Affidavits for residency each year. If there is a change of address during the school year, please notify the school quickly. The Echols County Board of Education established the following proof of residency for new students effective with the 1998-99 school year. Documents must contain a physical home address. P.O.

Boxes will not be accepted. At least two of the documents listed below must be presented to register a student for school:

Homestead exemption application form  
Apartment or home lease  
Driver's License  
Automobile Registration  
System representative personal visit

Mortgage document or property deed  
Utility bill  
Voter precinct identification  
Affidavit of residency signed by the property owner

### **STATE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Under the law, students who are entering Georgia schools for the first time must present a certificate (Form 3321) stating that they have had the immunizations required by the law.

#### **The immunizations required are:**

1. DPT vaccine for protection against diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and pertussis (whooping cough). Three doses are required.
2. Polio-for protection from poliomyelitis. Three doses are required.
3. Measles/Mumps/Rubella vaccine or as separate vaccines.
4. Varicella vaccine (chicken pox) is now required of all students entering Georgia schools for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.
5. Hepatitis B vaccine was previously required only for students entering school born on or after January 1, 1992. This requirement has been extended to include all new students enrolling in school at any age.
6. Effective July 1, 2014 children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending 7<sup>th</sup> grade and for new entrants into Georgia school grades 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> must have received one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

“New Entrant” means any child entering any school in Georgia for the first time or entering having been absent from a Georgia school for more than twelve months or one school year.

Out-of-state transfer students will be allowed 30 days to provide the school with an up-to-date immunization record. The county health department will immunize school children, or you may see your private physician. If the immunization requirements and/or social security number conflict with religious beliefs, parents can present an affidavit stating that fact.

### **SCHOOL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. A certified copy or the birth certificate
2. Proof of legal guardianship
3. A report of examination of the eyes, ears, and teeth on form number 3300.
4. An adequate immunization record must be submitted on form number 3231.
5. A Social Security Number or a properly executed request for waiver of the Social Security Number.
6. A child must be 4 years old on or before September 1 to enter Pre-K. A child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. A child must be 6 years old on or before September 1 to enter first grade.
7. Documentation to verify student is a resident of Echols County.
8. Head check to verify clear of nits or lice.
9. An entrance exam, for placement purposes, may be required for K-5 students prior to enrollment.

### **Out of County Residence Entrance Requirements:**

Students residing outside of Echols County may apply for entrance into the Echols County School System. Applications are available at the Board of Education Office from June 1st – 23rd All applications must be turned in to the BOE office by noon on June 23, 2022. All applications and student records will be reviewed for acceptance. All out of county students will be reviewed on an annual basis. Out of county students may be withdrawn from the school system by the superintendent at any time.

### **Homeschool Entrance Requirements:**

Any student entering Echols County Schools from a home school setting will be required to provide documentation of all homeschool courses and grades. Students will also be required to complete an entrance exam, provided by the school, for proper grade level placement.

### **NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE:**

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of



1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972); or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973); in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Employees, students and the general public are hereby notified that the Echols County Board of Education does not discriminate in any policies. If you have a question or grievance, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at the board office.

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs local school system (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that the Echols County High School and Elementary school does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs.

The sports equity coordinator for this school system is Mrs. Shannon King, Hwy 90 East, P. O. Box 40, Statenville, Georgia 31648, (229) 559-5437. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.

### **Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Notification of Nondiscrimination**

Echols County Public Schools does not discriminate the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or gender identity in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. Echols County Public Schools' Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) department does not discriminate in enrollment or access to any of the available programs located in middle or high schools. The challenging CTAE curriculum, in conjunction with core academics, provides a robust academic skills and hands-on experience. Program offerings include: Agricultural Science, Business and Computer Science/IT, Culinary Arts, Healthcare Science, and Work based Learning. Program offerings vary by school location. The lack of English language skills shall not be a barrier to admission or participation in the district's activities and programs. The Echols County Public Schools also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the American Disability Act of 1990. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator(s).

If a student completes three or more courses successfully in one of the seventeen Cluster Career Pathways, he or she will earn the Pathways Skills Seal on their diploma. When pathway courses are completed **and** the student passes the End of Pathway Assessment, he or she will earn the Distinguished Pathway Skills Seal.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICE:**

The counseling office of the Echols County Schools includes services for students, parents, and faculty of the school. Parents are encouraged to use the counseling office for information about any student problem. The faculty has access to standardized testing information and interpretation. Counseling is concerned with problems, academic or personal, which may limit a student's progress and performance in school. The Counseling helps students achieve their educational, career, and personal goals. To achieve this purpose, we provide counseling about classes; information about colleges, technical schools, and military options

### **MTSS/Multi-Tiered Student Support:**

Multi-Tiered Student support is a collaborative effort to help resolve problems students may encounter in school. The school counselor/MTSS coordinator will schedule meetings for struggling students. Parents are invited and encouraged to be part of the process. This team consists of a group of educators, administrators, and parents/guardians. Meetings are held to address the needs of individual students who are not meeting expectations in the regular classroom. Strategies are discussed which may have a positive impact on the student's performance. Student work samples and modifications made by the classroom teacher may be considered in developing a plan of assistance. Students may also be served in small groups during the school day. If these strategies are not effective, further evaluation may be needed.

### **SCREENING TESTS:**

The counselor or designated personnel may administer screening tests when there is a question concerning classroom academic progress or behavior. If further testing is deemed necessary, parents will be asked to discuss recommendations with the teacher and/or Student Support Team.

### **DRUG EDUCATION:**

The Echols County School System shall provide age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which addresses the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and provides information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol. These programs shall also provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students. Periodic staff development and curriculum revision will occur to maintain a thorough, spiraling instructional program.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Student Attendance Protocol**

The Echols County school system as required by the Georgia Legislature, drafted its attendance policy with the assistance of a local Student Attendance Protocol Committee.

#### **Student Attendance Protocol Committee**

This committee was established to ensure coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies, and programs involved in compulsory attendance issues. The committee's goal is to reduce the number of unexcused absences from school, and to increase the percentage of students present to take tests which are required to be administered under the laws of this state.

### **Truancy**

Regular school attendance is required until the age of 16 under the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law. (O.C.G.A., 20-2-690.1) Each day a student is absent he/she misses valuable instruction. Echols County Schools will typically refer students for truancy when they reach 7 absences and 5 out of 7 absences are unexcused; however, this is not a policy, it is a guideline. Students who reach 15 absences in a school year may be referred for truancy regardless of the excused status. (Lengthy hospital stays or ongoing documented medical conditions are taken into consideration.) Truancy is determined as a year-long pattern, and it is calculated from August to May.

### **Possible Loss of Credit**

Students in High School who are absent 7 or more unexcused days per semester are subject to losing credits for individual classes. High school absences are counted by class, not the whole day. High School students missing more than 40 minutes will be counted absent. High school students, who miss 7 or more unexcused days per class in a semester, are required to come before the attendance committee. Failure to follow this procedure will result in the automatic loss of credit.

Students from the ages of 6 to 16 are subject to the mandatory school attendance law. (O.C.G.A., 20-2-690.1)

- Attendance for all students in Middle and High School is calculated by each class period.
- Parents may be automatically notified with a recorded telephone message when a student is marked absent in one

or more class periods.

### **Attendance Guidelines**

#### **(School Wide) Year Long Absence Protocol for ALL students**

- 4 Absences (Unexcused or Excused): phone call or notification letter sent home.
- 6 Unexcused Absences: required parent conference, notification letter sent home. possible referral to Echols County Probate Court for truancy.
- 15 Combination Unexcused/Excused absences: possible referral to Echols County Probate Court for truancy.

#### **High School**

- 7 unexcused absences per semester: possible loss of credit in High School.

The Echols County School Board of Education will follow the state guidelines for approving students' absences. Any students missing more than 5 consecutive absences will be subject to withdrawal per administrator's approval.

#### **An absence is excusable ONLY when:**

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U. S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
7. The Board authorizes high school administrators to allow for eligible students a period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.

The principal may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating those absences are excused.

Students in foster care shall be counted present when they attend court proceedings related to foster care.

Students participating in the Student Teen Election Participation (STEP) program are to be counted as "present." Each student is limited to two days per school year for participating in the STEP program.

#### **SCHOOL NURSE:**

The Echols County school nurse has the authority to excuse student absences in cases of illness. Only students who see the school nurse during the course of a regularly attended school day will receive documented excuses. At no time should you send your child to school simply for the purpose of seeing the school nurse. You should take your child to a Doctor or a health clinic for evaluation and an excuse. Only students who see the school nurse, during the course of a regularly attended school day, will receive documented excuses.

When students are absent from any class, they must present proper documentation for the absence within 3 days of returning to school. High School students will present their notes to the front office, by 8:00 a.m. upon their return to school.

Students should get certificates from their doctor, the Echols County Health Department, or their dentist EACH time they visit their offices for treatment. These certificates must state the date(s) the student was present for treatment and be turned into the office or attendance officer within 3 school days from the visit. A student who must be absent for any reason other than the reasons listed above should make preparations for a prearranged absence with an administrator. The absence will be an unexcused absence; however, the child will be able to make up missed work. **It is the responsibility of the student to ask the teacher for assignments missed due to an absence.**

#### **PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL-RELATED AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

A student suspended in school (ISS) will be counted present although out of the regular classroom. The student will receive grades for all work done in ISS and be allowed to make up other work missed. Students in ISS will **not** be allowed to

participate in any school-sponsored event or school activity, without administrative approval. Students will be allowed to resume participation on the next regular school day or weekend. An assignment of ISS will not prohibit the student from attending events as is the case for OSS.

A student suspended out of school (OSS) will be counted absent. Suspended students are required to make up work missed. The student shall make up those tests and assignments that the teacher determines will have impact on the student's final grade and mastery of course content. **It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to make up work within 3 school days upon return to school.** During the term of suspension, the student is not allowed on the school campus or at any school activity or school-sponsored event.

\*\* School discipline is assigned as a reaction to a student's behavior and/or actions. Consideration for upcoming games or scheduled school events is not part of determining a student's discipline assignment.

### **TARDY TO SCHOOL:**

Students tardy to school must be checked in at the office or they will be counted absent for the whole day due to the fact that we will have no record of their coming to school without checking into the office.

Students in High School are counted tardy for each class they arrive late. Discipline will be administered when the students reach a certain number of occurrences. These are cumulative across all blocks. (ex. A high school student who is late to 1<sup>st</sup> block twice and fourth block twice would expect discipline to occur.)

### **Tardy per Semester**

- Each occurrence                      Automated parent notification
- 4<sup>th</sup> time                                  Conference with Principal
- 5<sup>th</sup> time                                  1 days ASD (30 min)
- 7<sup>th</sup> time                                  2 days ASD (1 Hour)
- 9<sup>th</sup> time                                  3 days ASD (1 Hour + Parent Contact)
- 11<sup>th</sup> time                                 4 days Long ASD (1½ Hours 2:30-4:00)
- 12<sup>th</sup> time                                 1 day ISS
- 13<sup>th</sup> + times                             OSS

### **UNEXCUSED EARLY CHECK OUT**

Students in High School are counted UECO for each class they check out of without a valid excuse. (See Excused Absence list above). Discipline will be administered when the students reach a certain number of occurrences. These are cumulative across all blocks. (ex. A high school student checks out of 1<sup>st</sup> block twice and fourth block twice without a valid excuse, would expect discipline to occur.) Students who miss more than 40 minutes of the block will be counted as absent for that period.

- Each Occurrence                      Automated parent notification
- 4<sup>th</sup> time                                  Conference with Principal
- 5<sup>th</sup> time                                  1 days ASD (30 min)
- 7<sup>th</sup> time                                  2 days ASD (1 Hour)
- 9<sup>th</sup> time                                  3 days ASD (1 Hour + Parent Contact)
- 11<sup>th</sup> time                                 4 days Long ASD (1½ Hours 2:30-4:00)
- 12<sup>th</sup> time                                 1 day ISS

**AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION:**

Students who fail to report to ASD will face additional disciplinary action, which could result in extended ASD/ISS. They may still be required to fulfill the ASD assignments they missed. No transportation is provided for students in ASD. Please make sure to arrange for your child to be picked up in the front office at the end of their assignment.

**LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY:**

An excused check out will only be granted based on the conditions given as excused absences according to the State. Any student checking out and checking back into school will follow the same guidelines set up for absences and must have signed documentation. Before a student can check out of school, a parent or legal guardian must be contacted. A note must be sent with a phone number where the parent can be reached. No student may leave the school without permission from a school official. If a parent cannot be reached to verify a doctor's appointment, an appointment card can be provided to the office, and used for verification for leaving. See also \*CHECKING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL\*  
School work missed during an absence must be completed to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher within 3 days. Pre-assigned work/projects/tests are due on the day of return.

**MAKE-UP WORK:**

*Clarification of the Board of Education Policy*

A student must be given **three** school days from the time the student returns to class from an absence to make up work that was not assigned prior to the date absent. The teacher has discretion whether to allow additional time without penalty for a student to complete assigned work, whether to accept extra assignments, alternate assignments or to allow work to be redone.

Definition: Make-up work

- Assignments given to students prior to or following absences
- Absences due to participation in extracurricular /co-curricular/school related activities
- Prearranged absences-these assignments may be duplicate assignments given to other students during the time of absence or similar assignments as deemed appropriate by the teacher.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE:**

The School Administration will appoint a Student Attendance Appeal Committee each school year to hear appeals from students who exceed the number of unexcused days allowed for absences from school. The committee will include three teachers from the system. When an appeal is requested, parents will be notified of the time and place of the appeal hearing. Any documentation should be brought to this appeal hearing. All appeals must be completed within five days of the end of the school year or applicable semester. To appeal the decision of the committee, written notification must be sent to the Superintendent, indicating the desire for appeal to the Echols County Board of Education within five days of the Student Appeals Committee Meeting.

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS:**

- Students in High School must be present for each class period to be considered for perfect attendance recognition.
- Students will be eligible for recognition and prizes throughout the year.

**DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

In addition to academic preparation, Echols County School is responsible for instilling in our youth the behaviors that are

required to sustain society. We have established the goal of creating an atmosphere throughout the school where children feel safe, secure, and happy and have maximum opportunity to learn. To achieve this goal, we have identified what is acceptable behavior and what is unacceptable behavior and the consequences of the unacceptable behavior. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times on the campus, in the cafeteria, classrooms, hallways, parking lots, buses, and at extra-curricular activities.

Echols County Schools is not required to notify parents before corrective action is taken. A parent who refuses to allow the school to correct a student must sign a waiver with the principal and they will be called to pick their child up from school when he/she violates the student code of conduct.

*Georgia law (O.G.C.A. 20-20735) requires that all local boards of education adopt a student code of conduct including standards of student behavior and disciplinary action for students who violate the code of conduct.*

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The purpose of this code is to provide students in the Echols County School System an effective and safe learning environment. This handbook has been prepared in accordance with the Discipline Procedures of the Echols County School System. Included is an outline of expected behaviors and the consequences relating to various violations. Expected behavior is behavior that promotes learning and encourages maturity during the school day as well as during all school-related activities.

Students and their parents need to know and understand this code in order to achieve these goals. Students should: Participate fully in the learning process. Students need to report to school and class on time, attend all regularly scheduled classes, remain in class until excused or dismissed, pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and ask for help when needed.

Avoid behavior that impairs their own or other students' educational achievement. Students should know and avoid the behaviors prohibited by this code, take care of books and other instructional materials, and cooperate with others. Show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees. Students must obey reasonable directions, use acceptable and courteous language, avoid being rude, and follow school rules and procedures.

Recognize and respect the rights of other students and adults. All students should show concern for and encouragement of the educational achievements and activity participation of others.

In all cases, the rights of students will be ensured and protected. Echols County School Administrators will make every reasonable effort to administer the discipline code consistently. When applicable, individualized plans (i.e. IEP, 504, and SST) will be reviewed for appropriate consequences.

### **STUDENT SEARCH AND SEIZURE PROCEDURES:**

The Board authorizes reasonable searches of students directed to that end by authorized school officials. Searches based on reasonable suspicion may proceed without hindrance or delay, but they shall be conducted in a manner which ensures that students are not arbitrarily stripped of personal privacy. The principal of each school, or his/her authorized representative, possesses the authority to conduct inspection of a student's locker, automobile, person, or other possessions based on a reasonable suspicion of the presence of unauthorized items. The term "unauthorized" is intended to mean any item that is dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to the student.

Metal detectors and drug-sniffing and weapon-sniffing canines may be used to search students and their personal property to detect possession of unauthorized items before, during, or after the school day on school property, school transportation, and at school related activities. A student's failure to permit searches will be considered grounds for disciplinary action. Student cars brought on campus, student book bags and other containers, pocketbooks/purses, school lockers, desks and other school property, including school buses, shall be subject to inspection and search by school authorities at all times without further notice to students or parents. Such searches may be conducted using search dogs or hand-held metal detectors. In the event that a specific student is reported or suspected of having weapons, drugs, or other materials in violation of school rules, school district policy or state law, his/her person may be searched. Full random searches will be conducted by school

officials and/or law enforcement.

***Seizure of Illegal Materials:*** If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper authorities for ultimate disposition.

## DISCIPLINE GLOSSARY

### General Terms

**After-School Detention** - Students assigned to ASD will report to a designated classroom as assigned by the principal. Assigned students are supervised for a period of approximately 30 minutes to 90 minutes, depending on infraction. Parents are responsible for student transportation.

**Bus Suspension** - The student is suspended from the bus for a specified period of time by the local school administrator. The student is expected to attend school, but the parents are responsible for providing transportation to school.

**Cell Phone Use** - Knowingly uses or transmits a cell phone or electronic pager while on school property during school hours; Personal phones and pagers must be turned off and kept out of view. If a personal phone or pager rings or is used during the school day, it will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian. (Student will face disciplinary action.)

**Disciplinary Probation** - A student found guilty of certain offenses may be placed on probation by the local school and/or the Student Disciplinary Panel. Probation is a trial period during which a student violating school and/or school system rules is subject to further disciplinary action.

**Due Process** - A student is afforded oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and is given an opportunity for a review, hearing or other procedural rights in accordance with state and federal laws.

**In-School Suspension** - The student is removed from regular classes for a specified period of time at the local school. The teachers send class work assignments to the student.

**Intermediate Alternative School Placement** - The student is placed in an alternative school setting located on the Echols County School campus for a length of time to be determined.

**Long-Term Suspension** - The student is suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days.

**Non-Prescription Drug** - Over-the-counter drug not authorized by a registered physician and not prescribed for the student. Student use is prohibited unless the parent/guardian signs a release giving permission.

**Out-of-School Suspension** - The student is suspended out-of-school for a determined period of time. See short-term suspension.

**Permanent Expulsion** - The student is removed from all public school property and activities or events for an indefinite period of time. This action may be taken only by the Board of Education. Schoolwork may not be made up or credit given.

**Prescription Drug** - All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school. All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school nurse immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the school district's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook. A student shall not sell, use, or transmit any medication, prescription or non-prescription to another student while on school grounds or during a school activity, function or event off school grounds or while under school supervision.

**Short-Term Suspension** - The student is suspended out-of-school up to ten (10) days by the local school administrator. The student may be suspended for an accumulation of offenses, as well as a major offense. Suspended students are required to make up work missed. The student shall make up those tests and assignments that the teacher determines will have impact on the student's final grade and mastery of course content. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to make up work within three (3) school days upon return to school. During the term of suspension, the student is not allowed on the school campus or at any school activity or school-sponsored event. (See "Participating in school related and extra-curricular activities" for more information)

**Student Disciplinary Tribunal** - A three-member panel composed of an administrator, teacher, counselor, social worker or central office staff member. The Panel hears evidence presented by the school system, the student, and parents when a student is referred by the local school principal or his/her designee. The Panel has the authority to make decisions ranging from returning the student to the local school to recommending to the Board of Education for permanent expulsion of the student.

**Silent Lunch** - A student is assigned to sit at a designated table away from his peers during lunch. The student is not allowed to have conversations with other students during this time nor are they entitled to purchase or receive ice cream

or drinks from the machines.

**Lunch Detention** - Students in Middle and High school can be assigned lunch detention for more serious classroom disruptions as a prior step to a referral. Students receive a takeout tray from the lunch room and report to an assigned room for the entire lunch period. The student is not allowed to have conversations with other students during this time nor are they entitled to purchase or receive ice cream or drinks from the machines.

**Transmission** - Any substance, article, or weapon passed to another person.

**Waiver of Right to Attend Student Disciplinary Panel** - Parents may sign a waiver if they cannot attend or do not elect to attend the panel hearing. In the event a parent or student does not attend the hearing, it will proceed as scheduled.

**Work Assignments** - Supervised activities related to the upkeep and maintenance of school facilities.

**Zero Tolerance** - These actions will not be tolerated and the proper authorities will be notified: (1) Sexual misconduct; (2) Assault or battery of a school employee; (3) Possession or use of drugs; (4) Criminal law violations; (5) Any type of gang activity; (6) Vandalism of personal property of faculty and staff. The school system will be proactive. Each individual case will be reviewed.

## **DISCIPLINE VIOLATION TERMS**

**AWOL** - Unauthorized absence and/or leave from class, school, activity, or event.

**Bullying** – See separate section

**Bus Misconduct** - Failure to comply with rules of bus safety or Student Code of Conduct.

**Chronic Lack of Supplies** - Repeatedly reporting to class without necessary materials such as books, physical education attire, supplies, etc.

**Disobedience/Insubordination** - Failure of the student to comply with a reasonable direction or instruction by staff.

**Disrespect** - Responding in a rude and impertinent manner.

**Disruption** - Behaving in a manner which interferes with educational activities.

**Fighting** - Involves the exchange of mutual physical contact such as pushing, shoving and hitting, with or without injury.

**Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Abuse** - Disturbing consistently, by pestering or tormenting in the classroom, on the school bus, or elsewhere on the school site.

**Inappropriate Dress** - Dressing in a manner that disrupts the teaching and learning of others, or violation of the school dress code.

**Inappropriate Personal Property** - Possession of personal property that is prohibited by the school rules, such as food, beverages, and electronic equipment, and that is otherwise disruptive to the teaching and learning of others.

**Profanity/Vulgarity** - Writings, speech, or gestures that convey an offensive, obscene, or sexually suggestive message.

**Sexual Harassment** - Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is deliberate and/or repeated sexual or sex-based behavior that is not welcome and not asked for.

**Tardiness** - Failure to be in a place of instruction at the assigned time without a valid excuse.

**Truancy** - The student stays out of school without permission or valid excuse.

## **LAW VIOLATION TERMS**

**Arson** - Intentionally starting or attempting to start any fire or combustion.

**Assault** - With criminal intent, the act or threatening to strike, attack, or harm any person in school or at any school-sponsored or supervised activity. Intentional offensive/physical contact without consent.

**Battery** - Any physical force or violence unlawfully applied to a person. This can include jostling, tearing clothes, or seizing or striking another person, so long as there is criminal intent.

**Bomb/Explosive** - A device containing combustible materials and a fuse, including fireworks M-80 or above.

**Burglary** - Unauthorized entry into a school district building (unoccupied) with the intent of committing a felony when the building is closed to the students and the public [See Theft].

**Disorderly Conduct** - Behaving in a violent or seriously inappropriate manner which disrupts the educational process. [Note: This category is used only when the police are called to cite a student or person for extreme disruption.]

**Drug/Alcohol/Chemical Offense** - Any controlled substance or alcohol; includes any transfer of a prescription drug or any substance alleged to be a drug, regardless of its actual content.

**Extortion** - Use of “mild” threats or intimidation to demand money or something of value from another (no weapon).

**False Fire Alarm** - Reporting a fire to school or fire officials or setting off a fire alarm without a reasonable belief that a fire exists.

**Felony** - Any offense punishable as a felony under Georgia or federal law.

**Gambling** - Playing any game of skill or chance for money or anything of value.

**Loitering/Trespassing** - Entering any school property or school facility without proper authority (includes student entry



during a period of suspension or expulsion).

**Robbery** - Taking property from a person by force or violence, or threat of aggression.

**Sexual Assault/Offenses** - Intentional sexual contact of a harmful or offensive manner.

**Theft/Larceny** - Unlawful taking and carrying away of property belonging to another person (while the building is occupied) with the intent to deprive the lawful owner of its use [See Burglary].

**Threatening/Menace** - With criminal intent, the act of threatening to strike, attack, or harm any person in school or at any school-sponsored or supervised activity.

**Vandalism/Graffiti** - The willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property.

**Weapon** - An article or implement that can cause bodily harm. The term "weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife, straight-edge razor, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shudken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser. **The administration retains final authority in determining what constitutes a weapon, especially when evaluating potential danger.**

**Exceptions:**

Law Enforcement officials may carry weapons on school property. Principals may issue exceptions for items such as cutting instruments used in art or vocational education classes, or weapons or look a-likes used for instructional programs. Instruments such as box cutters will be provided by the classroom instructor and should never be brought in by the student.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

**ISS classroom procedures**

The ISS day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Students will report directly to the ISS classroom after obtaining their required materials. Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. After 3:30 p.m., students will be waiting in front office for parent pick up. ISS students will be required to perform school services after breakfast and lunch sessions. Students who are assigned partial days to ISS will be released at 2:30.

**ISS procedures for chronic offenders**

- Students assigned to ISS will require a face-to-face parent conference with an administrator each time they receive ISS.
- After a student has been assigned to ISS three times, they may be required to complete an after school work detail. Work details will be scheduled at the beginning of each month, and students will receive notice of their assigned time. Work detail will take place from 2:30 to 5:30 and will include school beautification projects.
- Students who are assigned to ISS for a fifth time in a school year will be considered a chronic discipline problem for the school system. These students will be recommended for a disciplinary tribunal which may result in being assigned to the alternative school or possible expulsion.

**Echols County School Disciplinary Procedures**

Violation	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Level V	Comments
1. Classroom Disruption. (Excessive Talking, Horse Play, etc.)	X	X	X			
2. School disruption, participating in riot, pulling fire alarm, or arson.		X	X	X		
3. Destruction, damage, defacing or theft of school or private property.		X	X	X		
4. Rude or disrespectful behavior.	X	X	X	X		
5a. Disregarding Directions (includes sleeping, disengagement from class, etc.)	X	X	X	X		
5b. Chronic Lack of Supplies.	X	X	X	X		
6. Threatening Staff.		X	X	X		
7. Assault and Battery.			X	X	X	

8. "Bullying", Threatening, or Harassing Another Student and Sexual Harassment.	X	X	X	X	X	3 offenses of bullying will result in assignment to an alternative school setting
9. Profanity, Vulgarity, Obscene Language, Writing, Etc.	X	X	X			
10. Fighting or Instigating a Fight.	X	X	X			
11. Possession of a Weapon or Dangerous Instrument.				X	X	
12. Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia.				X	X	
13. Tobacco Products, E-cigarettes, Vapes and Paraphernalia.			X	X		
14. Alcoholic Beverages Possession, Use or Being Under the Influence.				X	X	
15a. Inappropriate Bodily Contact. (ex, holding hands, kissing, etc.)	X	X	X			
15b. Sexual Misconduct.				X	X	
16. Skipping Class/Chronic Tardiness.	X	X	X			
17. Truancy.	X	X				
18. Conduct outside of school time/away from school that poses a threat to the school.		X	X	X		
19. Gambling.	X	X	X	X		
20. Loitering, Trespassing.			X	X		
21. Cheating or Forgery	X	X	X	X		
22. Any other conduct considered by the principal or designee to be disruptive.	X	X	X	X		
23. Cell Phone Violation.	X	X				
24. **Inappropriate Dress.	X	X				Refer to Administrator
25. **Lunchroom Conduct.	X	X				
26. **Assembly Conduct.	X	X				
27. **Disruptive Behavior on Bus.						Refer to bus discipline procedure chart.
28. **Inappropriate Computer Use and Violation of Internet Acceptable Use Policy.	X	X	X	X	X	
29. **Zero Tolerance Offense.			X	X	X	
30. **Parking Lot/Car on Campus.		X	X	X	X	
31. AWOL - Unauthorized Leaving Campus		X	X			
32. Disregard for School Personnel. (ex. Refusal to give name, intentionally walking away, or out of class.)			X	X		

#### DEFINITIONS OF A SERIOUS BREACH OF CONDUCT

The following list of serious offenses will not be tolerated in the Echols County Schools, on school property, bus stops, on school-sponsored transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity:

1. Intentionally causes, or attempts to cause, substantial damage to school property, or steals, or attempts to steal school property of substantial value.
2. Intentionally causes or attempts to cause substantial damage to private property or steals, or attempts to steal valuable private property.
3. Intentionally causes, or attempts to cause, physical injury to another person.
4. Knowingly possesses, sells or attempts to sell, uses, transmits, or is under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, or intoxicant alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, or any controlled substance while on school property or at any school sponsored activity; Using a wireless communications device to commit a criminal act may result in the imposition of disciplinary action or criminal penalties.
5. Formally is charged with a felony for an incident which allegedly occurred on property other than public school property, but which is shown to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare in the school in which the student is enrolled.
6. Knowingly uses or copies the academic work of another and presents it as his own without proper attributions;
7. Repeatedly and intentionally defies the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, or administrators;
8. Bomb threats;
9. Homicide (murder, manslaughter);
10. Sexual battery;
11. A verbal and/or written threat to take or jeopardize the life/safety of a students, teacher, and/ or other personnel;
12. Armed robbery;
13. Assault, battery, or aggravated battery on a teacher, students, or other school personnel;
14. Kidnapping or abduction;
15. Arson;
16. Possession, use or sale of any explosive device; and/ or
17. A student, who knowingly transmits, transports or possesses (on student or in student's automobile or otherwise) on campus any firearm, razor blade, box cutter, knife, or other dangerous object or weapon, shall be considered for expulsion.

A student shall be considered to have committed a serious breach of conduct, which would warrant suspension or expulsion, if he/she does any of the above.

#### **A VERBAL AND/ OR WRITTEN THREAT:**

A student, who commits a verbal and/ or written threat to jeopardize the life and/or safety of another student, teacher, or school personnel will establish a behavioral contract during a meeting with the school's principal/ designee and student's parent/guardian and may be subject to the following actions:

- Alternative placement
- Community/volunteer services
- Counseling by appropriate school personnel
- Expulsion
- In/out of school suspension
- Law enforcement intervention
- Mental/ health intervention
- Other action deemed appropriate by the school administration

#### **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCESS FOR ECHOLS COUNTY SCHOOL**

This progressive discipline model is divided into five levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequences. The level of discipline imposed shall be based on the severity of the misbehavior. The purpose of the following discipline procedures is to ensure that all students are aware of the actions that violate school rules and the consequences of these actions. Depending on the severity of the incident. Students guilty of an offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee. This list is not all-inclusive and any act of misbehavior is subject to consequences. Any time a student is referred to the office for disciplinary reasons, the student will be given a copy of the disciplinary referral to take home for parents or one will be sent via mail.

#### **Level I Discipline**

Level I discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct, which interfere with orderly school procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student's own learning process. Students may be disciplined by the teacher involved or may be referred directly to the principal.

Each teacher will develop a classroom behavior management plan to be approved by his or her administrator. The plan will be discussed with all students.

Teachers may utilize any of the discipline management techniques appropriate for the situation, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Teacher-student conferences
2. Parent conference
3. Student participation in conference with parent/guardian and teacher.
4. Loss of privileges
5. Isolation during lunch.
6. Classroom isolation from peers.
7. Loss of recess or other free choice time.
8. Participation in a school-service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait(s).
9. Development of a written or graphic representation that reflects understanding of the specific misbehavior, the nature of the expected behavior, and the related character trait(s).

The principal or his designee may utilize any of the previously mentioned discipline management techniques, and/or may employ:

1. Verbal reprimand or conference
2. Time-out in an alternative setting
3. Writing assignment from student handbook
4. Student participation in conference with parent/guardian, teacher, and/or principal.
5. Restriction from school programs and special assemblies.
6. After-school detention.
7. Partial day in-school suspension (ISS).
8. Full day in-school suspension (ISS) for one school day.
9. Work assignment
10. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
11. Any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

### **Level II Discipline**

Level II discipline offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct that require administrative intervention. These acts include, but are not limited to, repeated, unrelated acts of minor misconduct and misbehaviors directed against persons or property, but which do not seriously endanger the health, safety or well being of others. Students guilty of a Level II offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques as in Level I if deemed appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee.

In addition to the following alternatives:

1. Full day in-school suspension (ISS) for up to five school days.
2. Corporal punishment (parent must give permission)
3. Suspension from school for up to three school days.
4. Financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment.
5. Development of a written or graphic representation that reflects understanding of the specific misbehavior, the nature of the expected behavior, and the related character trait(s).
6. Participation in a school service project that enables the student to be engaged in the desired character trait(s).

Note: Level II differs from Level I in that it increases the maximum number of days in ISS from one to five, adding financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school-related environment, allows out-of-school suspension for up to three days, and prompts consideration of behavior support services.

### **Level III Discipline**

Level III discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehavior that is similar in nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal. Offenses that threaten the health, safety, or well being of others may result in immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to three school days. Student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal is a required element of all discipline actions in this category, even if such a conference has previously occurred. Initiation of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided.

Students guilty of a Level III offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques mentioned in Level I and II as deemed appropriate for the situation as determined by the principal or designee, including the following alternatives:

Full day in-school suspension (ISS) for up to ten school days:

1. Suspension from school for up to five school days, which shall include any time during which the student was subject to suspension pending investigation.
2. The possession of a firearm or weapon will result in expulsion from school for one year. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement for good cause on a case-by-case basis.

*The administration retains final authority in determining what constitutes a weapon, especially when evaluating potential danger.*

#### **Exceptions to Weapon Policy:**

Law Enforcement officials may carry weapons on school property. Principals may issue exceptions for items such as cutting instruments used in art or vocational ed classes, or weapons or look a-likes used for instructional programs (e.g., for drama classes).

Note: Level III differs from Level II in that it requires student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal for any discipline incident in this category and increases the maximum number of days in ISS from five to ten, provides an option to immediately suspend a student from school for up to three school days in situations in which the health, safety, or well-being of others is at-risk during the disciplinary investigation, and increases the maximum number of out-of-school suspension days from three to five.

#### **Level IV Discipline**

Level IV discipline offenses represent the serious acts of misconduct. These offenses must be immediately reported to the principal. These violations are so serious that they may require use of outside agencies and/or law enforcement. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Any misconduct that threatens the health, safety, or well-being of others may result in immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to three school days, pending disciplinary investigation of the allegations. Student and parent/guardian participation in a conference with the principal is a required element of all discipline actions in this category, even if such a conference has previously occurred. Initiation of necessary behavior support services should be given if not already provided.

Students guilty of a Level IV offense may receive any of the discipline management techniques mentioned in Level I, II and III as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee. Additional alternatives include:

1. Suspension from school for up to ten school days, which shall include any time during which the student was subject to suspension pending investigation.
2. Referral to local intermediate alternative school placement.
3. Expulsion
4. Referral to the disciplinary tribunal
5. Alternative school, if assigned by disciplinary tribunal.

Note: Level IV differs from Level III in that it increases the maximum number of days suspended from school from five to ten.

#### **Level V Discipline**

Level V discipline is utilized for students in grade six or the age equivalent whose behaviors cause them to be excluded from the regular school program. Examples of Level V behavior include chronically disruptive behavior, extremely violent behavior, and weapon possession.

Because Level V discipline results in placement in a separate alternative educational program, students in this discipline level have benefit of due process, such as the process provided by the school discipline tribunal or the procedural safeguards and other requirements identified in the 1997 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Georgia Board of Education's special education rules.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

All Echols County students should attire themselves in proper public dress in keeping with the generally accepted standards in the community. All students shall be modestly dressed and groomed so as not to attract unreasonable attention that would interfere with the educational program.

All student clothing considered to be distracting is prohibited: inappropriate messages related to drugs, alcohol, violence, tobacco, sexually suggestive messages, cult slogans, gang symbols, profane or vulgar language, or suggestive symbols. The following items of dress and accessories are **NOT** in keeping with the dress code set forth by the Echols County Board of Education and will not be allowed for 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students:

#### **SKIRTS/DRESSES/PANTS/SHORTS**

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts may be worn; however, the length must be appropriate. When standing, skirts and dresses cannot be shorter than three inches above the knee, both front and back. When standing, shorts/skorts cannot be shorter than five inches above the knee, both front and back.
- Tights, leggings, jeggings without pockets, or skin fitting pants worn without an accompanying legal shirt, skirt or shorts are prohibited. (Legal shirt length is considered finger tip length).
- Pants with holes and section cut out garments are prohibited above the knee.
- Undergarments may not be showing on students.
- No saggy pants.
- Cut off pants are allowed if the fringe is no more than one inch and meets the length requirement for shorts.

#### **SHIRTS/BLOUSES**

- Revealing clothing will not be permitted. (i.e. excessive cleavage, etc.)
- Tank tops are prohibited for teachers and students.
- Racer back tops with at least 1.5-inch-wide straps can be worn if bra straps cannot be seen.
- Items of clothing worn under mesh, crocheted, or “see through” over garments must meet the dress code. Students wearing a shirt made of crochet, net, mesh, etc., must wear a sleeveless undershirt coming to the edge of the shoulders so that the bra strap does not show. The undershirt cannot be a tank top it must be at least 1.5 inches wide.
- Blouses or shirts **MUST** meet the top of slacks or skirts when the arms are raised.
- Female teachers and students may wear appropriate sleeveless, provided no under-garments are showing.
- Clothing and/or jewelry with painted or words, signs or symbols that advertise or display drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or violence are prohibited. Cult or gang related slogans may not be worn. In addition, profane and/or vulgar language or symbols may not be worn.

#### **HAIR**

- Hair colorings, dyes, or weaves that are considered distracting or dangerous by the administration are prohibited.
- Hair curlers, picks, combs, caps, hats, bandannas, scarves, stocking caps, or any other head covering, hair covering or hair piece that is considered distracting are prohibited. Choke collars, chains, jewelry, clothing or adornment that may be considered dangerous or disruptive to the learning environment.

#### **ACCESSORIES**

- Non-prescription sunglasses unless requested by the teacher for required safety regulations. Sunglasses are not to be worn inside classrooms or buildings, unless a medical permit is on file.
- Any jewelry or items that could be used as weapons are not to be worn. (i.e. No loose hanging chains)
- Any piercings that are considered distracting or dangerous by the administration are prohibited.
- There will be no bare feet, unbuckled belts, straps, or untied shoes allowed.
- Inappropriate writing, drawings, or markings on the body, including coloring with magic markers, paints, etc. are not allowed.
- Before leaving PE classes, students must change back into their regular clothes before entering another classroom.
- No bathrobes or one-piece pajama sets, including those with hoods that may be deemed inappropriate or distracting.
- No bedroom shoes.
- No distracting lounge pants may be worn.
- Blankets should be stored in your locker.
- No hats are to be worn in the school building or cafeteria.
- When traveling in hallways, students must be able to hear directives from school officials. Music is **NEVER** to be played aloud in any school building and the volume in ear buds must be low enough to hear school officials.
- Students may only wear the small earbuds, and only in one ear. **NO** beat type headsets or large headphones are allowed.

\*\*\*\* The principal or his designee shall be responsible for making decisions regarding matters not covered in this policy.

#### **LUNCHROOM CONDUCT**

Students are expected to exhibit good table manners and to respect the rights of others in the lunchroom. There are many students in the cafeteria and even minor problems must be avoided. Students are expected to exhibit good table

manners and to respect the rights of others in the lunchroom.

1. School Board policy prohibits students from leaving campus during the lunch period. Students are prohibited from entering the parking lot during their lunch period.
2. Ice cream or drinks may be taken from the lunchroom in designated areas with administrative approval or designated areas as directed by the administration.
3. All students are required to eat in the lunchroom whether they bring their lunches or purchase them. Parents may bring food for their child and it must go through the office.
4. Good behavior and cleanliness are expected.
5. Students are not to run to lunch or break lunch lines.
6. Students are expected to return trays and utensils to service area (no trays or trash should be left on tables).
7. Loud talking and loud laughing will not be tolerated in the lunchroom.
8. Throwing food or other objects will not be tolerated.
9. Students should sit in their assigned area unless directed to do differently by an administrator, teacher or paraprofessional.
10. Students should obey any school personnel.
11. Students must report to the lunchroom during their assigned time. Permission to leave the lunchroom, eat outside, conduct any other school business should be sought by the student from an administrator or teacher on duty.

### **ASSEMBLY CONDUCT**

Students are expected to follow all school rules and behave appropriately during assembly programs. Each student should:

1. Sit and respond appropriately
2. Talk very quietly while waiting
3. Use good manners
4. Do not talk during performances.

Failure to obey these rules may result in the following:

1. The student(s) will be moved to a designated area.
2. The student(s) will be removed from the assembly and other punishment will be implemented depending on the circumstances surrounding removal.
3. First and foremost, the members of the audience should respect the rights of the performer; speaker or whomever is presenting the program.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION:**

The Echols County School System is committed to providing the students of Echols County with the safest and most courteous transportation to and from school. The primary job of the bus driver is to drive/ transport the district's children to and from school in the safest manner possible. There are no MINOR discipline problems on a school bus. Students must be prepared to: 1) take responsibility for their actions and conduct; and 2) to accept the consequences of their actions and conduct.

Bus transportation is furnished to any student who lives in Echols County. This transportation is a convenience and in order for it to function properly, full cooperation between parent, student and school is necessary. Students who endanger the safety of others on the bus may be suspended from riding the bus. PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE STUDENT TO AND FROM SCHOOL DURING THE STUDENT'S SUSPENSION FROM THE BUS.

Students must ride the bus to which they are assigned. If a student wishes to get off at a stop other than their home, he or she must bring a note from home or the parent must call at least 30 minutes before the end of school. The principal or his designee must approve the note and a bus change notice will be given to the bus driver.

Riding the bus is part of the school day; therefore, all school rules apply to the bus and the bus stop which is a designed school area.

More extreme punishment may be given for misconduct on the bus because distracting the bus driver endangers the lives of the students.

### **BUS RULES:**

1. Students must be on time and waiting at the normal bus stop. The bus will wait briefly only if students are in route to the bus stop at a fast pace.
2. Students will use NO PROFANITY.
3. Students will wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road.
4. Students will walk 10 feet in front of the school bus.
5. Students must keep their seat at all times when bus is moving.
6. Students must keep arms and heads inside windows.
7. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is dangerous. Please remain quiet. ABSOLUTE SILENCE is required at all railroad crossings. (This is State Law).
8. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed.
9. The driver is in full charge of bus and students.
10. The driver has the right to assign certain seats on the school bus.
11. No eating, drinking or tobacco in any form will be allowed on the bus. All pencils or pens must remain in book bags or notebooks.
12. There will be no fighting on the bus. Fighting will automatically place the student on suspension from riding the bus.
13. Drugs, alcohol or dangerous weapons on the bus will automatically terminate all bus riding privileges for the school year or longer for the student.

Please Note:

Misbehavior on the bus may result in suspension from school and suspension from riding the bus. The principal or his designee will determine length of suspension.

In addition to the system transportation rules, the State of Georgia has adopted Senate Bill 291. This bill is also known as a "student discipline bill". This bill provides for MANDATORY EXPULSION to be the penalty for certain disciplinary infractions and specifies the procedures that school systems must use to deal with them.

*Code Section 20-2-751.5 - Code of Conduct Requirements.*

The code reads as follows:

Requirements for student codes of conduct have been expanded so as to require comprehensive and specific provisions prescribing and governing student conduct and safety rules on public school buses, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.6 (1. *intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or 2. intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself*), bullying as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.4, (1. *Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or 2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.*) physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior.
- B. Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus; and,
- C. Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

An infraction against this code will require a meeting between appropriate school district officials and the parent or guardian. The purpose of the meeting will be to formulate a school bus behavior contract for the student.

### **BULLYING AND CYBER BULLYING**

The Echols County Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

All forms of bullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the School District, offenders shall be subject to appropriate staff intervention, which may result in administrative discipline. The term "bullying" and "cyber bullying" shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

Any staff member who receives a bullying or cyber bullying complaint shall gather information or seek administrative assistance to determine if bullying or cyber bullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying



or cyber bullying, the site principal must refer to the cyber safety plan and discipline action will be tailored to meet the specific violation as stated in the handbook for Echols County School Disciplinary Procedures.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology that is personal or school-owned while the person is on school property, on school bus, at school bus stop, or a school related function that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying through the use of digital technologies that include email, blogs, social networking websites(i.e. Facebook, Instragram, SnapChat, etc.) chat rooms, texts, and instant messaging that:
  - a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
  - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
  - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
  - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school?
4. A cause of emotional distress that to the victim that may stem from cyber stalking or engaging in communication that may include words, images or language by or through the use of email or electronic communication directed at or about a specific person.
5. The use of electronic imaging devices, including but not limited to cameras and phone cameras for the use of taking pictures or video recordings of students or school employees and posting them online.
6. Creating and/or sending abusive or threatening text messages or instant messages.
7. Gossip or rumors that are circulated to other students through the use of websites

## **ZERO TOLERANCE OFFENSES**

The following offenses fall under the category of ZERO TOLERANCE. The Echols County School System will not tolerate these actions and the proper authorities will be notified after the first offense.

- Sexual misconduct. (Ex. Molesting another student, indecent exposure, etc.)
- Assault or battery of a school employee.
- Damage or destruction of personal property of school employee.
- Possession or use of alcohol.
- Possession or use of drugs.
- Criminal law violations.
- Any type of gang-related activities.
- Arson.
- The possession of a firearm or weapon will not be tolerated. If a student is caught in possession of either of these, the student will be expelled from school for one year. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement for good cause on a case-by-case basis.
- If a student is in possession of, use of, or under the influence of alcohol while on school property or while attending a school function, the student will be suspended with the possible recommendation for long term suspension.
- If a student is involved in the sale of or distribution of drugs (or substances intended or held out to be drugs) or is in possession of or under the influence of or is using such items while on school property or while attending a school function, the student will be suspended from school immediately with the possible recommendation of expulsion.

Any off campus behavior of a student which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at the school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process could be suspended or expelled from school.

**Notice**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to carry to or to possess or have under control any weapon within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or on school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school.**

**The term "weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shudken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-11-106.**

**Punishment:**

**A fine of not more than \$10,000; imprisonment for not less than two or more than ten years, or both. A juvenile who violates this shall be subject to the provision of O.C.G.A. 15-11-37.**

**NOTE:**

The above notice is Georgia Law; notification of law enforcement of violations is required. A knife according to school policy is any knife but a knife with a blade less than three inches is not required to be reported to law enforcement.

**Student Drug Use**

The Echols County Board of Education has as a priority, the provision of a drug and alcohol free, safe, and secure school environment for all students, including consideration for the health and well-being of each individual.

The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. Drug/alcohol use also interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of children and adolescents. Therefore, the Echols County Schools System has a fundamental legal and ethical obligation to prohibit selling, using, possessing, or distributing illegal drugs, materials, substances, or alcoholic beverages on or in school property at any time.

School administrators and faculty will inform students and parents of policies, regulations, and procedures prohibiting use of alcohol and drugs on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities at the beginning of each school year. School handbooks will be updated annually with this information.

**Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, and Stimulant Drugs or Any Other Control Substance**

- A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any legal or illegal drug in any form whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any narcotic drug or any drugs requiring prescription controlled by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (unless lawfully prescribed for use by such student), inhalants, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana, other controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroids, intoxicant of any kind, tobacco, e-cigarette, vapes/jewels, or any substance represented to be or reasonably appearing to be any type of drug:
  1. at school or on school property at any time;
  2. off the school grounds at a school sponsored activity, function, or event; and/or
  3. en route to and from school.
- A student shall not attend school or any school event after having consumed any quantity of alcohol or illegal substance. Use may be detected by observation, odor or other means.
- A student shall not have on his/her person, or in any way be in possession or control of drug-related paraphernalia.
- A student shall be deemed to be in possession of substances or paraphernalia prohibited by this policy if such substances or paraphernalia are found in cars, lockers, book bags, desks or other personal effects of students.
- A student shall deposit in the nurse's office (or other location determined by the principal) all lawfully prescribed drugs when he/she arrives at school. A student shall not sell, use, or transmit any medication, prescription or non-prescription to another student while on school grounds or during a school activity, function or event off school grounds or while under school supervision.

School properties may be inspected by school authorities in the interest maintenance, health, and safety. Lockers, though assigned to pupils, are school property and may reasonably be inspected. It is recommended that two members of the staff conduct inspections together, particularly when the student is not present.

Inspections for the location of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, weapons, poisons and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable purposes for inspection by school personnel. The Superintendent, their designee or principal is authorized and empowered to conduct and cause to be conducted announced or unannounced

inspections of school property by dogs trained in the sniffing or smelling of the presence of drugs and narcotics and when such presence is indicated thereby the same shall be reasonable suspicion for a further inspection, search or investigation of such school property by school personnel.

## **Vaping**

The Echols County School District is committed to the health, safety, and welfare of its students. The District has determined that the use of vapes, vaporizers, e-cigarettes, or other devices used to inhale vapor by means of an electronic device (“vaping”) is harmful to the health of students. Vaping requires the use of a purpose-made or homemade device that vaporizes oil that may contain, flavoring, nicotine, Cannabidiol, tetrahydrocannabinol, or other substances that may or may not be legal to possess. It will be a violation of the Echols County Schools Code of Conduct to possess, use or transfer a vape by any students.

Inspections for the location of tobacco products, vapes, electronic cigarettes, drugs, narcotics, alcohol, weapons, poisons and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable purposes for inspection by school personnel. The Superintendent, his designee or principal is authorized and empowered to conduct and cause to be conducted announced or unannounced inspections of school property by dogs trained in the sniffing or smelling of the presence of drugs and narcotics and when such presence is indicated thereby the same shall be reasonable suspicion for a further inspection, search or investigation of such school property by school personnel.

## **DISCIPLINE ACTION AND PROCEDURES**

All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school where the violation occurred. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the police and district attorney.

The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any illegal drug activity. Students and their parents will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct through the Student Handbook or through some other appropriate means, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to drugs and alcohol and possible disciplinary actions.

Disciplinary sanctions (consistent with local, state, and federal law) up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution will be imposed on students who violate the standard of conduct. Compliance with the requirements set forth in this policy is mandatory.

Procedures for handling incidents in the schools involving the possession, sale and/or use of drugs, alcohol or any other behavior affecting substances shall be as follows:

1. Definite assignments shall be given to personnel within the school:
  - a. The principal will be responsible for carrying out the policy and its supporting procedures within his/her school
  - b. The principal will serve as the clearing point for records, reports and inquiries relating to his/her school
  - c. Staff members will pass concerns to any of the school's administrative staff. Administrative staff members are the principal and assistant principal(s) or their designee(s).
2. The names of the students involved will not be released
3. The parents of any involved students shall be contacted immediately.
4. Disciplinary action shall be specific.
  - a. A student known to be in possession of such substances at school or under the influence of such substances at school shall be suspended from school for a minimum of ten days. A physician's written clearance shall precede a return to school. With the recommendation of the principal and the approval of the superintendent, the student may be assigned to the Alternative School.
  - b. A student known to be distributing such substances at school shall be suspended for 10 days and referred for disciplinary action to a disciplinary tribunal.

The school system will cooperate with the police department by making every effort to identify and report the source of supply, and by developing an in-service instruction program for staff members.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

Sexual Harassment is defined by the courts as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may be:

- physical such as unwelcome touching or interference with movement;
- verbal, such as epithets, derogatory comments or slurs;
- visual, such as the display of derogatory cartoons, drawings, or posters.

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature. In simple terms, sexual harassment is deliberate and/or repeated sexual or sex-based behavior that is not welcome and not asked for.

Examples of conduct, which may constitute sexual harassment, are:

1. Unwelcome leering, staring, sexual flirtations or propositions.
2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions.
3. Unwelcome graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
4. Unwelcome sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures or gestures.
5. Unwelcome spreading of sexual rumors.
6. Unwelcome touching of an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way.
7. Cornering or blocking of a sexual nature of normal movements.
8. Displaying sexually suggestive objects.

## **STUDENT PARKING**

Only students who have registered their cars and have a parking permit on their car may use the students' parking lot. A permit may be obtained by completing an application card furnished by the school. The cost of the permit is \$10.00. Students must present proof of liability insurance and driver's license. To replace a lost permit will cost \$5.00.

The following will govern the use of the parking lot:

- Cars should be locked the entire day.
- No one is allowed in the cars or PARKING LOT at any time during the school day except by special permission from an administrator.
- Traffic regulations must be observed at all times when entering and leaving the parking lot. School speed limit is 10 miles per hour.
- All cars without permits may be towed away at owner's expense.
- Permit decals are to be hung on the rear view mirror or placed on the front windshield. The decal must be visible at all times.
  - Once a car is restricted from Echols County School property it is restricted on an indefinite basis. Only the Principal can allow said cars to return on school property.
  - Students must park in student parking area only. Neighbor's property rights must be respected. Students will not park in faculty parking areas.
  - When students arrive at school and park their cars, they are to leave the parking area immediately. No loitering in cars.
  - The school is not responsible for any damage, theft, or loss of property in cars while in student parking lot.
  - At the end of the school day, students are to leave the student parking lot area immediately. No loitering will be allowed.

Any violation such as speeding, reckless driving, and parking violations may result in the following action but is not limited to the following:

1. Warning
2. Fine
3. Loss of Parking and Driving Privileges on Campus

Note: The administration reserves the right to tow any vehicle that is parked in violation of the school rules without prior warning. Student vehicles on school-authorized parking lots are subject to being searched at administrator's discretion provided sufficient cause exists. This includes the use of drug dogs and law enforcement if deemed appropriate.

## **BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PROCESS**

Echols County School has developed a behavior support process pursuant to the “Improved Student Learning Environment and Discipline Act of 1999”. The Behavior Support Process is a mechanism for identifying and addressing those behaviors and environmental influences that promote the positive, emotional, mental, social and physical health needs of students.

The process of disciplining students will include due consideration, as appropriate in light of the severity of the behavioral problems. The student support process is designed to recognize and build on strengths that exist in all young people, their families and communities, creating a system of support and opportunity that promotes positive choices and behavior.

The Behavior Support Process is:

Student Centered-belief in the student to effect positive change in behavior.

- Family focused - including parents as essential partners in promoting self-discipline of students.
- Prevention Oriented - being proactive about helping students to avoid negative behaviors initially as well as helping troubled students avoid future difficulties.
- Community Based - utilizing services that are accessible to students and their parents.
- Goal Oriented - actively working to see that desired behavior occurs by fostering positive school climate.

Echols County Students in need of Behavior Support Services will be referred to the Student Support Team. The principal or his designee will initiate all referrals.

### **GaDOE SCHOOL SEVERE WEATHER/TORNADO RECOMMENDATIONS**

- If there is a tornado watch the district should monitor for the changing status of the weather. Drivers should continue their route under extreme caution and monitor their 2-way radio for changing conditions.
- If there is a tornado warning at dismissal time, the school should hold the children until the warning is lifted. Drivers should wait inside the school with the children.
- If drivers are already on their route and become aware that a tornado warning has been issued they should proceed to the nearest educational facility or other shelter and take the students inside. Drivers need to be aware of schools, and alternate sites such as fire stations, public buildings or other emergency shelters located on their route. If feasible notify dispatch of your shelter location. Drivers and students should remain in the shelter until the warning is lifted. Drivers should stay with the students and monitor weather broadcasts to know when the warning has expired.
- If unexpected weather conditions present a hazardous situation or if unable to reach a safe location as indicated above, the driver:
  1. Should pull the bus well off of the roadway to a safe location and stop the vehicle. Keep the engine running.
  2. Should turn on 4-way emergency flashers and strobe light in order that other motorists can see that the bus is stopped.
  3. Should consider the 14<sup>th</sup> National Congress on Pupil Transportation guidelines for en route emergency evacuation procedures:

#### **Assessing the Need to Evacuate:**

Student safety and control are best maintained by keeping students in the bus during an emergency and/or impending crisis situation if doing so does not expose them to unnecessary risk of injury. A decision to evacuate should include consideration of the following conditions:

- a. Is there a fire involved?
  - b. Is fuel leaking?
  - c. Might the bus roll or tip, thereby causing further threat to safety?
  - d. Is the bus likely to be hit by other vehicles?
  - e. Is the bus in the direct path of a sighted tornado or other natural disaster, such as rising water?
  - f. Would evacuating students expose them to speeding traffic, severe weather or other dangerous environment?
  - g. Considering the medical, physical and emotional condition of the students, does staying in the bus or evacuating the bus pose the greater danger to the student’s safety?
4. Should assess the need to evacuate, and under most severe weather conditions keep the students on the bus. Have the students protect their head by lowering their face against their upper legs so that they are below the window level. Students should cover their faces with a jacket, book, etc. to protect themselves from flying debris. Notify the transportation office of your location.
  5. Should not allow students off of the bus to move trees, limbs, cables, or power lines. The transportation office should be notified for further direction and assistance. Be extremely cautious for the students’ safety.
  6. Should not allow students to disembark from your bus if the driver arrives at a stop and is aware or suspects that there are power lines down in the area. The transportation office should be notified for further direction and assistance.

7. Should radio the Transportation Office for further assistance if the bus cannot be moved due to blockage of the roadway.

**Note** – If unable to reach the transportation office in the event of an emergency, drivers should contact 911.

The 14<sup>th</sup> National Congress on Pupil Transportation further recommends: Local District Policy. Bus staff should be familiar with local district policy regarding evacuation procedures to follow when students are en route; or, what to do if a tornado or flash flood, etc. is sighted and no shelter is near.

## ***ECHOLS COUNTY SCHOOLS***

### ***TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY AGREEMENT***

#### **Students 2022-2023**

#### **Introduction**

The intranet/internet is an electronic communications network delivery via computer and telephone line. A vast number of resources are accessible locally, nationally, and internationally. The goal of the Echols County Board of Education is to provide this service to teachers, staff, and students *as a privilege and not a right*. This resource is also intended to promote educational excellence and to facilitate resource sharing, innovation and communication.

In an attempt to aid the students and staff in a better understanding of proper computer, network and Internet safety, the following agreement is set forth. Violation of the following rules will not be tolerated. Each user is responsible for all of his/her actions and activities involving the user's district provided accounts, the computers and the network.

Due to the nature of the intranet/internet, it is neither practical nor possible for the Board of Education, school administration or staff to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the intranet/internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use.

Parents shall be required to sign the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement form contained in the Student Handbook allowing their child to access the District network/internet and student email, if applicable. All users shall also be required to sign said form affirming that they have read and understand the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement, and understand the consequences for the violation of said agreement.

#### **Definitions**

**Cyberstalking** or engaging in conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed or about a specific purpose, causing substantial emotional distress to the victim.

**Cyberbullying** or the willful, hostile, and repeated harassment and intimidation of a person through the use of digital technologies, including, but not limited to, email, blogs, social networking websites, chat rooms, texts, and instant messaging.

- The use of cameras or camera phones to take embarrassing photographs or videos of students or school personnel and posting them online
- Sending abusive or threatening text messages or instant messages
- Using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students
- Bullying and its consequences are described in the ECBOE Bullying policy (JCDA) and the Student Code of Conduct (JCDA).

**Digital technology** shall mean all forms of digital technology, including software, hardware, and digital services of any nature and kind, that is based on digital technology that is:

1. Owned, leased, or licensed to the School District.
2. Provided directly or indirectly by the School District to its employees or students.
3. Accessed by or through digital technology that is owned, leased, or licensed to the School District.

**Digital technology** includes computers; servers; networks; programs; software; digital files, folders, data and records of any nature; the Internet; cell phones; beepers, PDAs; modems; voicemail; e-mail; wikis; blogs; and such similar technologies.

**Network** includes all local area networking and wide area networking within the school community as well as all online and direct-wired networking such as Internet to which the school network may be linked.

## Penalties

Any user violating these provisions, applicable state and federal laws, posted classroom rules or system policies is subject to loss of network privileges and any other District disciplinary options, including criminal prosecution. Illustrations of disciplinary options are contained in the Teachers' Handbook and Students' Handbook. Although some specific examples of prohibited uses are stated, they are intended as illustrations and are not to be considered an inclusive list. School administrators will make the determination as to what constitutes unacceptable use and their decision is final. The users and/or the users' parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall be responsible for compensating the school system for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the school system relating to or arising out of the users' violation of this agreement.

## Monitoring and Notice of Web Filtering and Threat Protection Scanning

Echols County School District reserves the right to review any stored and transmitted information/files/document with school system technology or on school provided network resources. This monitoring is intended to determine whether specific uses of the network are appropriate. The Echols County Schools uses Untangle as a firewall and content filter. While a firewall and content filter are provided by the school district, it is impossible for the Echols County School District to restrict access to all objectionable material, and I will not hold the school or district responsible for materials acquired or contacts made on the intranet/internet network. The user is responsible for not seeking or initiating access to inappropriate material.

Echols County School District purchases a service that is a monitoring and alert system to identify incidents of cyberbullying, violence, self-harm and inappropriate content along with violations of FERPA, HIPAA and CIPA in school provided Office 365 accounts for all faculty/staff and students. Scanning includes Outlook email and all Office 365 features (Documents, Spreadsheets, Presentations, PDFs, Images & Photos, Videos) and all file types supported in Microsoft One Drive. ECSD seeks to provide improved data security and insights into potential exposures through this scanning process. ECSD monitors Office365 for the following reasons:

- Because for K12 schools, monitoring student online activities of students is a requirement for Federal e-Rate technology discounts.
- For cyberbullying, violence, mental health, radicalization, and hate speech that are clear and present dangers.
- Due to unauthorized app installs, visiting questionable websites can become the gateway for malware and ransomware.
- As student data theft and privacy violations can have serious consequences for student safety.
- Due to regulatory requirements such as FERPA, CIPA (for K12), and HIPAA requires an online safety monitoring system in place.

## Acceptable Use

- Usage must be in support of education and research consistent with board policies and this agreement.
- Usage must be consistent with rules appropriate to any network being used/accessed.

- ❑ Students will login using their ECS network assigned username and password (when provided to the student)
- ❑ Students shall use school system-provided email account only for instructional purposes and as directed by his or her teacher (if provided an email account by the school system)
- ❑ Students shall notify the teacher if he or she inadvertently browses to an inappropriate site on the internet
- ❑ Only use public domain or Creative Commons licensed images or create original images for class projects
- ❑ Give credit for (cite) information found through internet research when used in a class project or paper to avoid plagiarism
- ❑ Identify himself or herself by name only when posting on any wiki, blog, or other web-based tool provided by or authorized by Echols County Schools
- ❑ Your child may on occasion be interviewed or photographed by the news media for positive school news coverage, or publicly recognized at a School Board meeting. Additionally, your child's image (including video), name, or intellectual property may be included in School District publications or school web pages and through social media. (see section labeled "NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES").
- ❑ In no case will other student personal information such as address; telephone number or e-mail address be posted on the web site.
- ❑ Personal information with regards to faculty and staff will not be divulged on the school web site. Contact information may include a name, position, location, and school phone number.

## Unacceptable Use

The user is responsible for all his/her actions and activities involving the network. Examples of **prohibited conduct include but are not limited to the following:**

- ❑ Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of U.S. and State regulations.
- ❑ Copying or downloading copyrighted material on any system connected to the school system's hardware/software without the owner's permission. Only the owner(s) or individuals specifically authorized by the owner(s) may copy or download copyrighted material to the system. School purchased software may not be copied for personal use.
- ❑ Students will not use district computers and laptops to copy or download copyrighted software, music or images, or for other violation of copyright laws. Peer-to-peer, file-sharing, torrent software may not be installed on a school system computer or laptop.
- ❑ Copying, printing or downloading copyrighted material for the user's own use without the owner's permission. Users may redistribute copyrighted programs only with the owner's permission. Such permission must be specified in the document or must be obtained directly from the owner in accordance with applicable copyright laws, Board policy and administrative procedures. This includes the district contracted photographer.
- ❑ Product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
- ❑ Vandalism. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the network or the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or uploading or downloading viruses, disconnect or disassemble any network or computer component.
- ❑ Using or attempting to use the network while privileges are suspended or revoked.
- ❑ Using the computer of a teacher, administrator, or other staff member without permission or supervision.
- ❑ Use of technology resources in such a way that you would disrupt other users (sounds and/or excessive bandwidth usage, e.g., radio/audio streaming, video streaming).
- ❑ Provide another student with user account information or passwords
- ❑ Unauthorized interception of electronic communications and other wiretapping, including electronic mail (The Electronic Communications Privacy Act 18 USC 2701-2709)
- ❑ Accessing, monitoring, and use of personal websites.
- ❑ Accessing, monitoring, and use of personal networks.
- ❑ Bypassing the firewall and bypass and attempt to circumvent network security, virus protection, network filtering, or policies.



- ❑ Use external drives or storage devices with the intent of infecting any school computer or network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy or provide access to unauthorized data or information. This includes software applications or utility applications that could alter the configuration of the operating system or network equipment, scan or probe the network, or provide access to unauthorized areas or data.
- ❑ **Bullying:** Policies have been adopted by the Echols County School System prohibiting bullying. Students should not use personal or school-owned technology resources to threaten, harass, or intimidate others. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to
  - Seek to access, contribute to or initiate (create) inappropriate material on the internet, including (but not limited to) abusive, obscene, sexually-oriented material, or hate speech to communicate, or cause to be communicated through words, images or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at or about a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to the victim or damaging to another's reputation
  - Cyberbullying or the willful act of hostile or repeated harassing or intimidating of someone through digital technology, including but not limited to, email, blogs, social networking websites (ex: Facebook, Twitter, etc.), chat rooms, texts, and instant messaging
  - The use of cameras or camera phones to take embarrassing or inappropriate photographs or videos of student or school employees and posting them online
  - Sending threatening or abusive text messages or instant messages or any social network or digital form
  - Using websites or email to propagate gossip or hear-say/rumors to other students

## Hardware

- ❑ Personal equipment is not allowed to be connected to the wired network nor supported at Echols County Schools (exceptions to be considered for academic purposes only). Any deviation from this agreement must be presented to the Technology Director.
- ❑ Attempts to replace, repair, disconnect or disassemble any network or computer component without permission from the technology department is not permitted.
- ❑ Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action.
- ❑ School district technological resources are provided for school-related purposes. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible, efficient and legal activities that support learning. Use of school district technological resources for political purposes or for commercial gain or profit is prohibited. Student personal use of school district technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited.

## Security

- ❑ Any student who identifies a security problem must notify a teacher immediately.
- ❑ Users will not show or identify a security problem to others.
- ❑ Users will not reveal their password or allow another person to use their password.
- ❑ Users will not use another individual's password.
- ❑ Users will not attempt to log on as another user.
- ❑ Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

## Warranty

Echols County Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the technology resources it is providing. ECS will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from hard drive failures, mail delays, no-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by system negligence or by your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. ECS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its technology resources.

ECS may not at any time be held responsible for any loss or damage to a student's personal device. Students bring devices at their own risk. Help and support will not be provided for personal devices.

## NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES

Events and programs in public education are often considered newsworthy and of interest to local communities. Schools often solicit media coverage to publicize successful programs and special events concerning students and faculty. Your child may on occasion be interviewed or photographed by the news media for positive school news coverage, or publicly

recognized at a School Board meeting or have student work displayed. Additionally, your child's image (including video), name, or intellectual property may be included in School District publications or school web pages and through social media. If you, as a parent/guardian, **object** to your student being published (print or digital) as mentioned above, the objection must be presented in writing to the principal of the school where your student is enrolled within 10 days after the student's enrollment date.

If you have more than one child, a letter must be written for each child and presented to the appropriate school principal. Students will only be **excluded** if written objection is presented to the principal of the school. If there is no written objection turned in to the principal, the district will include the student in all publications.



## MICROSOFT FOR EDUCATION (OFFICE 365)



Microsoft for Education was adopted by Echols County Schools to provide online communication and productivity tools for students and teachers. Microsoft for Education accounts (Office 365) are provided to all students in grades Pre-K through 12. Active email accounts are only grades 6-12. Outlook (email) for grades Pre-K through 5 have not been activated at this time. Teachers and students will be able to create dynamic learning experiences in and outside of the classroom with an internet connection. Students will be able to share with teachers and collaborate with peers. MS for Education (Office 365) can be used to develop college and career ready skills of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Echols County School District is providing this notification to the parents of children under the age of 13 so that ECSD can be compliant with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). The only information ECSD transfers to Microsoft in creating an account is the child's first name and last name. Student data will be used only to provide the student the Online Services including purposes compatible with providing those services. Microsoft will not use student data or derive information from it for any advertising or similar commercial purposes. Microsoft provides an overview of their commitment to student security and privacy at <https://www.microsoft.com/online/legal/v2/?docid=31>

When there is reason to believe violations of law or district policies related to the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement and Student Discipline Policy have occurred, the district maintains the right to withdraw access to the student's Microsoft account. The alleged violation will be submitted to the school administrator for further investigation as a written behavioral referral. Consequences for violations will be determined by the Technology Director and the stated student discipline policy as deemed by the school administrator. Parents who object to their child using Microsoft for Education must contact their child's principal in writing within ten (10) days of the student's enrollment.

## Student Email Accounts

- Login with the information provided by the district

- Do not select to “Remember password” on the login screen or at any other login
- Violations that relate to the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement and Student Discipline Policy will be submitted to the school administrator as a written behavioral referral. Consequences for violations will be determined by the Technology Director and the stated student discipline policy as deemed by the school administrator.
- The district purchases a service that scans Office 365 Outlook email (inbound and outbound) and Office 365 documents for compliance in cyberbullying, FERPA, CIPA, violence, child abuse, objectionable content policies language indicating cyberbullying, violence to self or others, objectionable content, child abuse, and CIPA.
- Emails are archived. Save important documents to your network drive on the server.
- Student accounts are locked to our district domains [@echols.k12.ga.us](mailto:echols.k12.ga.us) and [@echolswildcats.org](mailto:echolswildcats.org), .edu and .gov domains.
- Student email accounts are in Infinite Campus so that you may receive Emergency or General email notices.
- Student email accounts will remain active until July 1 following graduation for students to get their accounts in order.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

It is the policy of the Board of Education that all employees shall comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Pupil Protection Rights Amendment (PPRA). The Board has developed and adopted student privacy policies in consultation with parents in accordance with federal law. Additionally, parents will be directly notified of these policies at least annually via the Student/Parent Handbook issued to students at the beginning of the school year or at the student's time of enrollment.

The Superintendent shall implement procedures whereby every principal is directed to develop a means to notify, on an annual basis, students and parents, including non-English-speaking parents, of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Pupil Protection Rights Amendment, either by letter or through a student handbook distributed to each student in the school.

The Superintendent shall implement procedures whereby every principal is directed to develop a means to include student participation in school sponsored clubs and activities as part of their permanent records.

## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

Confidentiality of student records shall be preserved while access is provided to parents, eligible students (those over eighteen years of age or enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions), professional educators with legitimate educational interests, and those federal or state officials whose access is authorized in connection with an audit or evaluation of federal or state supported education programs or for the enforcement or compliance with federal legal requirements related to those programs. The Superintendent shall direct the publication of procedures through which parents or eligible students may request the correction of errors in student records.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
  - a. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.
  - a. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment (Federal regulation 34 C.F.R. 99.21-99.22 and any state regulations that may apply). Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible

student when notified of the right to a hearing. If the school decides not to amend a record in accordance with a parent's request, the school must inform the parent of his or her right to a hearing on the matter. If, as a result of the hearing, the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent has the right to insert a statement in the record setting forth his or her views. That statement must remain with the contested part of the student's record for as long as the record is maintained.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information (PII) contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Echols County Schools System to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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

There are several exceptions to the rule regarding the privacy of students' educational records. One exception is that the Echols County Schools may disclose certain "directory information", which is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, without prior written consent unless you have advised the school system otherwise. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the system to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- a. A playbill, showing the student's role in a drama production
- b. The yearbook
- c. Honor roll or other recognition lists
- d. Sports activity sheets showing weight and height of the team members
- e. Graduation programs

"Directory information" may also be included on school, classroom or school system Web sites or blogs that can be downloaded or viewed inside or outside the school system. Additionally, the school system may release this information to the following outside organizations: law enforcement agencies, State and Federal Child Welfare Agencies, District Attorney and Solicitor's Offices, PTA/PTSA, booster clubs, U.S. Armed Forces recruitment agencies, schools and colleges accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and companies the school system uses to manufacture school items such as class rings or yearbooks. If you do not want Echols County Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school principal in writing within ten (10) days of enrollment that such information not be designated directory information on the individual student. A letter must be received or directory information will not be considered confidential and may be disclosed upon request.

Echols County Schools has designated the following as directory information:

- a. Each student's name, address, email, and telephone number;
- b. The date and place of birth of each student;
- c. Each student's participation in clubs and sports;
- d. The weight and height of a student if he or she is a member of an athletic team;
- e. Dates of attendance at Echols Schools;
- f. Most recent school attended
- g. Teacher or coach assignment
- h. Degrees, honors and awards received while enrolled in Echols County Schools; and
- i. Photographs of students, certain audio recordings or video clips. Not included are any recordings, photos or footage of a student or students committing, witnessing or being involved in a violation of law, school system or school rule, procedure, or policy. The school system may also determine that other images or recordings do not qualify as directory information on a case-by-case basis.

Another exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with who the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical

consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Other exceptions may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Student records sent upon request of the institution a student has enrolled (within or outside the school district: Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.14 Transfer of Student Records)
- b. Disclosures for audit or evaluation of Federal- or State- supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs
- c. Financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
- d. State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system.
- e. Organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction.
- f. Accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.
- g. Parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes.
- h. Comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- i. Appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (Public Law 112-278) enacted on January 14, 2013, amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99, to permit educational agencies and institutions to disclose a student's education records, without parental consent, to a caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency or tribal organization authorized to access a student's case plan "when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student." In specified types of judicial proceedings in which a parent is involved, the Act also allows educational agencies and institutions to disclose a student's education records pursuant to a judicial order without requiring additional notice to the parent by the educational agency or institution.

Upon request, the School releases educational records, including disciplinary records and records that were created as a result of a student receiving special education services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to officials of another school district or postsecondary institution at which the student seeks or intends to enroll. Such release of records will be initiated upon receipt of an official written request on school or district letterhead paper.

## **ACCESSING STUDENT RECORDS**

FERPA gives custodial and noncustodial parents alike certain rights with respect to their children's education records, unless a school is provided with evidence that there is a court order or State law that specifically provides to the contrary. Otherwise, both custodial and noncustodial parents have the right to access their children's education records. A parent will be permitted to obtain a copy of the child's educational records upon reasonable notice.

## **INFORMATION RELEASE**

In the instance of divorce, legal documentation or copy of the divorce decree stating that a parent does not have access to the child or his/her records must be received by the school or the school is obligated to treat both parents as a legal parent with access to the child and the child's records.

Each records custodian in the school district shall maintain a record of each request for access to and each disclosure of personally identifiable information from the educational records of a student in accordance with regulations governing the Act.

## **STUDENT DATA PRIVACY COMPLAINTS**

It is the policy of the Echols County Board of Education that the School District ("District") shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act, which are designed to ensure that education records and student data are kept confidential and secure from unauthorized access and disclosure.

For the purposes of this policy, a “parent” is defined as a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian. An “eligible student” is defined as a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Any parent or eligible student (“Complainant”) may file a complaint with the District if that individual believes or alleges that a possible violation of rights under the above laws has occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date the complaint is received by the District.

Complaints shall be handled in accordance with the following procedures.

1. The Superintendent shall designate at least one individual (“Designee”) to respond to student data privacy complaints.
2. Upon the receipt of a request from a Complainant, the Designee shall provide within 3 business days a complaint form, which may also be made available on the District’s website.
3. A written response shall be provided to the Complainant within 10 business days of the Designee’s receipt of the completed complaint form.
4. The Complainant may file an appeal with the Superintendent within 10 business days of receipt of the Designee’s response.
5. The Superintendent shall provide a written response to the Complainant within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal.
6. The Complainant may file an appeal to the Board of Education within 10 business days of receipt of the Superintendent’s response.
7. The Board of Education shall render a final decision within 10 business days of receipt of an appeal.

Complaint forms are available at each school office and on the district website ([www.echols.k12.ga.us](http://www.echols.k12.ga.us)) under eBoard, Student Policies, JRA-E(1) for Elementary/Middle School and JRA-E(2) for High School.

### ***CIPA Compliance:***

The Echols County Schools uses Untangle as a firewall and content filter. Echols County currently has a Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement which is reviewed annually and updated as situations apply. The current policy remains in effect until ECBOE approval of any amended policy during a school term or until the annual policy review. An updated Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement will be provided for parents and students in the appropriate Student Handbook and on the district and school websites. Any corrections or additions after the Echols County School District Board approval will be provided for parents in the Echols Echo newspaper and on district and school websites.

This agreement posted above was approved on July 19, 2022. It is also published in the Student Handbook each school year and on the district and school websites.

## **CIPA BACKGROUND**

Full text of the Children’s Internet Protection Act

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>

<http://www.ifea.net/cipa.html>

FCC regulations implementing CIPA; FCC 01-120

[http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/Orders/2001/fcc01120.doc](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Orders/2001/fcc01120.doc)

SLD’s FAQ on E-rate certification procedures and timing

<http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/reference-area.aspx>

<http://www.e-ratecentral.com/default.asp>

## **COPPA**

Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule

<https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/rules/rulemaking-regulatory-reform-proceedings/childrens-online->

**Parents/Guardians:**

I understand that the intranet/internet access is designed for educational purposes and that the school will attempt to discourage access to objectionable material and communications that are intended to exploit, harass or abuse users. However, I recognize it is impossible for the Echols County School District to restrict access to all objectionable material, and I will not hold the school or district responsible for materials acquired or contacts made on the intranet/internet network.

I understand that a variety of inappropriate and offensive materials are available over the Internet, and that it may be possible for my child to access these materials if he/she chooses to behave irresponsibly. I also understand that it is possible for undesirable or ill-intended individuals to communicate with my child over the Internet, that there are no practical means for the school to prevent this from happening, and that my child must take responsibility to avoid such communications if they are initiated. While I authorize the staff to monitor any communications to or from my child and the Internet, I recognize that it is not possible for the school to monitor all such communications.

I have determined that the benefits of my child having access to the Internet outweigh potential risks. I understand that any conduct by my child that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate, and such behavior may result in the termination of access and possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution.

I have reviewed these responsibilities with my child, and I hereby grant permission to the school to provide Internet and network access.

I agree to compensate the school for any expenses or costs that incur as a result of my child's violation of the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement.

I understand that if I object to my child having access or rights to any portion of this policy, as the parent, **I am to submit a written letter to the school principal within ten (10) days of enrollment.** If you have more than one child, a letter must be written for each child and presented to the appropriate school principal. Students will only be excluded if written objection is presented to the principal of the school. If there is no written objection turned in to the principal, the district will include the student in all publications.

I understand that my child and I must complete the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement sign-off or all student account(s) associated with your child will be suspended until all documentation is received.

**Students:**

**I have read, understand and accept responsibility to abide by the Echols County Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement. I understand that the use of the Intranet/Internet and access to it is a privilege not a right and I agree:**

To use the intranet/internet network for appropriate educational purposes and research;

To use the intranet/internet only with permission of appropriate school staff;

To be considerate of other users on the network and use appropriate language for school situations;

Not to intentionally degrade or disrupt intranet/internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws;

To immediately report any security problems or breeches of these responsibilities to appropriate school staff;

Not to divulge personal information such as addresses and telephone numbers over the Internet.

I understand that I have no right to privacy when I use the intranet/internet, and I consent to staff monitoring of my communications.

I also understand that any conduct that conflicts with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of network access, possible disciplinary action, or criminal prosecution.

I understand I must complete the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement sign-off or my student account (s) will be suspended until all documentation is received.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)**

-----  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature (Grades 3-12 only)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Block or Homeroom Teacher**

**Student Name (Printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **First** **Middle** **Last**

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Number (Lunch Number)** \_\_\_\_\_

**2022-2023**

**\*Parents of students in grades Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup>** – please see that the student is aware of the contents in this agreement. The student does not need to sign this page, just complete the student name, grade and lunch number along with parent information and return this page only to your child’s teacher.

**\*\*Students in grades 3-12 and parents of these students----**Please sign and return this page only to your teacher (1<sup>st</sup> Block). Fill in ALL blanks above acknowledging reading and understanding the Student Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement.

**Only this page is to be completed and returned to ECSD for processing by the Technology**



**Complaint Procedures for Federal Programs**

**Echols County School District**

2022-2023

Programs from which Echols County receives federal funds and for which stakeholders may file complaints include the following:

- Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies.
- Title I, Part B, Subpart 3: Even Start Family Literacy.
- Title I, Part C: Education of Migrant Children.
- Title I, Part D: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk.
- Title II, Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.
- Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology.
- Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement.
- Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers.
- Title VI, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 6111: State Assessment Program.
- Title VI, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 6112: Enhanced Assessment Instruments Competitive Grant Program.
- Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural and Low-Income Schools.
- Title IX, Part E, Subpart 1, Section 9503: Complaint Process for Participation of Private School Children.
- Title X, Part C – McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**Grounds for a Complaint**

Any individual, organization or agency (stakeholder) may file a complaint with Echols County School (ECS) if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that the ECS is violating a Federal Statute or regulation that applies to a program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered ongoing.

**Filing a Complaint**

Complaints and grievances shall be handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible and through the proper channels using the following procedures:

- A complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant. The complaint must include the following:
  - A statement that the PCSD has violated a requirement of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program;

- The date on which the violation occurred;
- The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated;
- A list of the names and telephone numbers of individuals who can provide additional information;
- Whether a complaint has been filed with any other government agency, and if so, which agency;
- Copies of all applicable documents supporting the complainant's position; and
- The address of the complainant.

The complaint must be addressed to:

**Rebecca Hill  
Federal Programs Director  
Echols County Schools  
P. O. Box 40  
Statenville, GA 31648**

**Investigation of the Complaint:**

- Any complaints or grievances shall be addressed to the Federal Programs Director. The Coordinator or his or her designee will issue a Letter of Acknowledgement to the complainant that contains the following information:
  - The date the complaint was received;
  - How the complainant may provide additional information;
  - A statement of the ways in which the Federal Programs Coordinator may investigate or address the complaint; and
  - Any other pertinent information
  
- The decision of the Federal Program Director may be appealed to the Superintendent in writing.
- The decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Echols County Board of Education in writing.
- All decisions and appeals shall be submitted in writing.
- Complaints will be tracked by the Federal Programs Director by maintaining documentation of written complaints and other supporting information.
- Reports will be maintained with letters of complaint and the final resolutions.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Rocky Crosby, Chairman

Mr. Chad Pafford

Mr. Bo Corbett, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Mitchell Church

Mrs. Patricia Gray



P.O. Box 207

216 Hwy 129 North

Statenville, GA 31648

Phone: (229) 559-5734

Fax: (229) 559-0484

Web Page: [www.echols.k12.ga.us](http://www.echols.k12.ga.us)

## ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Dr. Vince Hamm, SUPERINTENDENT

e-mail: [vince.hamm@echols.k12.ga.us](mailto:vince.hamm@echols.k12.ga.us)

#### Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

August 6, 2022

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of Every Students Succeeds Act, Echols County High School 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's and/ or paraprofessional's

qualifications, please contact the principal, Zane Craven at 229-559-5437.

Sincerely,

Zane Craven  
Echols County High School Principal

**ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Dr. Vince Hamm, SUPERINTENDENT**

e-mail: vince.hamm@echols.k12.ga.us

**Derecho a conocer las cualificaciones profesionales de los profesores y de los paraprofesionales**

6 de agosto de 2022

Queridos padres,

En cumplimiento con los requisitos de la Ley de Exito de Todo Estudiantes, Echols County High School Le gustaría informarle que puede solicitar información sobre las calificaciones profesionales de los maestros y / o paraprofesionales de su estudiante. Se puede solicitar la siguiente información:

- Si profesor- del estudiante
  - Ha cumplido con los criterios estatales de calificación y concesión de licenciatura para los niveles de grado y materias en los que el maestro provee instrucción;
  - Está enseñando en estado de emergencia u otro estado provisional a través del cual se los criterios de concesión de licenciatura se han suprimido; y
  - es la enseñanza en el campo de la disciplina de la certificación del profesor.
- Si el niño recibe servicios de profesionales y de ser así, sus calificaciones.

Si desea solicitar información sobre las calificaciones de su maestro y / o paraprofesional, por favor comuníquese con el director, Zane Craven Al 229-559-5437.

Sinceramente,

Zane Craven  
Director Principal del Condado de Echols

# AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## HOME/SCHOOL COMPACT

Echols County High School

2022-2023

### What is a School-Parent Compact

A School-Parent Compact for Achievement is an agreement that families, students and teachers develop together. It explains how families and teachers will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards.

#### Effective Compacts:

- Link to goals of the school improvement plan
- Focus on student learning skills
- Describe how teachers will help students develop those skills using high quality instruction
- Share strategies parents can use at home
- Explain how teachers and families will communicate about student progress
- Describe opportunities for families to volunteer, observe, and participate in the classroom

#### Jointly Developed

The parents, students, and staff worked together and shared ideas to develop the school-parent compact. Teachers met with their grade level teams to design practical strategies for families to use at home. Families provided feedback on their needs to help their students. Students completed surveys to add ideas for the school-parent compact. Meetings are held each year to review and revise the school-parent compact based on the schools' academic achievement goals and student's needs.

Families are welcome to provide feedback on the compact at any time during the school year. All feedback will be collected and reviewed during the annual revision meeting with families. Please call 229-559-5413 or visit our website [www.echols.k12.ga.us](http://www.echols.k12.ga.us) for more information on the school-parent compact.

#### Activities to Build Partnerships

ECCHS offers ongoing events and programs to provide families and students with access to our staff.

- Title I Annual Parent Meeting
- ◆ Fall Open House
- ◆ Echols County High School Parent Connect Meetings(ECPC)
  - August 25, 2022                      November 10, 2022
  - Mar 9, 2023                              April 27, 2023
- Parent-Teacher Conferences can be scheduled each semester to discuss child's progress and to review the progress of the school-parent compact.
- Teacher Web pages
- Individualized student graduation planning
- To make an appointment with your child's teacher, administrator, or guidance counselor call the ECCHS office at 229 559-5437.

#### Communication About Student Learning

ECCHS offers ongoing events and programs to provide families and students with access to our staff.

- Fall Open House
- Available for Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss child's progress and to review the progress of the school-parent compact.
- Teacher Web pages
- Monthly School news letters about what is going on at the school.

- Progress reports and report cards are sent home every 6 weeks.
- Parent Portal is available for all families and students
- To make an appointment with your child's teacher, administrator, or guidance counselor call the ECHS office at 229 559-5437.

### Parental Involvement

ECHS offers many opportunities for families to volunteer and play a role in their child's education. Please consider joining the faculty, staff, and your student in some of the following events and programs-

- ECPC Fall Festival
- CTAE Community Partners
- Apply to College Day
- Career Fair
- CPIE (Community Partners in Education)
- To participate or learn more about these activities please call Zane Craven at 229-559-5437 or email [zane.craven@echols.k12.ga.us](mailto:zane.craven@echols.k12.ga.us)

### Teachers, Parents, and Students – Together for Success

#### At School

- Implement Standards-based classrooms, utilizing Common Core Performance Standards to enhance Algebra, Geometry, and Reading Comprehension skills.
- Implement targeted interventions and utilize intervention teacher to assist students with Reading Comprehension, Algebra, and Geometry.
- Communicate with parents in a timely manner with concerns pertaining to their students' progress in Reading and Math.
- Make math tutoring available to at risk students.
- Make Reading tutoring available to at risk students.
- Teachers will increase the use of complex text throughout across all courses.
- Increase emphasis on Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary skills in all classes.  
Provide families with Math study packets and online resources to use at home, as well as tips for parents that model Math strategies, which will enable parents to assist with homework.
- Provide families with Reading Comprehension tips and online resources to use at home.
- Provide families with Algebra and Geometry tips and online resources to use at home.
- Offer workshops for parents that will strengthen their skills to assist their child in Algebra and Geometry.
- Offer workshops for parents that will strengthen their skills to assist their child in Reading Comprehension.

#### Students

ECHS students joined staff and parents to develop ideas about how they can succeed in graduating on time. Students thought of the following ideas to make connections between home and school:

- Schedule a time every day to study, read, write and do homework.
- Complete Algebra study guides provided by my teacher.
- Ask questions and take notes in class.
- Attend tutoring when I do not understand Reading, Algebra and Writing concepts.
- Use academic websites and online resources to enhance math and reading skills.
- Schedule time for extra reading and math practice.
- Provide a writing explanation of what I read to ensure I have a complete understanding of the text.

#### At Home

ECHS parents and students joined staff to develop ideas about how families can support students' success in Reading Comprehension and Math.

- I will encourage my child to communicate with teachers if they do not understand Algebra, Writing, or Reading materials or concepts.
- I will require good study habits by setting up a daily homework, reading, and study schedule.

- **I will encourage my child to read daily and explain what he/she read to ensure a clear understanding of the text.**
- **I will make sure my child completes assignments the teacher sends home that supports Algebra, Writing, and Reading Comprehension.**
- **I will use Infinite Campus to continually monitor my student's grades and progress.**
- **I will utilize Math study packets and online resources to practice Algebra 15 minutes each day.**
- **I will maintain regular communication with my child's teachers to make sure my child math, writing and reading assignments are completed and correct.**

**Final Rev. June 2022**

**Parent Involvement Policy  
2022-2023**

**PARENT RIGHT TO KNOW**

In compliance with the requirements of Elementary & Secondary Educational Act ( ESEA) Sección 1111 h 6 statute the Echols County School District informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student’s teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- 1) whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- 2) whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualification or certification criteria have been waived;
- 3) the college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
- 4) whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

The Echols County Schools Board of Education makes every effort to employ effective highly qualified teachers. All teachers are certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. However, he/she may not be highly qualified in every subject area he/she teaches. ECS will notify parents about the placement or assignment of a teacher with their child for 4 or more weeks who is not highly qualified

If you wish to request information concerning your child’s teacher’s qualification, please contact Zane Craven at 559-5437.

**. Echols County Schools System Parent Involvement Policy  
*Section 1118 et seq. (ESEA)*  
BOE Revised July, 2021  
2022-2023**

***DEVELOPMENT OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY***

Echols County Schools (ECS) System has developed jointly with parents of participating children a written Parent Involvement Policy and has incorporated the policy into the ECS System Plan. Data from the ECS Title I District Parent Committee Representatives and the results from the spring Title I Parent Survey have provided information that was used in developing and revising (when indicated by the surveys) of the policy. The plan will be published in the school's student handbook. The survey responses will be available in the Student Support Office for parent review.

***PARENTS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN***

Parents were involved in the joint development of the System plan and in the process of school review and improvement through the use of parent surveys, membership on committees, school wide planning teams, school councils, and membership on school improvement teams.

***ALLOCATIONS OF \$500,000 OR MORE***

In the event that ECS System would receive an allocation of \$500,000 or more for parent involvement, one percent of the allocation will be reserved for parent involvement which would include promoting family literacy and parenting skills. Ninety-five percent of the reserved fund would be distributed to ECS.

***PARENTS INVOLVED IN SPENDING FUNDS FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT***

Parents of ECS children were involved in decision making through the parent survey and parent involvement meetings regarding how funds will be allotted for parental involvement activities. Parental Involvement funds will be spent with the Echols County Board of Education approval through the Consolidated Application process.

***PROVIDE COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ETC.***

ECS System will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist ECS in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs. A part-time Parent Involvement Coordinator will conduct parent involvement activities. The System coordinates and integrates other programs such as social services, health agencies, local civic organizations, churches and other community related agencies within the school wide Title I program. The school guidance counselor, parent coordinator and school nurse will work together to insure that the maximum numbers of educational and social services will be available to all students and their families. Every parent, regardless of limited English proficiency (LEP) or disability, will be afforded the opportunity to participate in their child’s environment. Once a need is identified, the necessary assistance will be provided to the parent and child.

***COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES***



There is not a Head Start or an Even Start Program within Echols County. Echols County integrates parent involvement activities with Title I part A, Title I part 3, Reading First , State-Funded Pre-School, ECS Parent Teacher Organization, DFACS, Public Health , Echols County Library, Migrant Program, DFACS Homeless (when identified), Home Instruction Program, Family Connections, The Echols County Council for Children and Families, and Instruction for Pre-School Youngsters.

#### ***ANNUAL EVALUATION OF CONTENT AND EFFECTIVENESS***

ECS System will evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy and the increase of parent participation by reviewing and comparing sign-in sheets over a three-year-period to determine if there has been an increase in attendance. In addition, ECS will review the different times of day when workshops have been held to statistically determine what time of day the most participation has occurred. Specific attention will be given to those parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, LEP, have limited literacy or are considered an ethnic minority who may need additional accommodations to participate.

#### ***FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATIONS***

ECS System will use the findings of the evaluations to assist in designing strategies for school improvement and to assist in revising the ECS System Parental Involvement Policy and the ECS Parental Involvement Policy and planned activities.

#### ***ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS***

Parents will be informed by workshops, informational newsletters, ECS *Update*, phone conferences, teacher conferences, principal conferences, counsel or conferences support groups for families of children with disabilities, ECS System website, Student Support Team conference, and flyers of the following:

- National education goals;
- State content standards and student content standards;
- School improvement and corrective action process (if applicable);
- Components of a school wide program (if applicable);
- Components of a targeted assistance program (if applicable);
- State and local assessments;
- Requirements of Title I part A;
- Ways that parent can monitor their student progress and work with educators to improve the performance with their children; and
- Ways parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.

#### ***PROVIDE MATERIALS AND TRAINING***

ECS System will coordinate the necessary materials and training for parents in the following areas:

- Literacy training and using technology from other sources (i.e. PASSPORT workbooks; computer lab workshops); and
- Work with their children to improve their children's achievement (i.e. ECS will use the PASS program as a means to accomplish this goal).

#### ***EDUCATE AND BUILD TIES BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL***

ECS System, with parent assistance, will educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and other staff, on the value and utility the contributions of parents has on student achievement and will inform those on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. In addition, the system will implement and coordinate parent programs and will conduct activities to build ties between home and school ( ie. Conduct weekly book study focus groups utilizing work such as Rubye Payne's work on poverty issues, assessment, Learning Focused Schools, professional learning communities, 90/90/90 research, Katie Haycock's work, etc.)

#### ***DEVELOP APPROPRIATE ROLES FOR COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS***

Although ECS System is located in very rural county with a minimal number of businesses within the county's boundaries, the ECS System has developed appropriate roles for community based operations and businesses in the parent involvement activities. The roles of others include providing information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and ECS and encouraging the formation of partnerships in elementary, middle and secondary school levels. Existing partnerships will be nourished and encouraged to support ECS System. ECS System will also seek available partnership opportunities on a regional level.

***DISTRICT WIDE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL***

ECS System will establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement. The advisory panel will meet prior to the fall and spring required meetings.

***DISTRICT WIDE MEETINGS***

ECS System may arrange district wide meetings at a variety of times and may utilize Title I funds to provide transportation/child care, food and other services which may relate to parental involvement.

***INVOLVE PARENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING***

ECS System may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training. ECS will use parent meeting focus groups or surveys to gather information.

***MODEL APPROACHES***

ECS System will adopt model approaches to increase parental involvement (i.e. PASSPORT program).

***OTHER ACTIVITIES***

ECS System will conduct other activities, as appropriate and as requested by parents on the end-of-the-year surveys. Activities include a parent resource center, when space is available, and opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues. One such program that will be used is the *PASSPORT to Success* training program Materials from agencies such as 0-3 will be utilized. These activities will be designed to train parents to become full partners in the education of their children.

***UNSATISFACTORY PARENT COMMENTS***

ECS System will collect all unsatisfactory parent comments regarding the ECS System plan and they will be submitted with the ECS System Title I plan to the GADOE. These coments will be on file in the Student Support Office.

***OTHER REASONABLE SUPPORT***

ECS System will provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request to the ECS System Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator as dictated by federal, state, and LEA guidelines.

***FULL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION***

To the extent practical, ESC System will provide full opportunities for the participation of LEP parents, parents of migratory students, and parents with disabilities, including providing school profiles and information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a language and format such parents understand. ECS has on staff a person to act as an interpreter to the Spanish speaking population as well as certified teachers, and an administrator in special education to work with parents with disabilities.

*Revised July, 2021*  
**Reviewed June, 2022**

### **DESARROLLO DE LA PARTICIPACION DE PADRES**

El Sistema de Escuelas del Condado de Echols ha desarrollado junto con los padres de niños participantes un escrito llamado Política de Participación de Padres y la ha integrado al Plan del Sistema de las Escuelas del Condado de Echols. Información obtenida de ECS (Escuela del Condado de Echols) Titulo I Comité Representativo Distrital de Padres y los resultados de la encuesta de primavera proveyó información que ha sido utilizada en desarrollar y revisar (cuando las encuestas lo indicaron) la política. El plan será publicado en el reglamento de la escuela para estudiantes. Las respuestas de las encuestas estarán en la Oficina para Apoyo del Estudiante para revisión de los padres.

### **PADRES INVOLUCRADOS EN EL DESARROLLO DEL PLAN**

Padres fueron involucrados juntamente en el desarrollo del plan en el Sistema y en el proceso de revisión y mejoramiento a través del uso de encuestas, membresía en comités, equipos de plantación en la escuela, concilios de la escuela y membresía en equipos de mejora de la escuela.

### **ASIGNACIONES DE \$500,000 O MÁS**

En el evento que el Sistema ECS recibirá una asignación de \$500,000 o más por la participación de padres, uno por ciento de la asignación será reservada para involucrar a padres que incluirá la promoción de literatura familiar y habilidades paternas. 95% del fondo será distribuido para ECS.

### **PADRES INVOLUCRADOS EN EL USO DE FONDOS**

Padres de los niños de ECS fueron involucrados en las determinaciones de decisiones hechas a través de encuestas y reuniones de padres para ver el asignamientos y uso de los fondos en las actividades para la participación de padres. El fondo para la participación de Padres será usado con la aprobación del Consejo Educativo del Condado de Echols a través del proceso de una Aplicación Consolidada.

### **PROVEE COORDINACION, ASISTENCIA TECNICA, ETC.**

El Sistema de ECS proveerá de coordinación, asistencia técnica y otros apoyos necesarios para la planeación y una aplicación efectiva en los programas de participación de padres.

Un coordinador de la participación de padres de medio tiempo conducirá dichas actividades.

El Sistema coordinara e integrara otros programas tales como servicios sociales, agencias de salud, organizaciones cívicas locales, iglesias y otras agencias relacionadas con la comunidad a través del programa Titulo I en toda la escuela. El Consejero de la escuela, padre coordinador y la enfermera de la escuela trabajaran juntas para asegurar que el mayor número de servicios educativos y sociales sean disponibles para los alumnos y sus familias. Cada padre aunque tenga un Ingles limitado (LEP) o una deshabilidad, se le dará la oportunidad de participar en el ambiente de su hijo.

Una vez que sea identificada una necesidad, se les dará la ayuda necesaria al padre y al alumno.

### **ESTRATEGIAS PARA COORDINAR E INTEGRAR LA PARTICIPACION DE PADRES.**

En el condado de Echols no existe un programa de “Head Start” o de “Even Start”. El condado de Echols integra las actividades de participación de padres con Titulo I parte A, la parte 3 de Titulo I, Reading First, Fondos Estatales para Pre-escolar, ECS Organización Padres-Maestros, DFACS “Homeless” (cuando se identifica), Programa de Instrucción en casa, Conexiones Familiares, el Concilio del Condado de Echols para Niños y Familias e Instrucción pre-escolar para pequeños.

### **EVALUACION ANUAL DEL CONTENIDO Y EFECTIVIDAD**

El Sistema de ECS evaluara el contenido y la efectividad de la política de Participación de Padres y el aumento de la participación de padres, a través de la revisión y comparación de las hojas de registro en el periodo de tres años para determinar si ha habido un aumento de asistencia.

En adición ECS revisara los diferentes tiempos del día cuando se han tenido los talleres para determinar estadísticamente cual es el mejor tiempo para la mayor participación. Se dará una atención específica para aquellos padres que se encuentran en una desventaja económica, del idioma, con educación limitada o considerada como minoría étnica, que necesite un acomodo adicional para participar.

## **RESULTADOS DE LA EVALUACION**

El Sistema ECS usara los resultados de las evaluaciones para asistir en determinar estrategias para mejorar en la escuela y para ayudar a revisar la Política de Participación de Padres del Sistema de ECS y la Política de Participación de Padres de ECS así como planear actividades.

## **ASISTENCIA A PADRES EN AREAS ESPECÍFICAS**

Los padres serán informados de talleres, cartas con información, Update de ECS, conferencias por teléfono, conferencias con maestros, conferencias con el director, consejería o conferencias de apoyo a familias de niños con deshabilitades, el Sistema de red de ECS, la conferencia del Equipo de Apoyo para el Alumno y volantes de lo siguiente:

- Metas educativas nacionales
- Contenido de Estandartes Estatales y del alumno.
- Mejoras y procesos de acciones correctivos de la escuela ( si aplica)
- Contenido de los programas de la escuela (si aplica)
- Contenido del Programa de Asistencia a alcanzar (si aplica)
- Evaluación del Título I parte A
- Formas de cómo el padre puede monitorear el progreso de los alumnos y trabajar con los maestros para mejorar el desempeño de sus hijos y
- Formas de cómo los padres pueden participar en decisiones relacionadas con la educación de sus hijos.

## **MATERIALES Y ENTRENAMIENTOS**

El Sistema de ECS coordinara los materiales necesarios y el entrenamiento para padres en las siguientes áreas:

- Entrenamiento educativo y uso de tecnología de otros recursos  
(Programa PASAPORTE, libros de trabajo, talleres de computación) y
- Trabajo con sus hijos para mejorar su progreso.  
(ECS usara el programa de PASS para alcanzar esta meta)

## **EDUCANDO Y CREANDO LAZOS ENTRE LA CASA Y LA ESCUELA**

El Sistema ECS, con la asistencia de padres, educara a maestros, personal al servicio del alumno, directores y otros personal en el valor y la utilidad que las contribuciones de padres tiene en el progreso del alumno e informara a aquellos la forma de cómo alcanzarlos, a quien comunicar y trabajar con padres como compañeros iguales. En adición, el Sistema implantara y coordinara programas con padres y conducirá actividades para establecer lazos entre la casa y la escuela (libros semanales de conducta).

## **DESARROLLO DE ROLES APROPIADOS PARA ORGANIZACIONES BASADAS EN LA COMUNIDAD**

Aunque el Sistema ECS esta localizado en una zona rural con un numero mínimo de negocios dentro de los limites del condado, el Sistema de ECS ha desarrollada roles apropiados para las organizaciones y negocios basadas en la comunidad en cuanto actividades de la participación de padres. Los roles de otros incluyen proveer información acerca de oportunidades para que organizaciones y negocios puedan trabajar con los padres y ECS motivando la formación de sociedades en los niveles de primaria, secundaria. Las sociedades que ya existen serán nutridas y motivadas a apoyar al sistema de ECS. El sistema de ECS buscara oportunidades para posibles sociedades a nivel regional.

## **CONCILIO CONSULTOR DE PADRES A NIVEL DE DISTRITO**

El sistema ECS va a establecer un concilio consultor de padres a nivel de distrito para dar consejo en todas cosas relacionadas a la participación de los padres. El concilio se reunirá antes de las juntas requeridas de otoño y primavera.

## **JUNTAS A NIVEL DE DISTRITO**

El sistema de ECS puede preparar juntas a nivel de distrito a diferentes tiempos y puede utilizar fondos del Título I para proveer transportación/cuidado de los niños, comida y otros servicios que puedan estar relacionados con la participación de los padres.

## **INVOLUCAR A LOS PADRES EN EL DESARROLLO DEL ENTRENAMIENTO**

El sistema de ECS puede involucrar a los padres en el desarrollo del entrenamiento para los maestros, directivos y otros educadores para mejorar la efectividad de tal entrenamiento. ECS usara la junta de padres o encuestas para juntar la información.

## **MODEL APPROACHES**

El sistema de ECS adoptara el model approaches para incrementar la participación de padres. (i.e. el programa PASSPORT)

## **OTRAS ACTIVIDADES**

El sistema de ECS hará otras actividades apropiadas y requeridas por los padres en las encuestas de fin de año. Las actividades incluyen un centro de recursos para los padres, cuando haya el espacio, y oportunidades para que los padres aprendan acerca del desarrollo de los niños y temas de como criar a los niños. Uno de los programas que van a ser utilizado es el entrenamiento PASSPORT to Success. Materiales de las agencias como 0-3 serán utilizados. Estas actividades serán diseñadas para entrenar a los padres a ser compañeros en la educación de los niños.

### **COMENTARIOS INSATISFACTORIOS DE LOS PADRES**

El sistema de ECS va a coleccionar todos los comentarios insatisfactorios de los padres relacionados con el sistema de ECS y ellos serán enviados con el Titulo I de ECS plan para GADOE. Estos comentarios estarán archivados en la oficina de soporte para el estudiante.

### **OTROS SOPORTES RAZONABLES**

El sistema de ECS proveerá otros sistemas de soporte razonable para actividades de participación de los padres cuando estos lo pidan al coordinador de participación de los padres del Titulo I del Sistema de ECS como lo dictan las leyes federales, estatales y LEA.

### **AMPLIAS OPORTUNIDADES PARA LA PARTICIPACIÓN**

Hasta donde sea práctico el sistema de ECS proveerá amplias oportunidades para la participación de padres LEP, padres de estudiantes emigrantes, y padres con deshabilitades, incluyendo el proveer perfiles de la escuela e información relacionada a programas de la escuela y padres, juntas y otras actividades en un lenguaje y formato de tal manera que los padres puedan entenderlo. ECS tiene en su personal a personas que pueden actuar como interpretes para los población que hable español así como maestros certificados, y un administrador en educación especial para trabajar con padres con deshabilitades.

**Reviewed June, 2022**

***Revised June 2, 2021***

## ECHOLS COUNTY SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF

High School Principal/CTAE Director .....	Zane Craven		
Elementary/Middle School Principal/PreK Director.....	Bobbie Staten		
Elementary/Middle School Assistant Principal.....	Joey Temperly		
Special Education Director .....	Angie Sowell		
Federal Programs and Testing Director.....	Rebecca Hill		
Finance and Operations.....	Dave Rosser		
Technology Director.....	Rick Rogers	Kelly Wicks	
Secretaries.....	Kathy Carter	Nancy Ramirez	
	Lynette Anderson	Loraine Burkhalter	
Pre-Kindergarten Teachers .....	Lisa Carter	Sarah Reynolds	
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Assistants.....	Katie Odom	Melanie Williams	
Kindergarten Teachers.....	Penny Register	Kim Tutt	
	Jennifer Carter	Kelsie Highsmith	
First Grade Teachers.....	Courtney Meeks	Angie Roberts	
	Terri Beaudrie	Liza Vargason	
Second Grade Teachers .....	Lindsay Jarvis	Debbie Holt	
	Maegan Sills	Penny Register	
Third Grade Teachers .....	Jennifer Dees	Jenna Newham	
	Brandi Harvey	Deneen Lambert	
Fourth Grade Teachers .....	Amy Witherspoon	Alexis Wisenbaker	Abbie McLeod
Fifth Grade Teachers .....	Erin Deloach	Elizabeth Register	Elizabeth Larmour
Middle School Teachers.....	Kristy James	Anna Joy Holton	Faith Johnson
	Rachel Whitmer	Glen McDonald	Amy Nolan
	Beverly Highsmith	Jennifer Culpepper	Crista Rosser
High School Teachers.....	Pamela Kimbrell	Jay Hamlett	Jeff Guilliams
	Shane Collier	Sarah Freund	Chad Schneider
	Tyler Gilbert	Hank Majeski	AbbyHamm
	Burt Copeland	Rob Grimes	Candace Smith
	Jessie Pruitt		
Art.....	Elizabeth Rowe		
Academic Coach.....	Sena Pike		
Athletic Director .....	Rebecca Hill	Brack Deloach	
Physical Education .....	Laine Craven	Joe James	Madison Tew
Graduation Coach.....	Karen Black		
Guidance Counselors.....	Tara Williams (9-12)	Brack Deloach (K-8)	
Instructional Technology.....	Carol Isgro		
Special Education .....	Becky Parramore	Kelsey Sublett	Dolly Roberts
	Elizabeth Hammock	Kristi Goss	Cassie Sandlin
Speech Language Pathology.....	Ashely Futch		
ESOL Education.....	Kathleen Pafford	Andrea Peavy	Melissa Crosby
Migrant.....			
Speech .....	Ashley Futch		
Media Specialist .....	Analiene Hamm		
Bookkeeper.....	Kathy Carter (K-8), Amy Rowe (9-12)		

SIS Coordinator .....Amy Rowe  
 Alternative Education & In-School Suspension .....Cindy Young  
 School Nurse .....Cathy Swilley  
 Technology Support Specialist .....Candice Lehman

Student Support Staff.....	Michelle Church	Sarah Powers	
	Wendy Mullis	Tammy Tudor	
	Amanda Deloach	Robbie Reynolds	
	Brittany Fitzgerald	Melody McEady	Kilia McLeod
	Brenda Sanchez	Lilly Velez	Taylor Lane
	Kristin Corbett	Sarah Lambert	Mechelle Carter
	Dorthea Kinsey	Brooke Herring	
Maintenance .....	Jaime Register	Tori Register	
Transportation Director .....	Dr. Vince Hamm		
Mechanic.....	Jeff Bennett		
Bus Drivers.....	Donnie Sanders	Lee Walker	Carol Fulwood
	Sarah Powers	Shayna Lusk	
	Robbie Reynolds	Bobby Walker	
	Burt Copeland		
Lunchroom Manager .....	Crystal Martinez		
Lunchroom Staff.....	Judy Corbett		
	Linda Hughes	Martina Young	
	Ailene Crosby		

**Echols County Board of Education**

Mr. Rocky Crosby, Chairman  
 Mr. Bo Corbett, Vice-Chairman  
 Mrs. Patricia Gray  
 Mr. Chad Pafford  
 Mr. Mitchell Church

**Echols County School System Staff**

Dr. Vince Hamm, Superintendent  
 Mrs. Angie Sowell, Special Ed. Director  
 Mrs. Kelly Wicks, Technology Director  
 Mr. Dave Rosser, Finance & Operations  
 Mrs. Missy Pittman, Accounts Payable  
 Mrs. Mande Davis, Personnel & Payroll  
 Mrs. Rebecca Hill, Federal Programs & Testing  
 Mr. Rick Rogers, Technology Director

### **Alma Mater**

“Neath the tall pines of ol’ Statenville  
There our school grounds lie.  
Green and white are proudly flying-  
May she never die.

Alma Mater, dear ol’ Statenville  
We love and honor thee.  
Ever shall our memories linger  
Love and loyalty